

SOCIAL MISSION CONFERENCE 2018 WHOLE OF ME. ALL OF US. ONE IN CHRIST.

The Catholic Church seeks to uphold the dignity of every human person and because we do, each aspect of human development and its contribution to society's development as a whole are important. In his Encyclical *Populorum Progressio*, Blessed Pope Paul VI stated that development "must be well rounded; it must foster the development of each man and of the whole man".

As Catholics, we are therefore called to practise authentic integral human development. Pope Francis defined "integral" development as "integrating individual and community dimensions", where the self and the community are not in competition with each other."

Caritas' **Social Mission Conference 2018** centres on precisely this authentic integral human development — its theme, "Whole of Me. All of Us. One in Christ." is about our Catholic mission and our call to develop persons, communities and society.

What is integral human development?

- Whole of Me* — *The whole person*
- All of Us* — *Every person in our community*
- One in Christ* — *Living our faith as Christians in society*

The conference on Saturday, 21 July, will be opened by Archbishop William Goh, and will feature His Eminence Cardinal Turkson, first Prefect for the new Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development at the Vatican, as our keynote theological speaker.



Participants will gain deeper insights and data on the daily lives and challenges faced by youth-at-risk from the research study conducted by Caritas Singapore and the Singapore Management University.

Lively breakout tracks covering issues and social work done in Singapore with the elderly, families and migrants will be helmed by noted field experts. Following the breakout sessions, participants will reconvene for what promises to be a captivating panel discussion with Q&A on how to develop our society.

Everything starts with Love; the Love for every person. Let us look at Christ's example, and explore our own ways to contribute to the authentic, integral development of ourselves and our brothers and sisters.



His Grace Archbishop William Goh



His Eminence Cardinal Turkson, first Prefect for the new Dicastery for promoting Integral Human Development

"It is not just a question of eliminating hunger and reducing poverty... it involves building a human community where men can live truly human lives."

— Blessed Pope Paul VI

Register now! www.caritas-singapore.org/smc2018

🕒 Saturday 21 July 2018, 9am to 6pm 📍 Catholic Junior College

70 YEARS OF DEDICATED SOCIAL WORK

In 1992, Dr Roland Yeow was a resident in Boys' Town. Not interested in school, Roland played truant, mixed with bad company and subsequently dropped out of secondary school. His worried parents enrolled him in Boys' Town, where he was placed on a strict regime that taught him structure and discipline. Two years with Boys' Town changed his life; that experience has moulded him to who he is today.

Many years later, Roland returned as a youth worker. This was his way of giving back to Boys' Town. Over the last 14 years, Roland rose through the ranks, and oversaw residential services and programme development. Today, he serves at Boys' Town as their Executive Director (Designate).

Every morning, Roland warmly greets all the staff and youth at the office by name. His leadership style focuses on affirmation, recognition of effort and celebration of successes. He also strives to ensure that everyone is actively involved in creating a unique Boys' Town culture.



Rock Wall at Boys' Town Adventure Centre

Roland checks in on the youths and spends quality time chatting with them, ensuring that they are coping well with school and their stay in Boys' Town. During home leave, he would buy treats for the boys who are unable to return home.

Boys' Town has expanded beyond residential programmes to include services such as youth outreach, fostering and clinical intervention. The most recent addition is an adventure centre.

YouthReach is the outreach arm of Boys' Town. Roland highlighted that "unlike the residential service where youths are sent in, YouthReach takes on a proactive approach, reaching out to youth in need, through street outreach around the Tampines and Toa Payoh areas."

Using various approaches and interest-based programmes, youth workers engage and build rapport with youths, connecting



Roland's regular chat session with the boys in residence

with them as part of their case management, and addressing their fundamental concerns and struggles. YouthReach also works closely with the youths' families and community partners such as schools, and Caritas Singapore's member organisations based at Agape Village. Roland shared, "YouthReach's work is necessary and relevant to the development of the youths in need in the community."

"No child should be left behind." – Roland

Another key service by Boys' Town is its fostering services. Recognising that not every child will have the opportunity to be loved and cared for by their natural parents or family, Roland firmly believes that "no child should be left behind". The good work of the organisation was affirmed by its second round of service contract with the Ministry of Social and Family Development.

Boys' Town continues to evolve, staying relevant to better meet our society's needs.



YouthReach workers befriending youths they meet on the streets



Boys' Town celebrates its 70th anniversary this year. As it crosses another milestone with a network of services, Boys' Town's mission remains – to help children and youth in need become socially integrated, responsible and contributing members of society.

OUR MEMBER ORGANISATIONS



FAMILIES, YOUTH & CHILDREN

POOR, SICK & THE ELDERLY

LIVES TOUCHED BY LOVE

Sue (not her real name) is in Primary 5. Together with her two sisters, she has been with the Infant Jesus Homes and Children's Centres (IJHCC) Student Care Services since 2014. Sue's mum is the sole breadwinner, and her dad is sadly not in her life. Every month is a financial challenge for Sue's family to make ends meet.

When Sue first arrived at IJHCC, she was quiet and reserved. With one older and one younger sister, Sue often yearns for more of her mother's love and attention. Over time, Sue grew to be sociable and outspoken. Now, she displays leadership qualities and is also a good mentor to the younger children in the centre.

Last year, Sue received the 'Pupil's Achievement of the Year' award in her school. Sue's mother continues to provide for her three daughters as best as she can. She is grateful for the help that IJHCC has provided her family over the last few years.



Education enhancement and arts and craft programmes



IJHCC serves children and youth from diverse racial groups and religions. Alongside their Student Care Centres that cater to primary school children, a Youth Club, IJHCC also has Residential Homes for children and youths and a small group of elderly ladies.

AGAPE VILLAGE



YouthReach staff visiting regular youth hangouts

Playground at Agape Village

Our youth are increasingly facing more challenges every day as they struggle with growing expectations to excel in all areas of their lives.

Statistics from the Samaritans of Singapore revealed that suicide has been the leading cause of death for Singaporeans aged between 10 and 29, with suicide rates in this age group showing a general increase in the past five years.

Early intervention is key. The challenges facing our young will continue to evolve as our society does, and Agape Village will similarly continue to journey with them.

CARING FOR SINGAPORE'S YOUNG FLOCK

Four member organisations under Caritas Singapore's umbrella at Agape Village are focused on providing holistic care to children and youth.

Boys' Town's YouthReach team befriends youth in need around the neighbouring estates. Targeted intervention, casework and counselling are also adapted to meet their varying needs.

Clarity Singapore focuses on youth mental health, designs psychotherapy sessions, workshops and therapeutic groups aimed at strengthening relationships and building mental and psychological resilience.

Young mothers experiencing pre and postpartum stress can seek help through a 24/7 hotline (6339 9770) by **Family Life Society (FLS)**. FLS supports mothers emotionally and mentally, offers childcare necessities and adoption services, where needed.

Montfort Care's Big Love Child Protection Specialist Centre works with families with child protection concerns, providing child-centric, family-focused and community-based support.

CONTACT DETAILS

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Facility Booking: avrb@caritas-singapore.org



SOCIAL SERVICE HOTLINE 8484 0008
(Mon-Fri, 9am-6pm)

Know someone who needs assistance? Help them reach out to us!



[AgapeVillageCaritasSg](https://www.facebook.com/AgapeVillageCaritasSg)



EVENTS

14
JUL

Public Talks @ AV: Understanding Labour, Birth and Postnatal Self-Care

- Surviving Labour, Birth and the First Six Months (Joyful Parenting)
- Self-Care Leads To Better Baby Care (Clarity Singapore)

🕒 10.00am to 12.30pm

📍 Agape Village, Multi-purpose Room

To register ☎ 6801 7400 ✉ agapevillage@caritas-singapore.org

21
JUL

Social Mission Conference 2018 — Whole of Me. All of Us. One in Christ.

This conference aims to inspire participants to raise awareness of issues in Singapore in the light of our Catholic Social Teaching on integral human development.

🕒 9.00am to 6.00pm

📍 Catholic Junior College

To register ☎ 6338 3448 ✉ smc@caritas-singapore.org

01
AUG

10th Caritas Singapore Golf for Charity 2018

This fundraising event is in support of Agape Village and the member organisations under Caritas Singapore.

🕒 11.30am

📍 The Singapore Island Country Club

For more info ☎ 6338 3448 ✉ charitygolf@caritas-singapore.org

15
SEP

Public Talks @ AV: Understanding Our Youths — Love and Addictions

- The Unlovables (Boys' Town)
- Addiction and Youth: The Singapore Context (WE CARE Community Services)

🕒 2.00pm to 4.30pm

📍 Agape Village, Multi-purpose Hall

To register ☎ 6801 7400 ✉ agapevillage@caritas-singapore.org

RESOURCES FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH

BOYS' TOWN

Residential Services (10–21 yo, males) Residential care for youths from disadvantaged & disengaged families.

☎ 6690 5420 ✉ info@boystown.org.sg

Clinical Intervention Centre (all ages) Counselling and psychological consultations.

☎ 6690 5420 ✉ cic@boystown.org.sg

CLARITY SINGAPORE

The YES Initiative Better & Happier Programme (18–30 yo) A thematic programme to engage youths with mental health needs.

☎ 6757 7990 ✉ registration@clarity-singapore.org

Arise & Shine (18–30 yo) A therapeutic group designed for youths who exhibit mild to moderate depression.

☎ 6757 7990 ✉ registration@clarity-singapore.org

INFANT JESUS HOMES & CHILDREN'S CENTRES

Student Care Centres (7–12 yo) Provides for children from disadvantaged families.

☎ 6459 4801 ✉ ijvillage@ijhcc.org

Youth Club (13–18 yo) Provides a conducive environment for youths for self-study sessions, discussions and healthy social interactions.

☎ 6459 4801 ✉ ijvillage@ijhcc.org

MORNING STAR COMMUNITY SERVICES

NOVA Learning Intervention Programme (7–12 yo) For children exhibiting weak foundational skills, poor decision-making habits and challenges with social-emotional regulation.

☎ 6285 1377 ✉ nova@morningstar.org.sg

Play Therapy (5–12 yo) Using play and creative arts to help children who are seen as defiant, angry, impulsive, anxious or aggressive.

☎ 6285 1377 ✉ counselling@morningstar.org.sg

CANOSSAVILLE CHILDREN & COMMUNITY SERVICES

Preschool Services (18 months–6 yo) Play-based learning activities for children (including those with mild-to-moderate special needs).

☎ 6747 6554 / 6747 5122 ✉ preschool@canossaville.org.sg

Student Care (7–12 yo) Enrichment programmes, unique curriculum and time for homework where children learn to “live from within”.

☎ 6812 0683 ✉ studentcare@canossaville.org.sg

FAMILY LIFE SOCIETY

Pregnancy Crisis Service (women & teenage girls) Supports mothers faced with unplanned pregnancies.

☎ 6339 9770 ✉ help@pregnancycrisis.sg

I Am Made For More (16–19 yo) A sexuality education programme proposing universal truths in tackling the issue of premarital sex.

☎ 6488 0278 / 6805 1781 ✉ education@familylife.sg

MONTFORT CARE

MeToYou Cyber Care (12–18 yo) Works with youths & families in managing cyber wellness issues (e.g. cyber bullying/addiction).

☎ 6445 0100 / 9173 1766 ✉ contact@metoyou.org.sg

Big Love Child Protection Specialist Centre Services (up to 16 yo) Works with families known for child protection concerns through child-centric, family-focused and community-based support.

☎ 6445 0400 ✉ contact@biglove.org.sg

“I am Me. I am Special.” Workshop (7–9 yo & their parents) For parents and children to grow in self-esteem, combat various negative situations and support themselves.

☎ 6285 1377 ✉ training@morningstar.org.sg



CONNECT WITH US

Wish to receive an e-copy of this newsletter? Write to us at marcom@caritas-singapore.org

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