

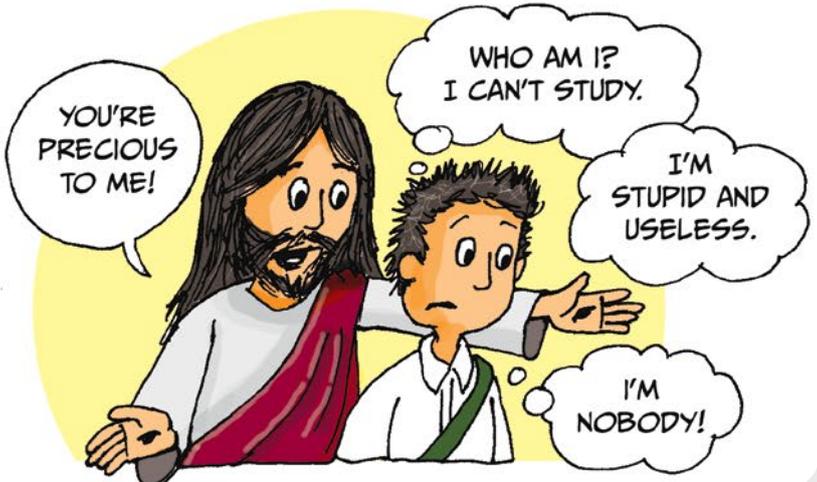
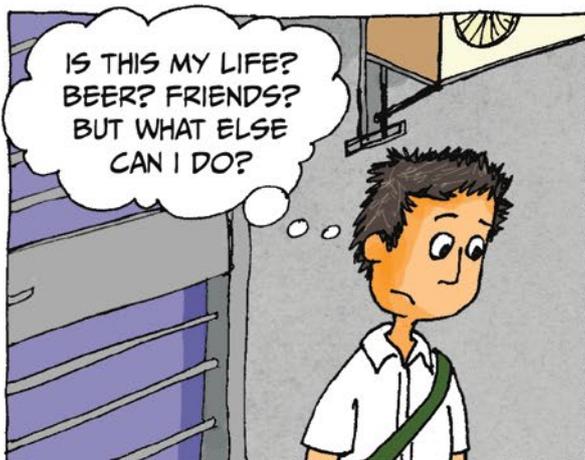
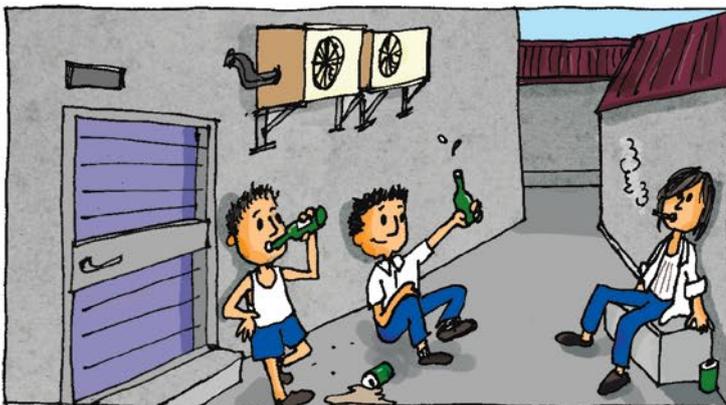
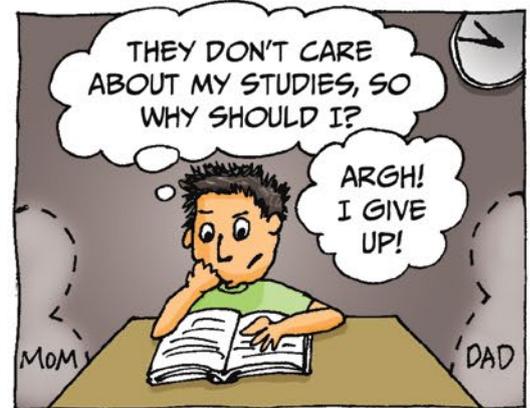


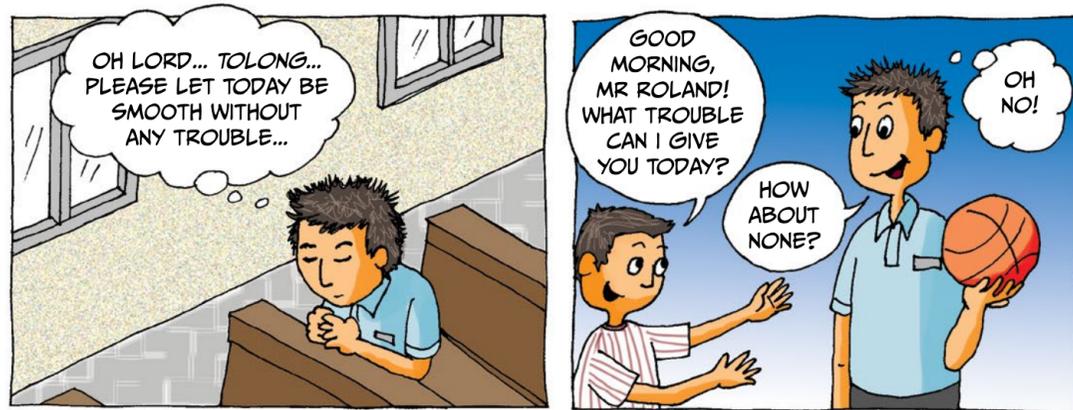
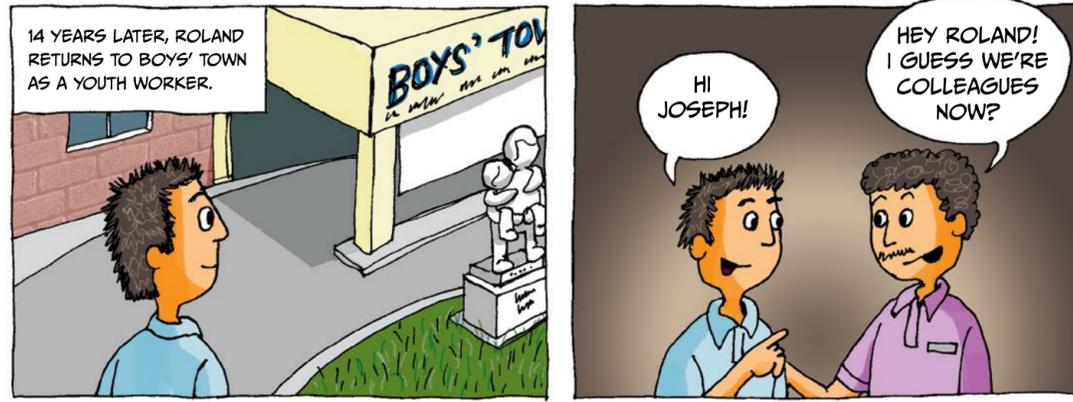
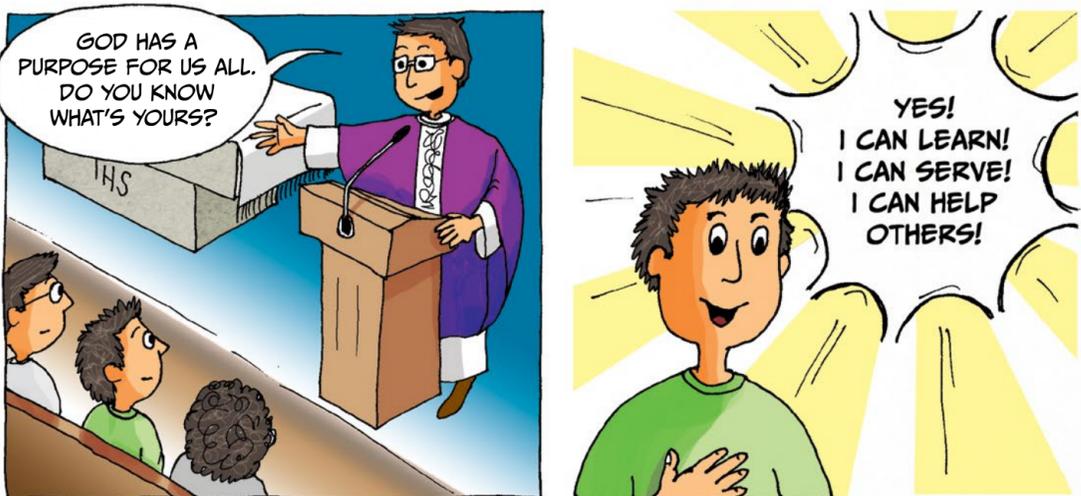
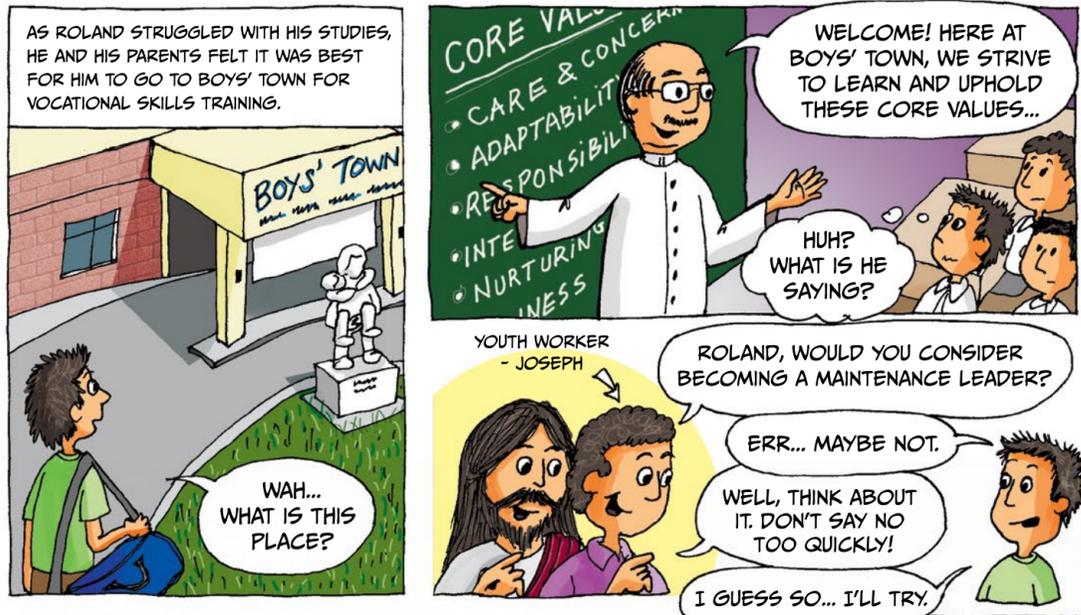
★ **MERRY CHRISTMAS** ★

We hope this year-end issue on children and youth will inspire you to be a gift to others.

## IN SEARCH OF HOPE: ROLAND'S STORY

THIS COMIC IS BASED ON A TRUE STORY ABOUT A MAN NAMED ROLAND. GROWING UP, ROLAND WAS OFTEN LEFT ALONE TO HIS OWN DEVICES AS HIS PARENTS WERE BUSY AT WORK. HE WAS DISTRACTED FROM STUDIES WITH ACTIVITIES SUCH AS DRINKING BEER AND HANGING OUT WITH HIS FRIENDS. THIS HAD A PROFOUND IMPACT ON HIS FORMATIVE YEARS, AND ALSO IN HIS ADULTHOOD.





## RESOURCES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

**BOYS' TOWN**  
Residential Services (10-21 yo, males) Residential care for youth from disadvantaged and disengaged families.  
E info@boystown.org.sg T 6690 5420  
Clinical Intervention Centre (all ages) Counselling and psychological consultations  
E cic@boystown.org.sg T 6690 5420

**CANOSSAVILLE CHILDREN AND COMMUNITY SERVICES**  
Preschool Services (18 months-6 yo) Play-based learning activities for children (including those with mild-to-moderate special needs).  
E preschool@canossville.org.sg T 6747 6554 / 6747 5122  
Student Care (7-12 yo) Enrichment programmes, unique curriculum and time for homework where children learn to "live from within".  
E studentcare@canossville.org.sg T 6812 1648

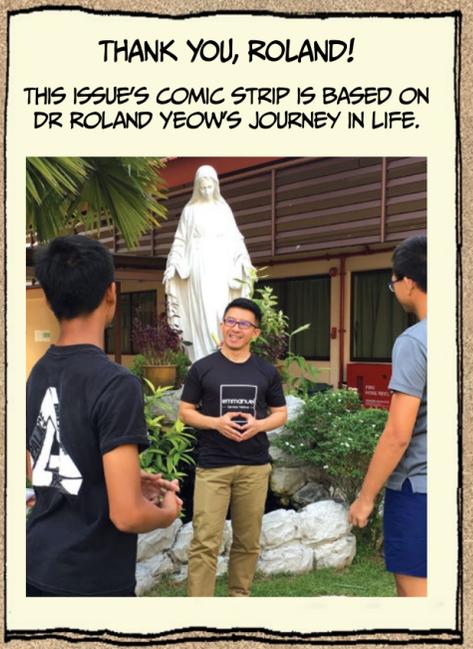
**CLARITY SINGAPORE**  
The YES Initiative Better & Happier Programme (18-30 yo) A thematic programme to engage youths with mental health needs.  
E registration@clarity-singapore.org T 6757 7990

**FAMILY LIFE SOCIETY**  
Pregnancy Crisis Service (women and teenage girls) Supports mothers faced with unplanned pregnancies.  
E help@pregnancycrisis.sg T 6339 9770  
I Am Made For More (16-19 yo) A sexuality education programme proposing universal truths in tackling the issue of premarital sex.  
E education@familylife.sg T 6488 0278 (Ext 289 or 287)

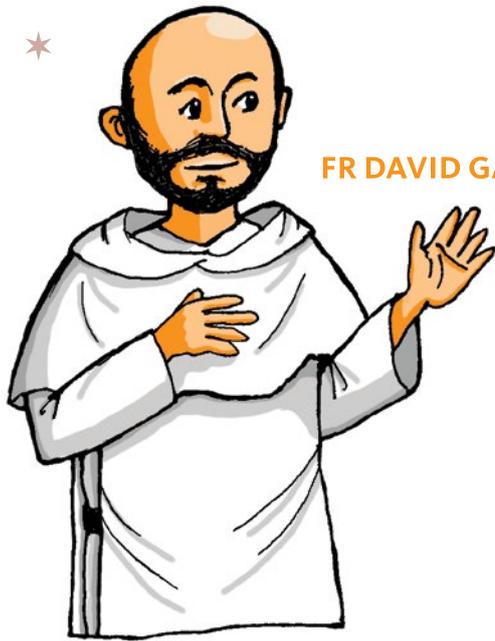
**INFANT JESUS HOMES AND CHILDREN'S CENTRES**  
Student Care Centres (7-12 yo) Provides for children from disadvantaged families.  
Youth Club (13-18 yo) Provides a conducive environment for youth for self-study sessions, discussions and healthy social interactions.  
E ijvillage@ijhcc.org T 6459 4801

**MONTFORT CARE**  
MeToYou Cyber Care (12-18 yo) Works with youth and families in managing cyber wellness issues (e.g. cyber bullying/addiction).  
E contact@metoyou.org.sg T 9173 1766  
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.  
E contact@biglove.org.sg T 6445 0400

**MORNING STAR COMMUNITY SERVICES**  
NOVA Learning Intervention Programme (7-8 yo) For children exhibiting weak foundational skills, poor decision-making habits and challenges with social-emotional regulation.  
E nova@morningstar.org.sg T 6285 1377  
Play Therapy (5-12 yo) Using play and creative arts to help children who are seen as defiant, angry, impulsive, anxious or aggressive.  
E counselling@morningstar.org.sg T 6285 1377



# WELCOMING THE PRODIGAL SON



FR DAVID GARCIA, OP

One of the most inspiring stories ever told was told by Jesus. And it was about a young man (Luke 15:11-32).

We do not know how young he was; just that he had an older brother who was not yet old enough to work on his own. And we also know that he was at that age when you would consider yourself old enough to live your own life separate from your parents. It was that time in your early youth when you felt perfectly happy when your parents were not around.

In short, he was a youth. And this youth decided he wanted to be happy by being away from parental and societal supervision.

This story is reenacted every year by hundreds of youth who live with their parents in perfect disharmony, or youth who decide to be estranged from their homes. Sadly, sometimes, even their own parents give up on them.

*These youth eventually become vulnerable to a life of disengagement or even criminal activities. All this is a sad reality.*

## So why would Jesus use the story of an estranged youth?

According to Jesus' story, the youth was bold enough to take his inheritance early, something typically done after the father dies. In a way, he wanted his father dead, but could not wait for it.

Oddly enough, his father agreed and gave him the freedom and the money he wanted. Why did the father give his son what he wanted instead of asking him to wait?

Eventually, the happiness the youth anticipated turned into the sour reality of solitude and utter poverty. The youth found himself wishing he were one of his father's servants. He came to his senses and put his pride down. It was an awakening to reality.

He returned to the father, and **the father welcomed him unconditionally** - no questions asked.

*While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.*

*(Luke 15:20)*

However, the elder son was enraged at the unconditional mercy of the father. He wanted meritocracy and rejected mercy. We hear that his father comes out to welcome the elder son just as he did with the younger son, and then ... Jesus leaves the story open-ended.

We do not know if the elder son decided to open his mind to a constructive future of a reconciled home, or chose to cling to a contractual understanding of his relationship with the father: I work for you and so, you owe me my reward.

The story of the prodigal son is not just about the disengaged youth. It is also an avenue to provoke us to **choose between accepting unconditional reconciliation and clinging to a cold meritocratic understanding of societal relationships.**

The crux of the story is not the sad cases of "prodigal youth" but the ultimate **response of our society.**

Do we give youth uncountable opportunities to come back?

- Do we accept them with their challenges and all?
- Do we let them know that they are loved for who they are and not for what they do?
- Do they experience this unconditional care for them?

Have you experienced this unconditional love?



## EVENTS



# 09

JAN -  
APR\*

### PERSONAL MORAL COMPASS 2019 (EVERY THURSDAY)

Module 1 (Who decides what is right or wrong?)

Personal Moral Compass (PMC) is a year-long modular course, with a total of six modules on ethical issues. In module 1, Fr David Garcia, OP, a Dominican moral Theologian, will cover topics such as moral principles, personal decisions, and conscience, who decides what is right or wrong, cultural dogmas and morality, and how one decides what to do with his/her life. PMC is for all Catholics and non-Catholics who are interested in the foundation of ethics. Visit [www.caritas-singapore.org](http://www.caritas-singapore.org) for more information.

Module 2 (Becoming Persons)

In module 2 of PMC, Fr David Garcia, OP touches on seven personal wounds; fairer, strong, and emotional persons, prudence, temperance, and the fullness of Personhood. Visit [www.caritas-singapore.org](http://www.caritas-singapore.org) for more information.

🕒 7.30pm to 9.30pm

📍 Catholic Centre, 55 Waterloo Street, Level 3, S187954

📞 Register 6338 3448

✉️ [formation@caritas-singapore.org](mailto:formation@caritas-singapore.org)

# 11- 12

FEB\*

### REVIEW OF LIFE (ROL) WORKSHOP

Do you want to learn how to see clearly with eyes of faith, start living the Gospel in your daily lives and grow in faith? Come and be introduced to the Review of Life (ROL) Method as a tool to help you integrate faith and life.

🕒 7.30pm to 9.30pm

📍 To be confirmed

📞 Register 6338 3448

✉️ [formation@caritas-singapore.org](mailto:formation@caritas-singapore.org)

# FEB

### AGAPE EXPERIENCE

Through prayer, experiential learning, and engaging activities, this programme helps youth preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation learn about the Catholic Church's social mission and how the Sacrament of Confirmation relates to Catholic Social Teaching. It is also available for Catechumens and Candidates preparing for baptism or reception into the Catholic Church through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA).

📍 15 Feb Church of St. Francis Xavier

📍 29 Feb Church of St. Mary of the Angels

📍 Agape Village, 7A Lorong 8 Toa Payoh S319264

📞 Enquiries Thomas at 9027 6244 ✉️ [thomas@caritas-singapore.org](mailto:thomas@caritas-singapore.org)

\* Information is correct at time of print. Please call or email for details.



### CONNECT WITH US

Wish to receive an e-copy of this newsletter? Write to us at [comms@caritas-singapore.org](mailto:comms@caritas-singapore.org)

### CONTACT US

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