

CBCP-ECID

EPISCOPAL COMMISSION FOR INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE

Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines

Background

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) Episcopal Commission for Interreligious Dialogue is a commission promoting interreligious dialogue among Catholics and people of other faiths in the Philippines. It was created by the CBCP in 1990 as a response to the call of the Second Vatican Council for the Church to work with 'moderate elements' for peace, justice and harmony.

The Episcopal Commission for Interreligious Dialogue goes out of its way to recognize and thank Muslims who help Christians and spread interfaith harmony. For example, it thanked a practicing Muslim woman for organizing a mass Christian wedding of the parents of her pupils so that her students can get their birth certificates.

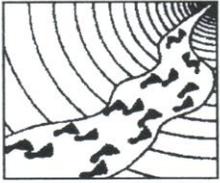
To promote interfaith harmony, Muslim leaders were among people of non-Catholic religious backgrounds who met with Pope Francis when he visited the Philippines in early 2015.

Father Carlos Reyes, executive secretary of the commission highlights the need for interreligious dialogue: "As religionists, we have a spiritual duty to counter the hijacking of religion...Religion fosters peace, unity, justice and harmony. As religionists, we have a spiritual duty to contribute positively to culture and society, not only what we can do unilaterally but also what we can do united."

Objectives

The Commission on Inter-Religious Dialogue:

- a) Shall promote dialogue with followers of other religions like Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, and the indigenous religions, as well as with such religious traditions as Confucianism, Taoism and Zoroastrianism.
- b) Shall maintain communication with the Pontifical Council for Inter-Religious Dialogue, and keep the Conference accordingly informed of concerns and issues of mutual interest.
- c) Shall collaborate with the Episcopal Commission on Indigenous Peoples and the Office of Ecumenical and Inter-religious Affairs (OEIA) of the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences (FABC) specifically regarding the promotion of inter-religious dialogue.
- d) Shall establish linkages with different Centers of inter-religious work in the Philippines.



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- e) Shall collaborate with the Commission on Indigenous Peoples for the study, analysis and recommendations on indigenous natural beliefs and religious cultures.
- f) Shall make the necessary advisories to the Conference for the implementation in the country of the Declaration “Nostra Aetate”, and other directives from the Apostolic See and synodal provisions.

Leadership

Chairman: Bp. Angelito R. Lampon, OMI

Vice-Chairman: Bp. Emmanuel T. Cabajar, CSSR

Members:

Abp. Romulo T. de la Cruz
Bp. Martin S. Jumoad
Bp. Leopoldo S. Tumalak
Abp. Antonio J. Ledesma, SJ

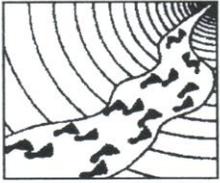
Executive Secretary: Rev. Fr. Carlos Reyes

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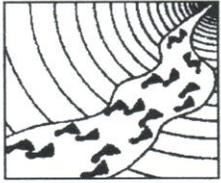
Ka Tropa which means “one of us” or “a group of close friends” is an initiative and a project of the CBCP-ECID. Ka-Tropa is a term used commonly by millennials to refer to friends whom they have bonded and shared their life experiences with. It also seeks to make the viewer of the show a Ka Tropa, one who joins the rest of humanity in promoting peace and understanding among religions.

The objective of Ka Tropa is to dispel biases and prejudices of people’s perceptions of religions. Each episode will highlight topics that will inform the viewer about the practices and beliefs of the religions with the end in mind of promoting understanding and clarifying misconceptions about the religions.

The format of the program is oriented towards the millennials since the future belongs to the youth of today. It seeks to humanize and considers the other person as a sacred being. This is consistent with the objective of the World Interfaith Harmony Week which is to promote love of God and love of neighbor.



The program segments include introducing the topic in a fun way by the two engaging hosts, interviews with authorities on the subject, a social media experiment done in universities where students on the streets are asked their opinions and impressions as well as participate in an activity challenge for them to do, and a conclusion where the hosts wrap up the subject and invites the viewers to watch the next show.



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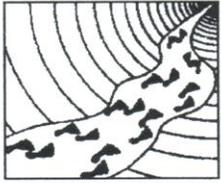
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Topics to be included in episodes include: the world interfaith harmony week celebration and introduction to Ka-Tropa (see first episode), food, places of worship, music, fashion, courtship, rituals, education, peer pressure, hobbies of religious leaders and many more interesting topics. It will feature different religions: Islam, Christianity, Buddhism, Hinduism, Judaism and several others.

TV Maria will air the program for free on their channel. TV Maria is a national Catholic television channel broadcasting from Manila, Philippines. Owned by TV Maria Foundation Philippines (a non-profit, non-stock organization under the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines and the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Manila), it airs 24 hours a day and is currently available on major and provincial cable operators, and via online livestreaming.

The CBCP-ECID hosted the yearly breakfast 01 February 2017 to mark the opening of the World Interfaith Harmony Week. Ka-Tropa was introduced to the different guests coming from the different religions as well as lay leaders and officials from the diplomatic corps.

CBCP-ECID also hosted the closing program of the World Interfaith Harmony Week and launched the first episode of Ka-Tropa in the presence of major religious leaders coming from different faith-based organizations in Manila. Everyone was very supportive of the initiative since it is designed to build bridges of peace and understanding not just among the religious communities but with the general public. Ka-Tropa will also use social media in promoting the episodes in order to engage the millennials and start a positive discussion on the importance on love of God and love of neighbor.



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Ka-Tropa Hosts



Vinie Camille Dyquiango



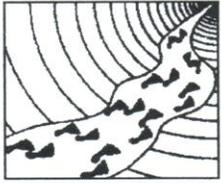
Shenard Magcheco

Vinie, a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, is a graduate of International Studies with a minor in Peace Studies in Miriam College, a Catholic School.

Shenard, a Roman Catholic, is a graduating student of Poveda College. She is taking up Bachelor of Education major in Mathematics.

Both hosts are active in interfaith initiatives and have organized projects that cater to the youth in their religious communities and outside their churches.

Each episode will feature a different co-host coming from other religions. Lined up to host with them are Muslim, Buddhist, Evangelical, Hindu, Baha'i and youth from other churches.



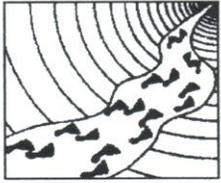
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Screen Test and Rehearsals





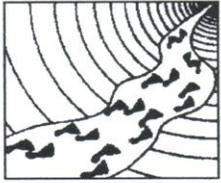
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The hosts and judges pose for a photo after the screen test in the TV Maria studio.



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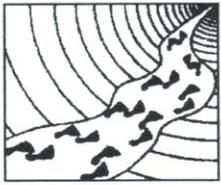
Interfaith Breakfast and Closing Program of the World Interfaith Harmony Week where the Ka-Tropa program was launched.



Father Carlos Reyes discussing the Ka Tropa program to air on TV Maria.

Father Onie Rosaroso of the Philippine National Police Chaplain Service reacts and shows a pledge of support to the Ka-Tropa program.





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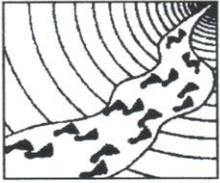
Buddhist friends congratulate CBCP-ECID for coming up with a show that helps erase biases and prejudices against religion.



Imam Ebra Moxsir, President of the Imam Council of the Philippines joins the Ka-Tropa team in a light moment.



The hosts in an interview with Fr. Reyes for the pilot episode.



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Interfaith Breakfast hosted by the CBCP-ECID where the Ka-Tropa program was discussed. Father Reyes asked support from the religious leaders to provide information, resource speakers, talents and videos to make each episode authentic and informative.

