

Gathering in Harmony for Love of God and Neighbor
Puerto NHS Joins the World Interfaith Harmony Week Celebration



MEANING AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

As a teacher, a Digital Youth Ambassador, and youth advocate, I am so happy to facilitate our *World Interfaith Harmony Week Celebration* for the first time. Even though this celebration is being celebrated for years already, but many has not yet come across nor know about this especially us, if has not invited to celebrate by our partner, the *Mindanao-Sulu Pastoral Conference Youth Secretariate* (MSPC- YS).

To give emphasis on the meaning of the celebration, it gave venue for the students and everyone to go back and check the true essence of our faith and what can this faith do for the better in spite of the many differences in the world. Faith, stated as love of God (or the good) acts out that love of neighbor as its concrete form of doing so. This celebration also helped us to reflect and realize our value as persons and how can we become better individuals in our community. Learning more about our government, doing our parts as stewards of creation through cleaning and greening spaces, being aware of an issue that many vulnerable people are facing, and engaging in an activity done in unity by which everyone gathers while setting aside prejudices and judgments and giving emphasis on love and respect for one another are meaningful steps that our students have experienced through the celebration. They might not have understood these gestures fully, but at least something will be remembered as a remarkable new experience for them that they may look forward in the next years. Bringing this kind of endeavor to the academe will help our young to think better and see for themselves as to where they stand better for themselves and others. Thus, with the aim of molding them to be empathetic individuals and critical thinkers, the activities challenged them in the least if not the wholeness of it.

Furthermore, to appreciate this celebration as a gift, we are deeply grateful to everyone for their support and participation --- our principal, Dr. Rosanna Q. Ubalde, PhD, our teachers (mentioning Mrs. Emielyn S. Dahirot, the *Araling Panlipunan* subject coordinator), students, our speakers, and mostly to our partner, the MSPC – YS who invited us and extended financial support, who also promised to continue supporting us and continuing the aim of empowering the youth of Mindanao and being one with the mission and vision of the school and the Department of Education.

All this, AD MAJOREM DEI GLORIAM!

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