

Associates witness with boldness

By Connie Guerrero, SSND Associate in Guam

Mother Teresa of Calcutta said, “Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love.”



Connie Guerrero’s interaction with the U.S. Attorney Alicia Limtiaco’s office led to presentations on human trafficking to the Human Rights Movement Club at Notre Dame High School in Talofoto, Guam.

Guam is a very small Pacific Island. Oftentimes, our leaders depict Guam as a paradise in the Pacific. Paradise is an understatement when one steps back and reflects on this beautiful, “peaceful” island of approximately 160,000 people.

In reality, our island is not an exception when it comes to human trafficking, drug trafficking, family violence, child abuse, sexual violence, global warming, influx of immigrants, military vs. self-determination and so on.

As a follower of Christ, a widow, a grandma, an educator, Shalom contact and an SSND associate, I daily educate myself about what is going on here, abroad and afar. My readings fill me with emotions that cannot be contained. I daily use the tools God has given me to spread the news to family members, friends, educators, colleagues and government leaders.

Sometimes I shock myself, such as when I had the audacity to email the U.S. Attorney General’s office and beg to be in the loop on the issues of human trafficking in the Pacific. Taking that “big” jumpstart led to having representatives from the U.S. Attorney General’s office make presentations to Notre Dame High School students in Talofoto, Guam.

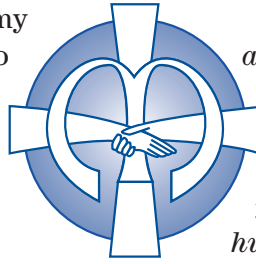


From left, S. Judith Kamada, S. Francine Perez, Cardinal Peter Turkson and Associate Connie Guerrero. Cardinal Turkson, who contributed to Pope Francis’ most recent encyclical on the environment, spoke to the group about *Laudato Si’* during the Shalom Seminar in Rome.

Honestly, I don’t know the full impact that this may have had on the students and their teachers. However, what is important is that we planted a sense of awareness no one can take away from these students and teachers. So I challenge you to consider your own journey – the joys and the sorrows – and reflect on those times when you did small things with great love and became a source of hope for those whose lives you touched.

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My parents and paternal great aunt were my great supporters, who gently introduced me to a life of prayer and encouraged me in a personal relationship with Jesus. We often have people who have played a role in helping us to know Jesus. My encounter, which started with my parents and was nourished and nurtured by a network of people, helped me to do what I can — big or small — to make a difference because *love cannot wait*.



Connie Guerrero has been an SSND associate since 2008. One of the ways Connie lives out the SSND charism in her own life is to work with the Shalom group at Notre Dame High School in Talofofo, Guam. In recent years, this group has been working to resolve human trafficking and immigration problems. Connie was one of 50 participants in the International Shalom Seminar, held at the SSND Generalate in July.

