

SYNTHESIS OF THE 2010 CEAP NATIONAL CONVENTION

DAY 1

- The 2010 CEAP National Convention opened with a Eucharistic celebration officiated by His Eminence Ricardo Cardinal Vidal at the Metropolitan Cathedral. In his homily, Cardinal Vidal acknowledged that this year's theme, "A Heart for Eden, a Hand at Ecology" is very timely and relevant, given the urgency of the need to address environmental concerns. He stressed the role of the Catholic Schools to educate the young using the **pedagogy of Jesus: His self-denial for the sake of "doing the Father's will" and offering up one's life "as a reason for many"**.
- In his opening remarks, CEAP President Msgr. Gerardo Santos, emphasized the need to establish networks and linkages, and that **our strength as an organization is in cooperation, not in competition**.
- It was a pleasure to meet our special guests from OIEC, accompanied by their Regional Secretary, Fr. Rod Salazar. **CEAP finally met OIEC**.
- The Secretary of the Department of Education, Hon. Bro. Armin A. Luistro, read the message of His Excellency Benigno Simeon Cojuangco Aquino III, President of the Republic of the Philippines. In his message, the president clearly recognizes CEAP as a strong partner of the government in empowering every Filipino with skills and knowledge they need to be the best that they can be. Among other things, **he pledged to support CEAP and to give more opportunities for the underprivileged** through public-private sector partnership.
- In his keynote address, Bishop Arturo Bastes said that "A Heart for Eden" is biblically poetic and "A Hand at Ecology" is scientifically modern. He described that the garden which is the symbol of nature, is not an adversary to be destroyed or an evil from which one needs to be freed; it is a gift of God, the work of God's creative action, and that **the challenge is for us to evolve more and more into a gardener, a co-creator, not an exterminator**.
- Renowned environmental advocate, Atty. Antonio Oposa, presented a comprehensive situation of the environment, including both national and global challenges. In pushing his environmental advocacy, Atty. Oposa cited **two best methods in teaching the youth: teaching by example and teaching through experience**.

DAY 2

- One thing that we will probably never, never forget in Bishop Lagdameo's homily is the line **"Never, never give Up!"** Indeed, we should never give up in pursuing CEAP's worthy goals and objectives as well as doing our share as Stewards of God's Creation.

- CBCP president Bishop Nereo Odchimar, reminded us of our role as stewards, and that **we ought to save and restore creation.**
- While the school heads were having their business meeting in the morning of Day 2, we also had concurrent sessions on school's best practices relative to environmental preservation. And we learned more about environmental preservation during the concurrent sessions in the afternoon, which also included other interesting topics like Gender Mainstreaming, International Accreditation, Legal Updates and Issues and Research Trends in Education.

DAY 3

- We had a forum with our donors and partners for environment and sustainable development, followed by a signing of a Memorandum of Agreement with Knowledge Channel Foundation, Inc. for improving the quality of basic education through multimedia approaches and provision of multimedia facilities; and with the Ramon Aboitiz Foundation, Inc. for GREENIN' Philippines Program. We also gave due recognition to our Jubilarians and new CEAP member-schools. **CEAP will continue to grow and glow.**
- We are not perfect but with our best efforts, we hope to have achieved the objectives of our 3-day convention. With the many valuable insights and learnings gained from this convention, we now know better "what to do" as stewards of God's creation. But let me remind you that **"it is not enough that we know what to do; we must also do what we know."** We all have to take action if we truly want to make a difference. Thank you very much!