

SMM Religious Activities News

First Batch of First Communicants

St. Mary's Catholic High School prepared the *first batch* of First Communicants. On May 28, 2016 forty-four (44) Catholic students of Year 4, and a few of Years 5 and 6 celebrated their First Holy Communion at the 9:00 AM Mass. The Holy Mass was officiated by the Parish Priest, Rev. Fr. Lennie J. A. Connolly, O.F.M., cap. These 44 students: 23 girls and 21 boys, marched from the main hall to the church in their white gala uniform, and were joined by students who already had their First Holy Communion. Year 3 students were also present. Families, relatives and friends of the first communicants witnessed this special event.



In the Homily Fr. Lennie urged the students to love the Holy Mass. He also reminded them of some very important points on how to grow and become a good Christian, such as: to pray always, to study hard, to do physical exercise, eat the right food, and to help in the house chores.



First Confession of Year 3

On March 2, 2016 Year 3 Catholic students had their First Confession. Four priests from St. Mary's Church, Dubai were invited to SMM to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation for our Catholic students from Years 3 and up. Catholic students were prepared for the celebration of both Sacraments – Reconciliation and Eucharist, by their Religious Studies Teachers: Sir Jaymar, Sir Joseph Prabhu, Ms. Ella, Ms. Liza, and Sr. Alma, SPC.



Ashes on the Forehead

The SMM Catholic community held a Penitential Service on February 10, 2016, Ash Wednesday, to mark the beginning of the Lenten Season, the time for heightened sacrifice, prayer, good works and alms-giving. On this day we were reminded of our sinfulness and our need to repent through the ashes signed on our foreheads, and most of all we were reminded that God is merciful and is always ready to forgive as taught by Jesus in the Parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32). We had a chance to venerate the Cross on Wednesday of the Holy Week before the school took off for the spring break.



Celebration of Ramadan

June 6, 2016 was the beginning of Ramadan. Days before the celebration our teacher in Islamic Studies, Madam Samina Shabbir, presented to the students' assembly, as well as to the teachers' professional development meeting, the meaning and practice of Ramadan. She emphasized that Ramadan is the Islamic festival of the ninth month in the Islamic calendar. Our Muslim brothers and sisters believe that in Ramadan Allah revealed the holy Qur'an through Gibreel to Muhammad (SAW).

At Ramadan Muslims fast from dawn to dusk, which is one of the five pillars of Islam. The four others are: prayer, charity, faith and pilgrimage to Makkah (Mecca), which to them is the peak of their Islamic religious life. /SACE

