

Dinner dance raises \$15,000 for the Philippines

A DINNER dance hosted by Buckets for Jesus on July 5 raised almost \$15,000 towards its 'Adopt a Family' appeal.

About 200 guests attended the function at the Mercure Hotel's ballroom, taking part in raffles and silent auctions.

Proceeds from the event will pay for the construction of five homes for the appeal, and part of the proceeds will help cover the cost for a sea container of donations to be shipped to Kenya.

Buckets for Jesus coordinator Ruby Soh addressed guests at the start of the evening and said she was grateful for the support of those in attendance.

"With the sellout event with more than 200 guests, I believe Buckets for Jesus touched the hearts of many and has succeeded in increasing the level of awareness. Even the hotel staff were touched by our cause for the poorest of the poor and the homeless," Mrs Soh told *The Record*.

"Many of the guests spoke to us and enquired for more details about how to help our cause."

"We were also touched by sponsors who donated fantastic prizes – so many generous donors like Gatto, Jools Jewellery, Plantagenet Winery, Aveda Subiaco and Yellow Brick Road, to name a few."

Guests were entertained to music from live band Young Once, with many taking to the dance floor throughout the night.

Live and silent auctions took place, and among items auctioned were a replica of the FIFA World Cup trophy, several items of sporting memorabilia, holiday packages, designer bags and various jewellery items.

A raffle draw was also held and winners won prizes such as a jewellery set, various gift vouchers and an overnight stay at the Mercure Hotel.

Adopt a Family's major aim is to help rebuild communities affected by natural disasters in the Philippines by building new homes for them.

A new, earthquake and typhoon-proof home can be built for as little as \$2,000.

Donations of \$2 and more are tax deductible.

For more details, contact Buckets for Jesus by emailing bucketsforjesus@gmail.com.



Top, founder of Buckets for Jesus Ruby Soh addresses those present at the dinner dance on the charity's work in the Philippines. Throughout the night there were raffles, silent auctions and music by Young Once, left.

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The Harvest is rich



COME, FOLLOW ME

MARK 1:17

Vocations Enquiry Evening

If you think and feel that the Lord may be calling you to dedicate yourself to a life of fruitful service of God's holy people as his Priest then do not delay; St Charles Seminary at 30

Meadow Street Guildford will once more host its annual Vocations Enquiry Evening on Sunday 17th August 2014 starting at 4:00pm. Come and meet Seminarians and join other young and not so young men who are also discerning a possible call to the Priesthood in a serene and prayerful setting. **Further info:** To register your interest call

Fr Jean-Noël Marie (Vocations Director) on 9279 1310.

Rwandan priest shares story of suffering, healing

By JUANITA SHEPHERD

TO COMMEMORATE the 20th anniversary of the Rwandan genocide, Catholic Mission in Perth invited Fr Emmanuel Nsengiyumva to share his story and message of healing and forgiveness.

Fr Nsengiyumva spent 50 days travelling throughout Australia; he visited 14 Archdioceses, as well as a number of Catholic schools, including Lumen Christi, Trinity College and Mercy College.

"I came to Australia to share the stories of Rwanda," Fr Nsengiyumva told *The Record*.

"The genocide killed one million people in 100 days but the theme of my mission was to heal the broken hearted."

From the beginning of April till mid-July 1994, there was a mass slaughter of the Tutsi people in Rwanda by members of the Hutu majority. People were killed in horrific and violent ways with the use of rifles, bayonets and machetes; Fr Nsengiyumva was one of the lucky survivors of the genocide.

"God is always there even in our suffering," Fr Nsengiyumva said.

Despite the strength of his faith, Fr Nsengiyumva suffered greatly following the aftermath of the worst genocide since the Holocaust.

"I was 18 when it happened," he said.

"My family of six were targeted and I lost two of my brothers."

"I figured that as a priest I would be able to help heal my wounded country and that is what gave me courage."

At the time of the genocide, Fr Nsengiyumva had entered the seminary and was training to become a priest. "I lost my vocation to become a priest," he said.

Fr Nsengiyumva left the seminary and went to university where he studied mechanical engineering; he also started attending healing

seminars run by the Church, which helped him a great deal and eventually led him back to the seminary.

"Towards the end of my studies I got my vocation back and went back to the seminary in 2003," Fr Nsengiyumva said.

"I was healed and I felt the love of God for me."

"I began to share this with others and I figured that as a priest I would be able to help heal my wounded country and that is what gave me courage."

Fr Nsengiyumva was ordained in 2011; he continues to spread the message of forgiveness and reconciliation.

"We have the perpetrators living now among the survivors and that is about forgiveness, and we have those who went through the hardships of the genocide and they have to recover from their wounds and have to experience reconciliation," Fr Nsengiyumva said.

Director of Catholic Mission Francis Leong said Fr Nsengiyumva touched many people in Perth with his story of healing.