



PASTORAL OFFICE FOR YOUTH-TEENAGER AND CHILDREN  
OF PHNOM PENH VICARIATE, CAMBODIA

# 2008-2017 ANNUAL REPORT



- Formation
- Evangelization
- Peace Building
- Dialogue
- Communion



**Youth Activities**  
**Children Activities and Teenager Activities**



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## I- DESCRIPTION OF THE SITUATION

Cambodia has a long history of the political issue that left this country with insecurity for many years especially during the Pol Pot regime (1975-1979). In this period of history, Cambodia has lived without economic, religions, education and freedom, more than 3millions of Cambodian people were killed by Pol Pot with no reason. After 1979 this country started from year zero to redevelop but still disturbed by civil war between government and Pol Pot's army. Although Cambodia still distressed by civil war but Catholic Church try to asked permission from government to have freedom of worship, and in 1991 Catholic Church of Cambodia was allowed to worship freely in the whole country. In 1998 finished the war in Cambodia.

In 1991 the Catholic Community tried to re-establish all pastoral activities and prepared many programs to different communities in the whole country through 3areas of Catholic Church. The **Youth Groups** became a significant focus to develop human resources committee for the growth of the Catholic Communities. In Cambodia there are three apostolic areas recognized for the catholic community, these three areas are:

- \* Apostolic Vicariate of Phnom Penh,
- \* Apostolic Prefecture of Battambang and
- \* Apostolic Prefecture of Kompong Cham

The Apostolic Vicariate of Phnom Penh is responsible of 42 communities that include Youth Groups as targeted groups for pastoral work and diverse activities alongside with other activities. In order to facilitate the monitoring of these 42 communities the Apostolic Vicariate of Phnom Penh has been divided into nine Pastoral Centers (last update 2013):

- 1- Pastoral center of North Phnom Penh
- 2- Pastoral center of South Phnom Penh
- 3- Pastoral center of Phnom Penh Thmey
- 4- Pastoral center of Tonle Mekong
- 5- Pastoral center of Tonle Basac
- 6- Pastoral center of Ta Khamao
- 7- Pastoral Center of Kompot
- 8- Pastoral Center of Takeo
- 9- Pastoral Center of Kompong Som

Each of these nine pastoral centers has groups of young people organized somehow to develop some activities according to a design program. Even though there has been officially the structure for these groups, the attendance to these activities in the last years has been rather discouraging in terms of number of participants. The few activities planned for these activities for Youth Groups has an annual attendance average rate of 15 to 23 years old for Youth's activities but for the children in the average rate of 6 to 12 (Pre-teen) years old and Teenager in average of 13 to 16 (teenager).



It should be noticed that some of the youth members are not Christian; some are catechumens and some they are just interested in the way of Christianity. Most of the participants into the youth ministry activities are still very young, they lack of experience and knowledge. A good number of them probably just finished high school only.

A large number of them are coming possibly from impoverished families. Perhaps this fact is one of the reasons why the activities of this ministry have low attendance rate however, this is an assumption that should be confirmed by an assessment in the coming year.

According to some youngsters some youth groups in the different communities of Phnom Penh's Vicariate were established after 1996. Nevertheless, the achievements of this ministry have had ups and downs at all levels (planning, organization, budget, activities, monitoring, assessment, and reporting). Besides, there has been a constant instability on behalf of the members, people going in and out of the groups constantly has not given consistency to the goals of this ministry.





## II. BRIEF HISTORY OF YOUTH-TEENAGER AND CHILDREN OFFICE OF PHNOM PENH VICARIATE

Youth-Teenager and Children Office were started in Diocesan House of Apostolic Vicariate of Phnom Penh in 30May, 2008. Rev Fr. OLIVIER SCHMITTHAEUSLER (currently is Apostolic Vicar of Phnom Penh) with the agreement of the Bishop Council of Phnom Penh assigned Mr.Phon Sophal and Mr.Hom Tour (currently resigned) to take charge of this ministry with small salary.For two year mission 30th May 2008 to 30th May 2010 Mr.Phon Sophal and Mr.Hom Tour works without assistant but in cooperation with the committee of youth. In 1June-30August, 2008 two of them went to meet groups of youth in different pastoral centers to do analyses for the needs of youth in the whole Apostolic Vicar. Based on the background above mentioned plus the current situation of the youth groups in Phnom Penh Vicariate, we considered that the following issues should be address urgently:

- The organization of youth ministry (YM) in the Phnom Penh vicariate lack of interaction with the other local groups especially at the time to work together with the old generations and between people from different parishes.
- Training and formation especially for the youth groups has been very weak so far therefore, it will suitable to develop more ideas about how to help them to face the contemporary Cambodian society with all its challenges. Programs and sessions need to be prepared to enhance certain knowledge about dignity, personal values, and self-confidence, perhaps make them to discover their uniqueness and personal identity.
- There has been little or none involvement of youth in the life of the catholic community then, we have to figure out how to encourage them to be present in a dynamic way into the activities prepared by the youth leaders and responsible of the ministry.
- Since the groups are quite spread out there is not group cohesion so far we need to keep them united in an activity network and mutual help under the path of a friendly Jesus and Saint Paul.
- Nowadays Cambodian youngsters as their similar all over the world are rather indifferent with what is happening in terms of culture, economy, politics, society, etc. We need to inspire them in order for them to be committed person in their own society and culture and related to their faith.

After aware of the needs and problem concern in different communities, we decided to call all youth leaders for a meeting to prepare pastoral plan for 3 years to implement in the local community and different pastoral centers. According to the idea of our meeting under discussion as body so we address the theme for the formation years.

- Pastoral plan for 2008-2009 is focuses on Self Discovery and Youth Value (Year of St.Paul)
- Pastoral plan for 2009-2010 is focuses on Spiritual Growth and Human Dignity (Year of Priest)
- Pastoral plan for 2010-2011 is focuses on Social Awareness and to be witness of Christ (Reflect about Jesus Christ).



In particular, the formation program for year one 2008-2009 focuses on Self Discovery and youth values. The groups of youth in different communities come together in their own pastoral center to share their life in 3 workshops per-year. They started to discover themselves as “who they are?” and reflect on the experience of value of living in family, community and society especially the way to accept their weakness in daily life. They learn how to do analyze difficulties, happiness, particular emotional reaction and sign of growth as young adult. The formation program and pastoral activities for second year 2009-2010 is focus on Spiritual Growth and Human Dignity. In particular the formation is intended to empower youth to deal with positive and negative way in family, community, church and society. Let youth to allowed Holy Spirit work in their daily life and comprehend the significant of 7 gifts of Holy Spirit in leading them to live in love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. All youth are encouraged to become social aware and to think more deeply with GOD especially they start to contribute their service for the church, community and Cambodia society.

The formation program and pastoral activities for the third year 2010-2012 is focuses on Social Awareness and to be witness of Christ. In fact, we ready to implement this program and commit to inspire all youth in Phnom Penh Vicariate to involve all activities in the pastoral center and youth office especially the pilgrimage of love and to be witness of Christ. Furthermore, all youth will encourage choosing favorite Saint to reflect for the whole year. We expect their faith will spread out in society, share life as Roman Catholic to others and to be witness of Christ.

Unfortunately, for the last two years 2008-2010 was not come up with any program for Children. According to the strong suggestion of Bishop OLIVIER SCHMITTHAEUSLER (after his ordination as Apostolic Vicar in 2010), he considers youth and children as one of his priority in Phnom Penh Vicariate. Based on his initiative, Youth and Children Office of Phnom Penh Vicariate had prepared pastoral plan and theme of the year for children in 2010-2011.



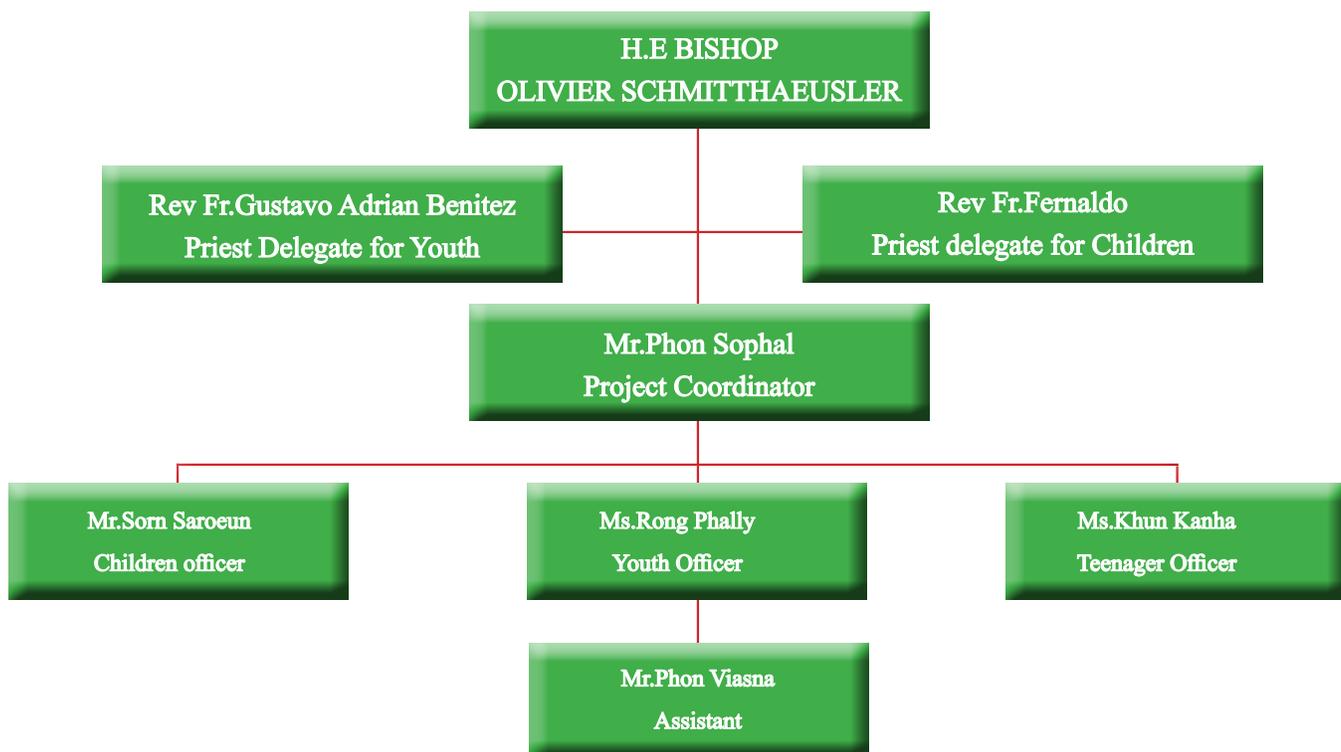


In fact, in the year of 2010 pastoral office of Youth and Children of Phnom Penh Vicariate have become more impact and a place where young Catholic and non-Catholic people have chance to share their community life and reflect together as one body, especially leaders of youth are formed. Together with young leaders from different pastoral center of Phnom Penh, we all be united and commit to help youth. Truly, the pastoral office has more activities and more staffs to work together. From 2 people up until 7 people (2010) 3 full time staffs and 4 part time staffs, and one priest who was a chaplain for the office.

In 2012-2013 were the years of Faith, all the pastoral activities and formation have conducted to help young people to reflect about their faith through different workshop and training. Three workshop have divided into 3 main topic (we are the King, we are the Prophet and we are the Priest). All these 3 workshops help young people to reflect about their daily life and Faith.

In 2013-2014-2015-2016 Year of Mercy, we have prepared all program and pastoral activities to let young people reflect and put in action of mercy and charity. We have had divided into 3 part according the pastoral year of the church 2013-2014 for the First Part, 2014-2015 for the second part and 2015-2016 as the third part of the year of Mercy.

## STRUCTUR OF YOUTH - TEENAGER AND CHILDREN OFFICE (2016-2017)





## **VISION**

Pastoral office for Youth-Teenager and Children of Phnom Penh Vicariate have intention to give formation- evangelization – Peace Building – Dialogue to the Catholic youth and non-Catholic, Cambodian or Vietnamese to live in Love - Communion - in one Faith.

## **MISSION**

Pastoral office for Youth-Teenager and Children conducted Activities for Children – Teenager and Youth to help Catholic Church of Phnom Penh Vicariate to growth – in Love – Tolerance - communion – idea development, spirit growth and Faith to all Children Teenager and youth.

## **GOAL**

Pastoral for Youth-Teenager and Children given formation and training to reach out to all level of Children Teenager and youth in purpose to develop their behavior – attitude-skills and believe in Jesus Christ, and able to give the service to the church and society.





## CHAPTER I: YOUTH MINISTRY WORK



Since May 30th, 2008 Youth and Children Office was launched and supported by the Bishop of Phnom Penh Vicariate. Bishop has assigned Mr. Phon Sophal and Mr. Hom Tour (currently resigned) to work for two years commitment. All pastoral activities are developing according to the year of local church and universal. Mr. Phon Sophal, currently is taking role as Project Coordinator and youth officer after renew the contract with Bishop of Phnom Penh until 2016.

H.E Bishop Olivier Schmitthausler is fully support, followed up and initiates to have pastoral activities in the purpose of developing youth-Teenager and children in the whole Vicariate. In 2010 Fr. Gustavo Adrian Benitez is a

Priest delegate for youth and children in Phnom Penh Vicariate. All activities have been developing and move faster day by day with the initiative from H.E Bishop Olivier Schmitthausler.

In fact, for the youth ministry of Phnom Penh Vicariate, we have been known as an office to coordinate in three levels of pastoral activities, such as: Pastoral Center Levels, Vicariate Levels the same as National Level and International Affairs.

**We, youth pastoral office very happy to share our story to be told.....,**

### 1 - PASTORAL ACTIVITIES IN YOUTH MINISTRY OF PHNOM PENH

We are an office to coordinate for the pastoral activities of youth in the church from different pastoral center of Phnom Penh Vicariate, CAMBODIA, that have been built on the value of core works, community life, faith orientation, workshop and training base on the universal Church.

Since 2009 up until now, we keep forming the core group which we known as youth leaders from 9 pastoral centers. They came from different parishes, and regularly attend the training 3 times every year to learn, reflect and share about their leadership experience as youth leaders. Especially, they have chance to listen and learn the doctrine of the Church with H.E Bishop OLIVIER for two times per year.

These all entire youth leaders have a special role to help youth activities in their local church to growth, to put in action of our pastoral plan each year. Furthermore, they are very important to our pastoral office in order to do networking, communication and share all update information.





## I-1- WORKSHOP

Workshop is the fixed pastoral activities which we have been set for our pastoral plan each year in purpose to help all youth in the church to get a chance, sitting together, learning together, eating together, pray together and reflecting together

about their daily life. In fact, yearly pastoral plan we have been set 2 or 3 workshops in different topic for each pastoral center of Phnom Penh Vicariate. All workshops have to follow the flow such as: Input or lesson, group work and group sharing, praying together, time of life or funny time, some party and community building. In addition, all workshops we have been assigned as groups responsible in different group number in order to help them know each other and learn how to work together.





Eating together, but we have to washing together too...OK...!



Group discussion, We have to share idea, because we have to share in the large group too...OK..!





## 1-2- TRAINING

Initially started in 2009 for youth leaders from all pastoral center of Phnom Penh Vicariate, which we target Leadership Training Program. Three training has been conducted aimed at imparting information to improve their leadership, in purpose to lead the different youth group in the parishes. All attain a required in the level of knowledge, some skill to animate the group. In fact, it is very meaningful for them to come together and share their own experiences as leaders and received more input to improve their life.

All training program have provided in different aspects but link on the Church doctrine which given them a strong faith to lead their own group. Especially, in 2 training program every year from 2010 to 2016 had given by H.E Bishop OLIVIER Schmitthaesler who can help and direct them to lead the group with love, faith and witness of Christ among the youth group.



Usually, all youth leaders from different parishes in each pastoral center of Phnom Penh Vicariate totally are between 70 to 80 people every training program. These numbers of Youth Leader are very important for the Youth Office to keep in touch, networking and share information.

We were not just given training which conducted by the youth office of Phnom Penh Vicariate, but we have invited and cooperate with some NGOs in Cambodia as well as some Catholic Movement in Asian such as: Fondacio, Jesus Youth and Magis.



It is a part of our networking and learning experience through sharing and cooperation with another organization in purpose to help our young people growth mentality and knowledge.

Through the pastoral and leadership approach the youth office have been contributed to the quality of life and some knowledge to all youth leaders in the whole Phnom Penh Vicariate. It was granting them to understand more about the choice of life and committed more for the church and society.

In order to have the best serve for the youth in the mission, we, pastoral worker in the youth office had been searched and apply for the training first and then prepared of the needs for youth.

In the particular time, some of training we given them the certificate to certify their individual participation and they can apply for the future requirement of job.

On the other hand, training have been conducted as the retreat program for 3 days which given them with the theological, missionaries orientation, and faith orientation. It is a part of spiritual growth that youth pastoral office have been consider for all youth leaders in the whole Phnom Penh Vicariate.





### 13 -PILGRIMAGE

This program is a part of launching new pastoral activities of Youth-teenager and Children office in each year. Pilgrimage is a sound that familiar to all youth in the whole Phnom Penh Vicariate already, because every year since 2010 up until to 2016 we have conducted the 7 pilgrimage in different historical of the church in Cambodia. In this important activity, we, youth office coordinate at least 200 to 250 participants each year except in the year 2010 was 167 people.

All these 7 pilgrimage we have been invited youth participants to listen the word of God, 3 catechism in each step along the way which given by Bishop Olivier Schmitthaeusler, Apostolic Vicar of Phnom Penh. At the same time, we requested all youth to be silence, remain in prayer, aware of every step along the way has meaning and know that life giving challenges that all human have to be face. But all the step of walking was led by the statue of Jesus Christ that standing in front of the pilgrims.

Pilgrimage is a most significant in our pastoral activity for each of every year in the Youth office of Phnom Penh Vicariate. Pilgrimage has been a program which transforms many youth to deepen on Christ. Especially, be a witness of Christ in the society through praying along the way, holding the statue of Jesus and walk for 20 Km (minimum 16 km and maximum 22km) in each pilgrimage. Furthermore, pilgrimage was a sign of peace and inter-religion dialogue, because 95 % of Cambodian are Buddhism.





Walking and praying together in front of Mother Mary



Teaching from H.E Bishop Olivier Schmitthaeusler in each step



The statue of Jesus in front of the pilgrims during walking





## 1-4- YOUTH SYNOD

Youth Synod is an annual event that happens in Phnom Penh Vicariate as well as National Youth Synod, gathering together 350 to 400 youth aged 16-25, in addition to a number of community volunteers. Since 2008 until 2017, we have had coordinate Youth Synod in Phnom Penh Vicariate 3 times in the year 2008, 2009 and 2012. In fact, the pastoral youth office of Phnom Penh has been coordinate and host the National Youth Synod 3 times since 2007 until 2016. The themes of all synods were chosen by the youth commission base on the universal church.

A Synod is a journey we take together where we discuss important issues that affect us as a faith community. It is also an event taking place over four days from where 350 to 400 youth in Phnom Penh Vicariate from nine pastoral centers will gather to talk and make suggestions about the future of our Church.

Coordinator for Youth Synod is placing a new emphasis on integrating youth and their adult chaperones in the business of Synod along with activities designed for youth to connect faith and daily life, issues of justice, peace building, and dialogue, friendship, communication as well as leadership opportunities.

Throughout our time together, we will explore how God dwells with us wherever we go. Usually, the synod we always do during the August or September in the year.

The Synod have to provide forums where the youth can discuss the issues, shared their life and the practical problems, their disappointments and their inner search. Especially, synod is the time to collect their learning from the workshop to share more, living together as brother and sister, learning together, reflecting together, serving each other in different service during the synod, Eucharist and prayer time have to attend and require them to commit for spiritual growth.





The synod is the time for Youth Leaders from each pastoral center serves their youth through Volunteer Committee. They came for preparatory meeting at least 3 times before the synod, they have assigned as group animator to run the synod smoothly.

They help in different service during the synod such as, food committee, Eucharist committee, and music committee, health committee, sport committee, document committee, and steering committee.

They have to wake up earlier than youth participants, but went to sleep late.





The synod in Phnom Penh Vicariate, is a symbolize of walking together, communion and holding hand each other to help the church of Phnom Penh as well as Cambodia to growth. H.E Bishop Olivier Schmitthaeusler always encourages all youth to share their faith with confident and proud to be born as Catholic and show the face of Jesus to the other in society of Cambodia during the synod. “Go and call your friend those who never know Jesus, to know about his Good News and show the face of Jesus through you...!” Bishop Olivier said. All the synod of Phnom Penh Vicariate, H.E Bishop Olivier always present, teaching, and send off all the youth by presided the closing mass.

In each synod, all youth participant have to attend the different session who were invited by youth office to share the contents related to the theme of synod. In four days gather together, they had chance for exposure and reflect about society as well. It is a part of learning process which helps our youth to deepen on to their faith.



Youth Participant in Synod 2009 (365 people)



## 2-PASTORAL ACTIVITIES IN CAMBODIA FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

### 2-1-FIRST CAMBODIA LAOS YOUTH DAY-CLYD 1<sup>ST</sup>

In the midst of noise of young people coming from two different cultures there was a sense of joy experienced by all gather. The occasion was the gathering together for dialogue and exchange of views among 300 youths from Cambodia and Laos for the youth day convention. This was the first meeting of youth from both Cambodian and Laos for Youth Day gathering. This historic gathering took place from 10th to 16th August 2015 in Cambodia, under the auspices of the Episcopal Conferences of Laos & Cambodia (CELAC). The convention discussed and exchanged views on the various aspects of the church in Cambodia and Laos. The youths came to know more about the martyrdom in Cambodia and Laos as well as the fraternity of the two Churches. One of the youths Vong Voleak said: “When I attended this Cambodian-Laos youth Day I gained a new experience from the Laotian youths and the activities of the Cambodian youths alike. I now know more about the Church and about the martyrdom both our countries.”





Mr. Sophal Phon, the director of the pastoral office for youth and children in the Apostolic Vicariate of Phnom Penh, said that the aim of this meeting was to get the Cambodian and Laotian youths to know one another better and to share personal experiences from one another regarding the Church and the sacrifices. He continued by saying: “The meeting is to strengthen the faith of the youths in their life as Catholics because we have initiated programs like a prayer services and Eucharistic celebration, reflection on our lives with Jesus and the revelation of our faith in line with the tenets of the Church and the Association of South-East Asian Nations (Asean). So we as Cambodian/Laos youths have to show how the face of Jesus in relation to Asean and our activities in the context of Asean.”

Cambodian-Laos youth day was held for a period of one week starting from the Apostolic Prefecture of Kampong Cham to the land of martyrdom of Cambodia in TangKork, to the Apostolic Vicariate of Phnom Penh, and to the Apostolic Prefecture of Battambang. Eighty six youths of Laos and two hundred youths of Cambodia met in a small group to share personal experiences from one another. They have worked as groups and made their way to each parish in order to learn and understand the local Church.

Visiting regions to see general situations in Cambodian and the Church made one Laotian youth Sengchanh Souvanthone understand that life is a struggle and depends on the hand of God. Souvanthone further said: “I am very happy to see the Church as an instrument helping the least of society especially the poor, the sick. This work shows that God pays attention to everyone.” A Cambodian youth Vy Somnang from Tutaing Church said: “This day has benefited me a lot so that I know how to create fraternity between other people without depending too much on a common language. He finds that it is important is that the group have a language of love and of solidarity, mutual help and forgiveness for one another.”



H.E Bishop Olivier Schmitthaeusleur, the president of the Episcopal Conference of Laos & Cambodia (CELAC) and the bishop of the Apostolic Vicariate of Phnom Penh said: “I am glad because throughout the week we succeeded in uniting all as one family. In the Church, we are brethren loving one another truly. Although we speak different languages, we see our heart joined together deeply both in faith, friendship and fraternity.”



His Excellency further said: “This is the strength in order that our faith will continue to witness where we are assigned on a regular basis. I therefore thank God and I hope we continue showing our two countries are united not only in the bishops meet but also the faithful who gather here. This is an occasion to strengthen our faith and there is hope forever though we face adversity in life. But we know that we have people loving us, encouraging us so as to continue a journey with Him and also the proclamation of the Good News of Jesus to all.” This Cambodian-Laos Youth Day was also attended by the two Apostolic Prefects, Msgr. Enrique Figaredo of Battambang and Msgr. Antonysamy of Kampong Cham Prefectures, as well as Bishop Louis Marie Ling Mangkhanekhoun, the Apostolic Vicar of Pakse. Before concluding the convention, Bishop Olivier announced that 2nd Cambodian-Laos youth day will be held in 2018 in Laos.

Here is the joint four-point declaration made by the Episcopal Conference of Laos & Cambodia.

First: the Catholic youth of Cambodian-Laos continue a direct dialogue with Jesus in day-to-day life everywhere. Take care of and strengthen one’s faith and bear witness of that faith to other youths as well as participate in building the Kingdom of God through works of charity, especially the least of little people so that they can take part in building society and profess the Good News of Jesus.





Second: Cultures and identity- the Catholic youth of Cambodian-Laos will continue a direct dialogue between one another and share cultures, traditions as well as strengthen fraternity with love and serve as a bridge in order to create relationships with empathy and personal identity.

Third: Asean through inter-religious dialogue - the Catholic youth of Cambodian-Laos are committed and determined to continue dialogue with other religious so as to participate in building Asean society in a spiritual manner. In particular help Asean in fraternity, peace and freedom that can allow the voices of the poor, of the least of the little people to be heard in the building of the Asean community.

Fourth: Participation in society by teaching the tenets of the Catholic Church, the youths of Cambodia-Laos are determined to show fraternity and respect for human dignity by taking common interests as fundamentals in decision making process and continue to strengthen the efforts in the protection of nature/environment, which is the common possessions of mankind.

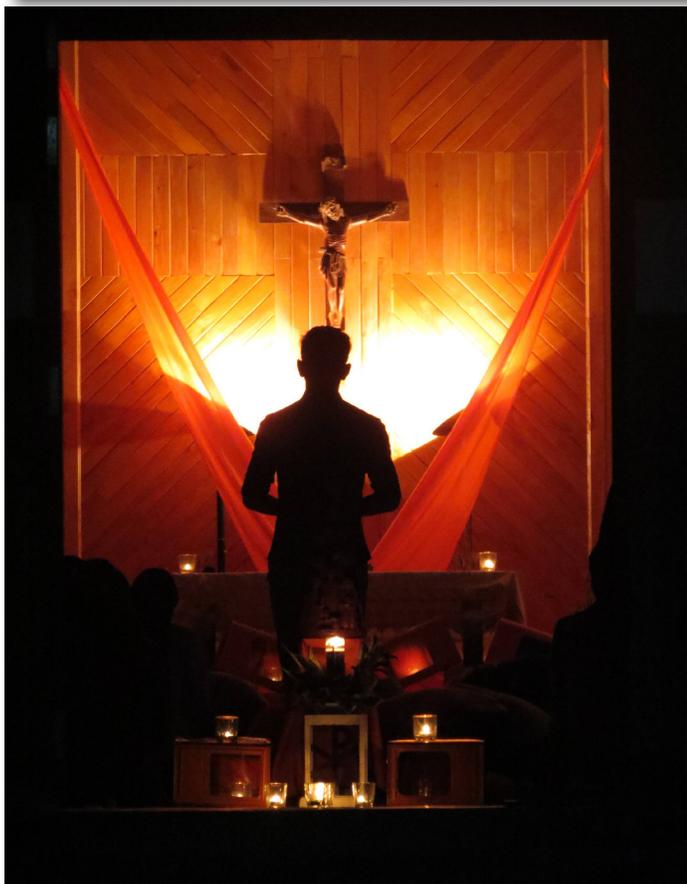
## **2-2- SOUTH EAST ASIAN 1 GATHERING ៥ SEAI REGIONAL GATHERING**

Phnom Penh Vicariate have been hosted the South East Asian 1 gathering ( SEA1) two times when organized by FABC in 2014 and Taize Retreat Program in 2015, organized by Taize Brother. Meanwhile, in 2015 we have sent 10 youth delegates to Thailand to attend National Catholic Youth Congress when South East Asian countries were invited.





Taizé Retreat Program for SEA1 gathering on 3-7 March, 2015  
in CAMBODIA



National Youth Congress and South East Asian SEA1 gathering on 12-17 October, 2015 in Thailand







## 2-3-ASIAN YOUTH DAY ៥ AYD

Asian Youth Day (AYD) is an international event organized by the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conference, Office of Laity & Family, Youth Desk and the host country. The event, which is held every three years, brings together Catholic youths from all over Asia. The event is similar to the World Youth Day.

The week long gathering enables Asian youth to experience the Gospel with others of different cultures and how the modern world celebrates the Gospel, and how it applies to current issues like social justice, leadership among its youth. The week festivities include prayer, forums, and workshops. The event is used to enrich, inspire, and renew the spiritual lives of Catholic youth of Asia.

Year		Date	Diocesan	Country	Theme
1st	1999	August 7th - August 12th	Hua Hin	 Thailand	Asian Youth journeying with Jesus towards the New Millennium
2nd	2001	August 11th - August 17th	Taipei	 Taiwan	We are called to Sanctity and Solidarity
3rd	2003	August 10th - August 17th	Bangalore[1]	 India	Asian Youth for Peace
4th	2006	July 30th - August 5th	Hong Kong[2]	 Hong Kong	Youth, Hope of Asian Families
5th	2009	November 20th - November 27th	Imus[3]	 Philippines	Y Asia, Fiesta! Young Asians: Come Together, Share the Word, Live the Eucharist
6th	2014	August 10th - August 17th	Daejeon[4]	 South Korea	Asian Youth! Wake up! The Glory of the Martyrs Shines on You!
7th	2017	July 30th - August 6th	Yogyakarta	 Indonesia	Joyful Asian Youth: Living the Gospel in Multicultural Asia!

Cambodia Youth Delegates had been attending all the AYD, but the number of youth delegate depends on the slot number from the AYD committee.





12 Youth Delegates from Cambodia attended the 5th Asian Youth Day in the Philippines AYD 5th. The theme of AYD 5th was Y Asia, Fiesta! Young Asians: Come Together, Share the Word, Live the Eucharist

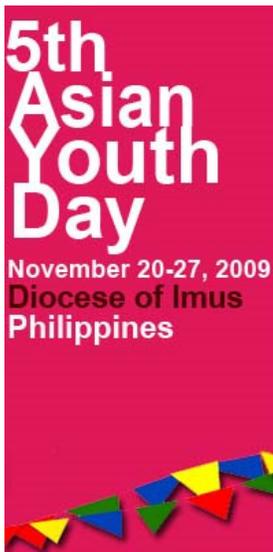
YAsia Fiesta underscores for the Asian youth the non-negotiable Gospel values of interior life, of ecclesial communion, of sacrifice and of unselfish service that characterize the very life of Jesus.

The 5th Asian Youth Day, organized by the youth department of the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences (FABC), when they prepared to focus on the Eucharist.

The FABC reported that the goal of the event is to "renew Asian youth's faith in and love for the Word of God and the Eucharist," and to help them integrate these realities into their lives.



Starting a reflection AYD 6 journey is like another journey. We have that in our heart, our mind, our soul. We have AYD 6 written in our life. But somehow, it's hard to have that in our hand, written in some kind of book we could enjoy visually and get inspired again and again. 32 Cambodia youth delegation was sent by the Church from Cambodia to join the AYD6 in Daejeon Diocese, South Korea. 10-18th August 2014.





## 2-4- WORLD YOUTH DAY - WYD



On the 18th of July 2016, thirty seven young Catholic delegates of the three dioceses of the Catholic Church in Cambodia left for Poland to participate at the World Youth Day where they joined many other youth participants from around the world where they hope to deepen their faith and share their Christian life in Cambodia.

All youth delegated from Cambodia were given Catechism by H.E Bishop OLIVIER Schmitthaeusleur. On the first week in Poland, the Catholic youth from Cambodia made a pilgrimage to a holy shrine in Kielce, Poland on foot carrying the Cross and the Cambodia flag. The pilgrimage was done on the 21st of July 2016 ahead of joining ten other countries' delegation.

Following the pilgrimage, all the youth shared personal experiences and faith of each other. It was also an opportunity for them to make themselves be known including the Cambodian tradition to other youths there. On the 22nd of July 2016, the Cambodian delegates visited the center for the elderly and the disabled persons as well as a cemetery in the city. On the 23rd of July 2016, delegates from different parts of the world met together in the city to reflect on the essence of their faith. There





was also cultural exchange program before the event in Krakow which would help them broaden their horizons and learn about other cultures and traditions. The Cambodian youth stayed with Polish families who were their hosts during the celebration and hoped to promote Christianity from a Cambodian perspective to a global audience.



World Youth Day 2011, a Catholic event held from August 16–21, 2011 in Madrid, Spain focused on youth. Media estimated the event’s attendance as over a million or 1.5 million. World Youth in 2011, the theme for 2011’s World Youth Day is “Rooted and Built Up in Jesus Christ, Firm in the Faith” (cf Col 2:7). Cambodia Youth Delegates were given Catechism in Khmer Language by H.E Bishop OLivier Schmitthausleur, three days to reflect deeply about the faith and rooted in Christ.



*The Catholic Church of Cambodia had sent 32 youth delegates to join this WYD*

### CAMBODIA YOUTH DELEGATES

World Youth Day, which holds the distinction of being the largest youth gathering in the world! Here we able to find the life of the Church, young people screaming “singing, joyful, and exchange their testimony of life” when CAMBODIA flag is the middle of the group of young people from over the world.



World Youth Day 2011 in Madrid has come and gone but hopefully the inspiration and opportunity experienced by the youth of the World will continue. The same to Cambodia Youth Delegates have continued to share with different youth in their own community by reflecting and sharing the theme of World Youth Day though the synod and gathering.



The World Youth Day is a powerful, visible sign of the Church’s commitment to these young people; it is an action of solidarity which brings together young people from all over the world with a common purpose. 32 Youth Delegates were committing to reach out all the objective of the WYD 2011 to be rooted in Christ. We have a special chance to do pilgrimage in Rome,



ITALY before the WYD. We have share our culture, prayer, attend daily mass in different place in Rome, Italy. Going on pilgrimage is an action of the feet, heart and mind for this reason we, Cambodia Youth Delegates went first to Rome, Italy to learn more about the lives of the Saints and history place of the Catholic Church before going to Madrid. We walked around the city and meditated on the discovery of St Paul and St.Peter in this place that “God loves us far more than we love ourselves”.

### St.PAUL CHURCH



CAMBODIA YOUTH DELEGATE in ROME, ITALY





XX  
World Youth Day  
Cologne 2005

**THE 20TH WORLD YOUTH DAY WAS A CATHOLIC YOUTH FESTIVAL THAT STARTED ON AUGUST 16 AND CONTINUED UNTIL AUGUST 21, 2005 IN COLOGNE, GERMANY.**



*CAMBODIA Church had sent 14 youth delegates to attend this WORLD DAY.*



Cambodia Youth Delegates, share our culture through blessing dance and show image of Cambodia to all young people in Asian and the world.

All Youth Delegated from Cambodia have been hosted by one Germany Family, where we have chance to share our story to the villager and people there through praying together and party and culture night.





## CHAPTER II: PASTORAL ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN & SCOUT PROGRAM

### 1-Background of Scout Program in Phnom Penh Vicariate

In 2004, the Scouts Program was initiated and established by Rev.Fr Olivier Schmithaeusler; MEP (Currently is Apostolic Vicar of Phnom Penh). He was the one who appointed as responsible for Takeo Pastoral center, Phnom Penh Vicariate. In that particular period, the Scouts Program had active only two parishes in Takeo Pastoral Centers (Smile of our Lady and Trinity parish, where we known as Chamkateang and Kirivong). Later on, day by day the scouts program was spread out to Kompot pastoral center where is located near to Takeo Pastoral center. Although, scouts program had activities in these two pastoral centers of Phnom Penh Vicariate but still not exist to the whole Vicariate, because lacking of scout leaders and formation.



In 2010, Rev.Fr Olivier Schmithaeusler was appointed and ordained as Bishop of Phnom Penh Vicariate. He was a founder of Scout Program in Takeo and Kompot Pastoral center. In fact, he urged the scout program to have activities as Vicariate Level under the coordination of Youth and Children office of Phnom Penh Vicariate.

Thus, from August, 2010 up until July 2011 (one year) the Children office of Phnom Penh Vicariate had two people to work as full time and part time, but they had no activities in different pastoral centers, instead just working in the office to do a research, analysis of the needs, preparation all documents and booklet for scout lesson and improve some area of lacking.

In 2011, after done with all preparatory meeting and printed out the booklet especially the important information about scout program. In fact, the Children office of Phnom Penh Vicariate had conducted a workshop for 3 days to invite scout Leaders from different pastoral centers to attend. In the workshop, we had presented the project of scout program, show and teach, explain to all scout leaders about how to use the booklet and practicum. According to the experiences of the first workshop with all Scout Leaders, we were able to see the needs and





some part of improvement of scout activities in each pastoral centers of Phnom Penh Vicariate. To constant the scout program, from 2012 until now, every year we continue to conducted workshops to all scout leaders and scout camp for children in both pastoral level and Vicariate level.



Currently Mr.Sorn Saroeun is Children Officer who works for scout activities. He has taken a special role in the Youth-Teenager and Children office of Phnom Penn in order to help all program links and run smoothly. Since 2010, after the announcement of H.E Bishop Olivier Schmithaeusler to prepare scout program as Vicariate Levels, Mr.Sorn Saroeun was the one who assist and involve much with initiation and implement this project without fear and show his passion to develop this program effectiveness.

We, Children pastoral office very happy to share our activities to be told.....,

## **2- SCOUT ACTIVITIES IN PHNOM PENH VICARIATE**

The scout activity is one of the most important programs in the Vicariate. It has been became a special activities where allowed teenager and youth are involve with the Church program through leading the scout group. The scout activities in Phnom Penh Vicariate is a place where we can evangelize and witness of Christ through all the children who came for the meeting event, camp and weekend program in different community. The scout activities have been known and acceptable to all parishes in the whole Vicariate of Phnom Penh.

After 2011, all scout activities have been set and fixed in the contents of one book where contain all the pedagogy tools. In the book, we have divided into nine chapters and 4 subordinate topics each. In four topics, we have to apply for one month activities. It means 9 chapters for one year program when we require all scout leaders to lead and have activities from October to July in each of every year. Since 2011 up until 2016, we have had implement 4 books which different topic. There is 2011-2012 My Daily Life, 2012-2013 My Communication, 2013-2014 My Successful Life, 2014-2015 Harmony Life. In 2015-2016 we have taken the first one to use again, but somehow we update according to the reality of society.





## 2-1- WORKSHOP FOR SCOUT LEADERS

Scout Leaders workshop is the important time when Children Office of Phnom Penh Vicariate have to share and delegate the task to all leaders to implement the scout program. Meanwhile, all the information, pedagogy tools, method, uniform and booklets are distributed to all Scout Leaders. In fact, the workshop has conducted in two times per year when we take 2 days for each. These two workshops have to divided into two parts, the first, all scout leaders have been trained by Children office from the 1st to 5th Chapter in the booklet, the second is from the 6th to 9th Chapter. Each Scout Leader workshops, H.E Bishop Olivier Schmithaeusler always came for sending off mass to send them to serve the children through scout activities.



During the scout Leader Workshop we always prepare prayer in around fire and followed by party



All Scout Leader take who help to animate and facilitate the





## 2-2- PASTORAL VISIT TO ALL SCOUTS IN DIFFERENT PASTORAL CENTERS OF PHNOM PENH VICARIATE

It has been the regularly schedule and set in the pastoral plan since 2012 up until now. This pastoral visit was grant more confident both Children office and scout leaders in different community. It is the time to exchange, encourage each other, rise up all the concern, sharing about achievement and challenging of scout activities, especially time to understand more for scout program. However, we often visit to different community once or two times per month during February to June each year. The target of the place to Visit we have considered according to the situation of scout activities and available of the time.

Visited to different scout activities some communities in Phnom Penh Vicariate such as Chrey Thom one of the parishes in Tonle Basac Pastoral center, Champa is one of parishes in Tonle Mekong Pastoral Center, Koh Slar is one of parishes in Kompot Pastoral center. It was very helpful for Children office to see the reality and their style of leading scout program, especially feeling close to each other.





## 2-3-SCOUT CAMP

The scout camp is the top program for Children office. All impact and leadership are applying to this program. We, children office often do the Scout Camp right after Scout Leader Workshop, because all leaders are invited to help and animate the program together with the office. Scout camp always done in two times each every year since 2013. We have divided into two big camps. First, for 3 pastoral centers followed by Kompot pastoral center, Takeo Pastoral Center and Kompong Som Pastoral center, and these 3 pastoral centers we got 550 to 600 scouts to join the camp. Second, for 6 pastoral centers such as Phnom Penh Thmey Pastoral Center, North of Phnom Penh Pastoral Center, South of Phnom Penh Pastoral Center, Ta Khmao Pastoral Center, Tonle Mekong Pastoral center and Tole Basac Pastoral Center, these 6 pastoral centers we got between 400 to 500 scouts to join the camp. Scout camps take 3 days and 2 nights for each. All scout participants have to obeyed the leader and live together as community by peer or groups. They require living in the tents and big room together. All animation and facilitation were led by scout leaders. The place to host the camp has to be done by children office according to the situation of the place and available to accommodate. Scout Leaders who help to lead the Camp

The entire tent has given to girls and boy separately. The camp divided into two area of sleeping between boys and girls.

All scout leaders and scout have to get the orientation about first Aids and read together the law of scout.





### SOME ACTIVITIES DURING THE SCOUT CAMP



Group Work



Art Work



Game and recreation time



Yellow Scarf for Scout Children



Red Scarf for Scout Leader



The words for Scout Read



CD with Scout Songs



## CHAPTER III: PASTORAL ACTIVITIES FOR TEENAGER PROGRAM

### I- BACKGROUND OF TEENAGER PROGRAM IN PHNOM PENH VICARIATE



Teenager program were started in January 2014 after Ms Khun Kanha came back from the Philippines. She was sent by the Apostolic Vicariate of Phnom Penh to join the formation year in 2012-2013 about pastoral leadership in the Institute Formation of Fondacio Asian (IFFAsia) in the Philippines. The Teenager Project was proposed by Mr.Phon Sophal as well Rev Fr.Gustavo Andrian Binetez to H.E Bihop Olivier Schmithaeusler to be approved.

After approval, In 2014 Ms.Khun Kanha was assigned and appointed to works full time for teenager program who responsible as Teenager Officer. The first year, she just work in the office and do the survey through interview the Priests, Teenagers, youth group and scout group. After she met them, talked with them and asked them some questions about teenagers. She has the comprehensive of the needs of teenager. So, most of the teenagers want to have the program in their place. In order to have activities for teenager, Ms.Khun Kanha has set her priority for 3 years such as:

-In 2014: Just focused on relationship between teenager officer with other communities (getting to know teenager and the needs of them and of the church).

-In 2015 focused on workshops (help teenager to aware of themselves, other and to know about value of their life and the value of studying)

-In 2016 focused on training program for leaders, focused on clubs and camp.

Now most of teenagers are clear about their identities or their group belongs to and also they are clear about with what they want to do in their parish. Some of parishes have teenager group and active in the church. Most of parishes know about our program and they were support us a lot.





## 2-TEENAGER ACTIVITIES IN PHNOM PENH VICARIATE

### 2-1-WORKSHOP FOR TEENAGER

The workshops are conducted two times per year in order to help teenagers aware of their identity and stages to growth.

In this particular, we have had shared the workshops with teenager in 2015 followed by different theme such as: (I'm great to be born!) with 5 small topics, 1-Open to get your freedom (Body and emotional change) 2-The blessing from God (You are special) 3-My dream (for self, Community and society)

2016 still keep given further topic in different workshops such as:

1. The importance of participation (group, church and society)
2. My challenges
3. Good listener
4. Leadership in life





## 2-2-CAMP FOR TEENAGER

Teenagers! You know! You are the hope of the church and society was known as the topic for the first teenager camp when we have on 12-14 August 2016 in Takeo pastoral center, Phnom Penh Vicariate with 110 Teenagers been attended.

The Objectives followed by:

1. Try hard with joy
2. Study about environment and have time close to God
3. Make a plan for group with love and hop

First day, have had focused on self-introduction in order to help them to know each other well. In fact, we, teenager office give orientation of the program and explain the important of the camp to let them know where they are.

Second day, let all teenager out with the challenging of the atmosphere through clamping the mountain (Chiso Mountain). During outing, they require to complete with 4 missions work such as cooking when we, teenager office gave a few of material to cook for their own lunch. After lunch they have adventure in the forest to know the name of the tree and they study about environment. After study, they had time to listen the word of God from the book of Genesis which helps them to know about the beginning of the world, and they pray for the environment.

In the third day, study about love, hope, joy and gave time for them to make a plan to do something for environment.





### **3-COMING ACTIVITIES AND PRIORITY FOR NEXT 3 YEARS**

**2016-2018 WE WILL FOCUSES SOME SIGNIFICANT POINTS:**

- 1. BIBLE FORMATION AND ORIENTATED ON JESUS (YEAR OF FAMILY)**
- 2. PILGRIMAGE AND LEADERSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM**
- 3. EDUCATION YOUTH (YEAR OF FAMILY)**
- 4. RUNNING CHILDREN ACTIVITIES (LEAD BY YOUTH AND TEENAGER)**
- 5-TRAINING YOUTH LEADER - FACILITATION AND ANIMATION SKILLS**
- 6-GIVING WORKSHOP FOR SCOUT LEADERS AND SCOUT CAMP REGULARLY**
- 7-TEENAGER CAMP AND TRAINING FOR ALL TEENAGERS (WORKSHOP AND VISIT)**



### **III- PERSONEL OF YOUTH-TEENAGER AND CHILDREN OFFICE OF PHNOM PENH VICARIATE**

Youth and Children office of Phnom Penh vicariate currently has 5 employees to assist Mr.Phon Sophal who work as coordinator with help from Fr.Gustavo Adrian Benitez.

Mr.Sann Sareoun works full time as Children Officer of Phnom Penh Vicariate. Ms.KhunKanha works full time as Teenager officer. Ms.Rong Phally works full time for Youth Officer. Mr.Phon Viasna works full time for project assistant.

All employees in Youth-Teenager and Children Office are working the same as lay missionary. Tuesday to Friday in office at 8:00 to 12:00 and 14:00 to 17:00 or present in community, arrange the flexible schedule for Saturday and Sunday and day off is Monday if we have no schedule on weekend.

### **IV- MONITORING, EVALUATION AND KEY INDICATORS/TARGETS.....**

Regular meeting of our youth leaders and priests and sisters who involve with youth activities take place each three months and have become an important forum for monitoring the effectiveness of the formation offered by Youth-Teenager and Children office of Phnom Penh Vicariate. The minutes of these meetings are recorded in Khmer and done by youth coordinator.

We do not have Board of Management but a core group was established in 2009 including representative from youth leaders of the six pastoral centers of Phnom Penh Vicariate. The members of this core group are very important to do assessment in their own community and bring up the news during the meeting of youth leaders. They act as main role of facilitator for pre-program in the pastoral center.

All the process of monitoring and facilitation are taking Khmer language. Some of youth are Vietnamese, especially in the Pastoral Centers of Tonle Mekong, Tonle Basac and North of Phnom Penh. Youth-Teenager and Children Office of Phnom Penh Vicariate encourages them to speak, write and read in Khmer Language. We help them to reflect and share their life with Khmer young people as one community, one church and one faith. The positive points included the real support with encouraging young Catholic and Non Catholic especially Khmer young people and Vietnamese to share their life among male and female in the groups, development of the whole person, able to reflect in the past, aware of God creation and growth with personal responsibility in Church commitment. It was noted that most of young people able to respond to the question “who am I?”, know Jesus name in their daily life, more understand about God’s love and human dignity. Furthermore, most of them are able to link between family, church community and society. Others strong points mentioned were honesty, growth in critical thinking, faith and spiritual awareness.

The negative points include the practicing of new strategy (remember that Cambodia Church is still young), most of young people still lack of knowledge (general knowledge and introduction of catechism or theological), need more resources people in youth and children commission, a lack of involvement of old generation and a lack of spiritual direction. The relationship between Young Catholic of Cambodian and Vietnamese is getting better but still remain in limited.





Following the publication of this evaluation, there occur interesting reflections on the change of relationship Catholic youth of Cambodia and Vietnamese for the last two years up to now. In particular, the traditional Khmer and long history reserve concerning special between young boy Khmer and Vietnamese that still prevalent in the whole country and specifically in Catholic Community. This has meant that the atmosphere in the Apostolic Vicariate of Phnom Penh has also changed for this distress. It will be an important challenge to all involved over next few years to help the young people manage their relationship in the Christian way. However it is vital that the focus on serious formation in the Year of Family to step forward. In order to respond to the lacking of people involve with Youth-Teenager and Children office, four young people are consider as worker that we expect the process of formation will be better.

## **V- FUTURE YOUNG LEADERSHIP OF YOUTH-TEENAGER AND CHILDREN OFFICE OF PHNOM PENH VICARIATE**

Mr.Sann Sareoun is currently working as Children officer of Phnom Penh Vicariate. He is also taking important role to deal with other youth leaders and youth people in the local community. He will work closely with Mr.Phon Viasna and Ms.Rong Phaly to follow up the formation processes of Children and Youth. He also take leadership as coordinator for all activities from 2016-2017 onward.







## Youth Activities

## Teenager Activities



## Children Activities