

Catholic school managers gain insights on holistic care

A team of about 20 managers from Catholic schools in Singapore spent a day at Caritas Singapore's Agape Village to reflect, refresh and recharge themselves, and to connect with people working in other Catholic schools.

The Day of Recollection and Learning Journey, held on June 12, included a tour of Agape Village. It helped them understand how Caritas Singapore brings together the expertise of the different member organisations to offer holistic and integrated care to the community.

The managers met with the team from Abilities Beyond Limitations and Expectations (ABLE) which serves the physically-challenged community, and participated in a cook-and-bake session with the team from Mamre Oaks – a Catholic organisation that operates a day activity centre at Agape Village for intellectually and developmentally-challenged adults.

For most of the visitors, it was their first time visiting Agape Vil-

lage and interacting closely with adults facing these challenges.

Many of the managers were touched by the under-one-roof services and the inclusive outreach of the Catholic Church to society.

They also had spiritual reflections including a session on the unique calling of the vocations of managers in supporting a better teaching and learning environment in Catholic schools. Another involved participants taking stock of their personal wholeness and well-being.

Fr Edward Seah, spiritual director of the Archdiocesan Commission for Catholic Schools (ACCS), said, "Having the event in Agape Village this year exposes the managers to the works of the Catholic Church beyond the Catholic schools and an opportunity to gain new perspectives."

Ms Dolly Chan, liaison manager of ACCS, shared that "it is very important for the managers of our Catholic schools to un-



Managers from Catholic schools baking with staff and members from Mamre Oaks Limited at Agape Village.

derstand self-care, to remember their 'being', amidst the 'doing'; to realise that they are not alone and that they can reach out to each other across the schools."

The staff at Caritas Singapore's Agape Village also learnt about the Catholic schools' efforts to promote all-rounded nurturing for the children that goes beyond academics.

"I am heartened by the parallel efforts endeavoured by both the education and social service arms of the Church, in the service of God's people," said Ms Genevieve Koh, the programmes and operations manager of Agape Village. □