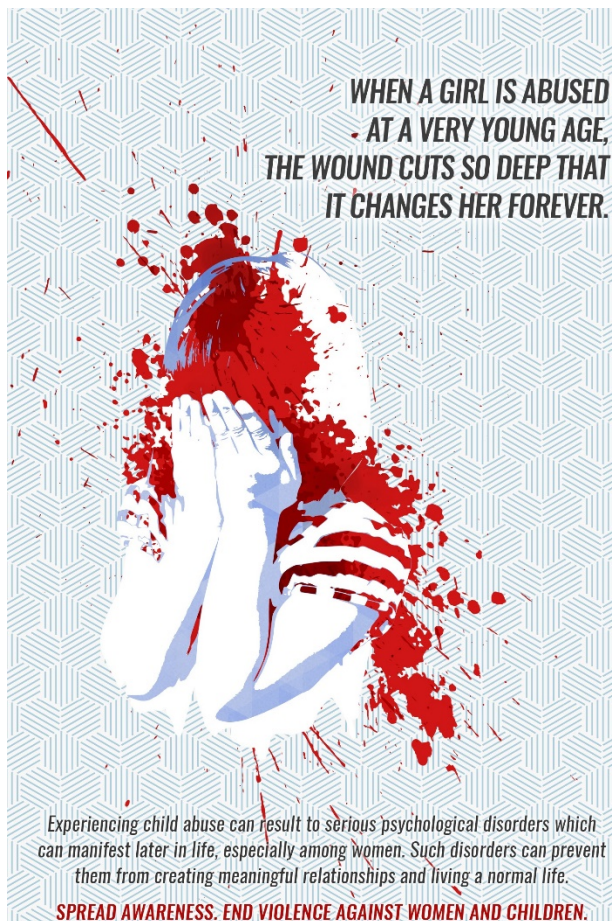


**Celebration of the International Day of the
Girl-Child
Philippines-Japan Province
October 11, 2018**

With the national theme *“Batang Babae: Malakas Ka, Batang Lalaki: Katuwang Ka,”* (girl – child, you are strong; boy – child, the partner) the Religious of Good Shepherd (RGS) Philippines - Japan Province celebrated the *“International Day of the Girl-Child”* through the conduct of a



series of orientations on the status of the girl-child in the Philippines, on October 11, 12 and 17, as well suggestions on how to protect, promote and fulfill their rights as children. More than one hundred twenty (120+) participants attended the sessions from RGS managed schools and from some programs beneficiaries. Sessions highlighted the realities of the Filipino girl-child per the 2015 Beijing Platform for Action: Philippine Progress Report, such as:

- **child labor;**
- **pornography;**
- **in conflict with the law;**
- **teenage pregnancy;**
- **early marriage;**
- **multiple forms of abuse and discrimination especially those with disability; and**
- **cybersex**

During the session, the participants suggested the following to promote, protect and fulfill the rights of girl-child:

- ***guidance from the parents; be responsible parents;***
- ***ask for help, be brave/ report to concerned government such as local government unit in case something happened;***
- ***don't be too trusting especially to strangers; and***
- ***continuous education/awareness raising.***



According to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) this year's international theme, ***With Her: A Skilled Girl Force***, marks the beginning of a year-long effort to bring together partners and stakeholders to highlight, advocate for and invest in girls' most pressing needs and opportunities to attain skills for employability.

As a response, the Province has strengthened **ADVOCACY PROGRAM** especially on the children's rights by giving sessions and training to various parishes, dioceses and schools throughout the Philippines.