



**SILSILAH CALENDAR**

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The 2011 Silsilah Calendar is prepared by the Silsilah Media Desk. The cover was taken from the painting "Call to Peace", it symbolizes the dove of peace. This was offered as a gift to the 25th anniversary celebration of Silsilah Dialogue Movement by Dr. Abdulmari Asia Imao, Sr. National Artist for the Visual Arts. All rights are reserved.



**SILSILAH CALENDAR**

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Note:  
The Hijrah Calendar follows the standard Islamic calculation. Accordingly the observation of certain feast days vary from place to place by one or two days. Annual Holidays falling on a Friday are usually celebrated the following day. The Hijrah Calendar is calculated by Datu Amilpasa J. Sampang of the Kadatuan Foundation, Inc.

# 2011

## 1432H - 1433H

### The Silsilah Calendar

"links" the Gregorian  
and Hijrah Calendars

*This year's issue focuses on:*

- The Silsilah Summer Course on Muslim-Christian Dialogue on its 25th Year
- Silsilah Dialogue Movement
- Harmony Chain Initiative
- Harmony Village
- Basic Christian and Islamic terms
- Major Muslim and Christian Celebrations

#### LEGEND

NC - National Celebration	SC- Silsilah Dialogue Movement
CC - Christian Celebration	Green - Hijrah Calendar
MC - Muslim Celebration	Red - Gregorian Calendar
B- Basita (Regular year)	K - (Kabisa- Leap Year)

Note: The last Kabisa Year was 1431K

\* A gift to members and friends of the Silsilah Dialogue Movement



SILSILAH DIALOGUE MOVEMENT

We resolve to:

- D**eepen the faith we profess
- I**ntegrate the acquired knowledge of interreligious dialogue
- A**dvocate for justice, peace and integrity of creation
- L**ove one another inspite of our differences
- O**wn Silsilah Dialogue Movement's Vision-Mission
- G**enerate the Harmony Chain Initiative in our respective areas
- U**phold our hopes and dreams for peace and harmony
- E**ncourage everyone to become an instrument of social transformation

Taken from the statement of the  
**22nd Silsilah Summer BASIC Course 2008**  
participants

# THE SILSILAH SUMMER COURSE

April and May are the months of the Philippine summer; this is the time when schools go for the long summer break. In Silsilah the months of April and May are the months when the Silsilah Summer Course is normally run. This has been so since 1987 and up to the present. Holding the course during the months of April and May is convenient for many of the participants of the course and the lecturers are people who are connected with academic institutions.

In 1987 the first Silsilah Summer Course was offered out of the Silsilah office in a building in downtown Zamboanga City. The course was designed to give knowledge about the basic teachings and history of Islam and Christianity; Muslims and Christians sat in the same class and thus together learned about each other's religion. The atmosphere of learning about each other's religion without the atmosphere of debate led to friendly interactions and fostered openness and acceptance of similarities and differences between the two religions. The dialogical approach used in the pedagogy promoted the spirit of dialogue which is the vision of Silsilah.

By 1989 more people indicated their intention to register for the Summer Course and the venue that was used in the previous years would not accommodate the increasing number of participants anymore. The venue was then transferred to the Zamboanga School of Fisheries (now

the Zamboanga State College of Marine Science and Technology) until 1994.

On May 20, 1992, Fr. Salvatore Carzedda a dear friend Fr. Sebastiano D'Ambra, PIME, founder of Silsilah who shared his passion for promoting Silsilah's vision of dialogue, was gunned down. He had just finished his lectures at the Summer Course and was driving on his way to the PIME Regional House. Not too far from where the PIME House a gunman shot him and Fr. Salvatore died on the spot. To mark the closing of the summer course graduation that year was very poignant; it was held in the PIME Regional House where Fr. Salvatore's wake was. No one was arrested for the crime but it was believed that the murder of Fr. Salvatore was meant to intimidate Silsilah and put a stop in its efforts of promoting understanding between Muslims and Christians. The murder had strengthened the commitment to the cause of dialogue among the members of Silsilah and the participants, despite the threats.

The yearly offering of the Silsilah Summer Course has been made possible with the generous support of MISSIO and the respective institutions and organizations of the participants' counterpart costs. Almost 2000 participants from 207 institutions/organizations and 28 countries have joined the Silsilah Summer Course over the years.

**Gregorian Calendar  
2011**

Ecosystem  
Awareness Month

**Hijrah Calendar  
1432<sup>B</sup>**

**JANUARY**

**1 Muharram 26th - 11 Safar 26th**

<b>SUNDAY</b> <b>Ahad</b>	<b>MONDAY</b> <b>Ithnin</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b> <b>Thalatha</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b> <b>Arba'a</b>	<b>THURSDAY</b> <b>Khamis</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b> <b>Jum'ah</b>	<b>SATURDAY</b> <b>Sabtu</b>
<p><i>SILSILAH VISION</i> In the Name of God, the Fountain and Source of Dialogue, Silsilah envisions a life-in-dialogue for all Muslims, Christians and peoples of other living faiths in respect, trust and love for one another, and moving together towards an experience of harmony, solidarity and peace.</p>						<p>1 New Year's Day (NC)  I Muharram 26</p>
2 27	3 28	4 29 NEW MOON 17:03PM	5 30	6 1 II Safar	7 2	8 3
9 4	10 5	11 6	12 7 FIRST QUARTER 19:32PM	13 8	14 9	15 10
16 11	17 12	18 13	19 14	20 15 FULL MOON 05:21 AM	21 16	22 17
23 18	24 19	25 20	26 21 LAST QUARTER 20:57 PM	27 22	28 23	29 24
30 25	31 26	<p>24th <i>SILSILAH SUMMER COURSE</i> <i>We are challenged to respond by:</i> advocating peace and harmony thus we become catalysts of peace; developing openness, and a listening heart with sincerity and sensitivity thus we become instruments of solidarity; cherishing the gift of creation and thus we become protectors of <i>Mother Earth</i> through active collaboration with other peoples organizations.  <i>from the BASIC COURSE 2010 Statement</i></p>				

**Gregorian Calendar  
2011**

Wetland & Freshwater  
Ecosystem Month

**Hijrah Calendar  
1432<sup>B</sup>**

**FEBRUARY**

**11 Safar 27th - 11 Rabi'-Al Awwal 25th**

<b>SUNDAY</b> <b>Ahad</b>	<b>MONDAY</b> <b>Ithnin</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b> <b>Thalatha</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b> <b>Arba'a</b>	<b>THURSDAY</b> <b>Khamis</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b> <b>Jum'ah</b>	<b>SATURDAY</b> <b>Sabtu</b>
<i>Give me, O Lord, the courage to live in dialogue in the midst of divisions and conflicts and to build peace...</i> <i>(From HARMONY PRAYER)</i>		<b>1</b> II Safar 27	<b>2</b> 28	<b>3</b> NEW MOON 10:31 AM 29	<b>4</b> III Rabi- Al Awwal 1	<b>5</b> 2
<b>6</b> 3	<b>7</b> 4	<b>8</b> 24th Anniversary of Emmaus Dialogue Community (SC) 5	<b>9</b> 6	<b>10</b> 7	<b>11</b> FIRST QUARTER 15:18 PM 8	<b>12</b> 9
<b>13</b> 10	<b>14</b> 11	<b>15</b> Maulud-Al Nabi (MC) 12	<b>16</b> 13	<b>17</b> 14	<b>18</b> FULL MOON 16:36PM 15	<b>19</b> 16
<b>20</b> 17	<b>21</b> 18	<b>22</b> 19	<b>23</b> 20	<b>24</b> 21	<b>25</b> LAST QUARTER 07:27 AM 22	<b>26</b> 23

**27**      **28**  
24      25

*23rd SILSILAH SUMMER COURSE*  
*With full conviction and commitment, inspired by the initiative of Silsilah Dialogue Movement, we take steps to:*  
(1) deepen our understanding of our individual faith and put into action its teachings; (2) internalize the insights gained on interreligious dialogue; (3) respect the diversity of cultures and the uniqueness of each, while appreciating at the same time the commonalities among cultures; (4) involve ourselves in bridging the gap that separates Muslims and Christians and bring about reconciliation among them; (5) encourage people to join or initiate a Silsilah Forum in our respective areas and promote a life-in-dialogue spirituality as Silsilah Dialogue Movement envisions; (6) become true stewards of creation through protecting the watershed from destruction, promoting proper waste management, and advocating for organic farming and other green technologies.

*from the BASIC COURSE 2009 Statement*

**Gregorian Calendar  
2011**

Clean Air Month

**Hijrah Calendar  
1432<sup>B</sup>**

**MARCH**

**111 Rabi' Al-Awwal 26th - IV Rabi' Al-Akhir 26th**

<b>SUNDAY</b> Ahad	<b>MONDAY</b> Ithnin	<b>TUESDAY</b> Thalatha	<b>WEDNESDAY</b> Arba'a	<b>THURSDAY</b> Khamis	<b>FRIDAY</b> Jum'ah	<b>SATURDAY</b> Sabtu
 <p><b>Silsilah Logo</b> It represents people of different cultures and religions living together and promoting the Culture of Dialogue, path to peace.</p>		<p><b>1</b></p> <p>III Rabi' Al-Awwal 26</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>27</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>28</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>29</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>NEW MOON 04:46 AM 30</p>
<p><b>6</b></p> <p>IV Rabi' Al-Akhir 1</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>2</p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p>3</p>	<p><b>9</b> Ash Wednesday (CC)</p> <p>4</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>5</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>6</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>7</p>
<p><b>13</b></p> <p>FIRST QUARTER 07:45 AM 8</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>9</p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p>10</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>11</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>12</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>13</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p>14</p>
<p><b>20</b></p> <p>FULL MOON 02:10 AM 15</p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p>16</p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p>17</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>18</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>19</p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p>20</p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p>LAST QUARTER 20:08PM 21</p>
<p><b>27</b></p> <p>22</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>23</p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p>24</p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p>25</p>	<p><b>31</b></p> <p>26</p>	<p><i>"Dialogue starts from God and brings people back to God"</i> -Silsilah</p>	

**17th SILSILAH SUMMER COURSE**

We the participants of the 17th Silsilah Summer Course on Muslim-Christian Dialogue - Special Course on Fraternities and Sororities for Dialogue and Peace... affirm the boundless dedication of Silsilah Dialogue Movement in its mission to promote a better Muslim-Christian-Lumads Society here in Mindanao... we recognize the possibilities of our role as active partners in the promotion of the Cultutre of Dialogue, Path to Peace.

*from the SPECIAL COURSE 2003 Manifesto*

**Gregorian Calendar  
2011**

Mother Earth & Healthy  
Soil Month

**Hijrah Calendar  
1432<sup>B</sup>**

**APRIL**

**IV Rabi Al - Akhir 27th - V Jumada Al Awwal 27th**

<b>SUNDAY</b> <b>Ahad</b>	<b>MONDAY</b> <b>Ithnin</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b> <b>Thalatha</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b> <b>Arba'a</b>	<b>THURSDAY</b> <b>Khamis</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b> <b>Jum'ah</b>	<b>SATURDAY</b> <b>Sabtu</b>
<p><i>SILSILAH MISSION</i></p> <p>As instrument of dialogue and peace, we commit ourselves:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To live the essence of our respective faiths and bear witness to the values of our own religious traditions; (continue on June)</li> </ul>					1 IV Rabi Al-Akhir 27	2 28
3 NEW MOON 22:32 PM 29	4 V Jumada Al-Awwal 1	5 2	6 3	7 4	8 5	9 Araw ng Kagitingan (NC) 6
10 7	11 FIRST QUARTER 20:06 PM 8	12 9	13 10	14 11	15 12	16 13
17 Palm Sunday (CC) 14	18 FULL MOON 10:44 AM 15	19 16	20 17	21 Holy Thursday (CC) 18	22 Good Friday (CC) 19	23 20
24 Easter Sunday (CC) 21	25 LAST QUARTER 10:47AM 22	26 23	27 24	28 25	29 26	30 27

*15th SILSILAH SUMMER COURSE*

*Recommendations for Future Peace in Mindanao:*

(1) to reflect on personal attitudes and mind sets and work towards the reconciliation of one's prejudice and biases; (2) to respect human dignity; (3) to look deeper into the historical and cultural roots of the conflict; (4) to recognize the right to self-determination; (5) to uncover the realities that perpetuate the existence of poverty; (6) to adopt, utilize, and implement non-violent means of attaining lasting peace in Mindanao; and (7) to maximize the participation of civil society in the on-going peace process.

*from the SPECIAL COURSE 2001 Recommendation*

**Gregorian Calendar  
2011**

Ocean Month

**Hijrah Calendar  
1432<sup>B</sup>**

**MAY**

**V Jumada Al - Awwal 28th - VI Jumada Al - Akhir 28th**

<b>SUNDAY</b> <b>Ahad</b>	<b>MONDAY</b> <b>Ithnin</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b> <b>Thalatha</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b> <b>Arba'a</b>	<b>THURSDAY</b> <b>Khamis</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b> <b>Jum'ah</b>	<b>SATURDAY</b> <b>Sabtu</b>
1 Labor Day (NC) V Jumada Al - Awwal 28	2 29	3 NEW MOON 14:51 PM 30	4 VI Jumada Al-Akhir 1	5 2	6 3	7 4
8 5	9 27th Anniversary of Silsilah Dialogue Movement (SC) 6	10 7	11 FIRST QUARTER 04:33 AM 8	12 9	13 10	14 11
15 12	16 13	17 FULL MOON 19:09 PM 14	18 15	19 16	20 19th Anniversary of the Martyrdom of Fr. Salvatore Carzedda, PIME (SC) 17	21 18
22 19	23 20	24 21	25 LAST QUARTER 02:52 AM 22	26 23	27 24	28 25
29 26	30 27	31 28	14th SILSILAH SUMMER COURSE In the name of the Almighty, the God of peace and harmony, we the resource persons, staff and <i>formandi</i> of Silsilah Dialogue Institute, express our deep concern about the worsening and escalating conflict situations and the recent incidents of violence in Mindanao.			

We condemn any acts of human which stifle the efforts for dialogue and peace of the Tri-people (Muslims, Christians, *Lumads*) Mindanaons. Thus, for all the victims of abduction, displacement, bombing, extortion, killing, we offer our deep sympathy and concern.

We urge the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) and all the groups which employ violence in the achievement of their aspirations to find peaceful means of struggle. We ask the people to set aside biases and avoid false accusations and unfounded speculations that would generate and heighten tensions among the different cultural communities.

*from the BASIC COURSE 2000 Statement*






# Gregorian Calendar 2011

Philippine Eagle &  
Philippine Environment  
Month

# Hijrah Calendar 1432<sup>B</sup>

## JUNE

### VI Jumada Al - Akhir 29th - VII Rajab 29th

SUNDAY Ahad	MONDAY Ithnin	TUESDAY Thalatha	WEDNESDAY Arba'a	THURSDAY Khamis	FRIDAY Jum'ah	SATURDAY Sabtu
(continuation from April) • To be in dialogue with all peoples, regardless of culture and faith, promoting a Culture of Dialogue with particular emphasis on spiritual values; and,			1 VI Jumada Al-Akhir 29	2  Ascension (CC) NEW MOON 7:15 PM VII Rajab 1	3 2	4 3
5 4	6 5	7 6	8 7	9  FIRST QUARTER 12:30 PM 8	10 9	11 10
12  Pentecost (CC) Independence Day (NC) 11	13 12	14 13	15 14	16  FULL MOON 7:31 PM 15	17 16	18 17
19 18	20 19	21 20	22 21	23  LAST QUARTER 6:13 AM 22	24 23	25 24
26 25	27 26	28 Isra' wal-Miraj (MC) 27	29 28	30 29	<b>PADAYON!</b> <i>Move on with Sincerity, Sensitivity, and Solidarity -SSS</i>	

#### 2nd SILSILAH SUMMER COURSE

"In our struggle for authentic peace and brotherhood among men, we have come to discover the spirit of dialogue which enhances the building up of our trust, respect, and concern among peoples. We believe that only true dialogue can break down the confining walls or our lives from one of co-existence, to a life of mutual sharing of our responses, our commitment and our surrender to the one God. Dialogue is a vision: our call to open, to be receptive in mind and in heart."

*from the SUMMER COURSE 1988 Statement*

**Gregorian Calendar  
2011**

Recycling Month

**Hijrah Calendar  
1432<sup>B</sup>**

**JULY**

**V11 Rajab 30th - V111 Sha'ban 29th - IX Ramadhan 1st**

<b>SUNDAY</b> Ahad	<b>MONDAY</b> Ithnin	<b>TUESDAY</b> Thalatha	<b>WEDNESDAY</b> Arba'a	<b>THURSDAY</b> Khamis	<b>FRIDAY</b> Jum'ah	<b>SATURDAY</b> Sabtu
(continuation from June) • To be in solidarity with all people in the upliftment of the less privileged, in the building up of a progressive, just, humane and ecologically sound society.					1 VII Rajab	2 VIII Sha'ban
3 2	4 3	5 4	6 5	7 6	8 7 FIRST QUARTER 6:11 PM	9 8
10 9	11 10	12 11	13 12	14 13	15 14 FULL MOON 9:37 AM	16 15 Nisfu- Al Sha'ban (MC)
17 16	18 17	19 18	20 19	21 20	22 21	23 22 LAST QUARTER 10:36 PM
24 23	25 24	26 25	27 26	28 27	29 28	30 29
31 IX Ramadhan	<p>1st SILSILAH SUMMER COURSE The course started on april 20, 1987 at the Silsilah Center at San Jose Road, Zamboanga City, culminated on May 23 at the Zamboanga State College of Marine Sciences and Technology at the Fort Pilar with live-in sessions which death primarily, with the Muslim Issue in the Philippines and wherein was drawn a Manifesto for Peace.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>from the SUMMER COURSE 1987</i></p>					






**Gregorian Calendar  
2011**

Indigenous People/ Forest  
Ecosystem Month

**Hijrah Calendar  
1432<sup>B</sup>**

**AUGUST**

**IX Ramadhan 2nd - X Shawwal 2nd**

<b>SUNDAY</b> Ahad	<b>MONDAY</b> Ithnin	<b>TUESDAY</b> Thalatha	<b>WEDNESDAY</b> Arba'a	<b>THURSDAY</b> Khamis	<b>FRIDAY</b> Jum'ah	<b>SATURDAY</b> Sabtu
 <i>Peace be with you</i>	1 IX Ramadhan 2	2 3	3 4	4 5	5 6	6 7  FIRST QUARTER 2:14 AM
7 8	8 9	9 10	10 11	11 12	12 13	13 14
14 15  FULL MOON 1:05 AM	15 16	16 17	17 18	18 19	19 20	20 21
21 22 Ninoy Aquino Day (NC)	22 23  LAST QUARTER 12:59 PM	23 24	24 25	25 26	26 27	27 28
28 29	29 30 National Heroes Day (NC)  NEW MOON 11:08 AM	30 1 X Shawwal 'Id al-Fitr (MC)	31 2	Visit the official website of Silsilah: <a href="http://www.silsilahdialogue.com">www.silsilahdialogue.com</a> Like us on facebook the official page of <i>Silsilah Dialogue Movement</i>		

"As long as there are people walking together, sharing the same vision and mission, and committed to dialogue-- then I believe that these journeys will be an odyssey of love, joy and peace -- the desire of every human being. This is what Silsilah taught me. It is a Silsilah experience which I will cherish and carry with me when I go back to seminary."

**Fr. Lex Ferrer, SVD**  
Silsilah Summer Course 1990

**Gregorian Calendar  
2011**

Coastal Clean-Up / Coastal  
Resource Management  
Month

**Hijrah Calendar  
1432<sup>B</sup>**

# SEPTEMBER

**X Shawwal 3rd - XI Dhu Al - Qa'dah 3rd**

<b>SUNDAY</b> <b>Ahad</b>	<b>MONDAY</b> <b>Ithnin</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b> <b>Thalatha</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b> <b>Arba'a</b>	<b>THURSDAY</b> <b>Khamis</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b> <b>Jum'ah</b>	<b>SATURDAY</b> <b>Sabtu</b>
<b>Harmony Chain Initiative</b> - An Inter-Faith initiative of meditation and prayer for dialogue and peace - A spiritual chain of people of different culutres and religions - A response to God's dialogue to sustain our cry form peace. You are invited.....				1 X Shawwal	2 4	3 5
4 6	5 7 FIRST QUARTER 1:50 PM	6 8	7 9	8 10	9 11	10 12
11 13	12 14 FULL MOON 5:17 PM	13 15	14 16	15 17	16 18	17 19
18 20	19 21	20 22 LAST QUARTER 1:22 AM	21 23	22 24	23 25	24 26
25 27	26 28	27 29 NEW MOON 6:30 PM	28 XI Dhu al- Qa'dah 1	29 2	30 3	<i>Live and promote the Culture of Dialogue, path to Peace</i>

"I am very grateful to the Silsilah Dialogue Movement for it has opened my mind and made me aware how precious my religion is and it strengthened my faith in Islam."

**Ismael Taupan**  
Silsilah Summer Course 1990

**Gregorian Calendar  
2011**

Agricultural Ecosystem  
Month

**Hijrah Calendar  
1432<sup>B</sup>**

**OCTOBER**

**XI Dhu Al - Qa'dah 4th - XII Dhu Al - Hijjah 4th**

<b>SUNDAY</b> Ahad	<b>MONDAY</b> Ithnin	<b>TUESDAY</b> Thalatha	<b>WEDNESDAY</b> Arba'a	<b>THURSDAY</b> Khamis	<b>FRIDAY</b> Jum'ah	<b>SATURDAY</b> Sabtu
<p><b>Remembering Bishop Benny Tudit</b> "Goodness resides in the core of every person. It constantly awaits discovery. When discovered, it can be fully grasped. It invites the discoverer to undertake a deeper search, to go into an evergrowing tide of thrilling, though sometimes painful, insights." (Bishop Tudit encouraged Silsilah to start the Silsilah Summer Course)</p>						<p><b>1</b> XI Dhu al- qa'dah 4</p>
<b>2</b> 5	<b>3</b> 6	<b>4</b> 7 <small>FIRST QUARTER 5:27 AM</small>	<b>5</b> 8	<b>6</b> 9	<b>7</b> 10	<b>8</b> 11
<b>9</b> 12	<b>10</b> 13	<b>11</b> 14	<b>12</b> 15 <small>FULL MOON 9:36 AM</small>	<b>13</b> 16	<b>14</b> 17	<b>15</b> 18
<b>16</b> 19	<b>17</b> 20	<b>18</b> 21	<b>19</b> 22	<b>20</b> 23 <small>LAST QUARTER 11:52 AM</small>	<b>21</b> 24	<b>22</b> 25
<b>23</b> 26	<b>24</b> 27	<b>25</b> 28	<b>26</b> 29	<b>27</b> 30 <small>NEW MOON 2:44 AM</small>	<b>28</b> XII Dhu Al- Hijjah 1	<b>29</b> 2
<b>30</b> 3	<b>31</b> 4	<p><b>Remembering Prof. Wadja K. Esmula</b> "The greatness contributio, which the Qur'an has indicated in human history, is the foundational principle based on which mankind as a whole can co-exist and live together in peace and harmony." (Prof. Esmula was the Spiritual leader of Silsilah and one of the teachers in the summer course. He was a Dean of the Institute of Islamic Studies University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City.)</p>				





**Gregorian Calendar  
2011**

Urban Ecosystem  
Month

**Hijrah Calendar  
1432<sup>B</sup>-1433<sup>B</sup>**

**NOVEMBER**

**XII Dhu Al - Hijjah 5th - 1 Muharram 5th**

<b>SUNDAY</b> <b>Ahad</b>	<b>MONDAY</b> <b>Ithnin</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b> <b>Thalatha</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b> <b>Arba'a</b>	<b>THURSDAY</b> <b>Khamis</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b> <b>Jum'ah</b>	<b>SATURDAY</b> <b>Sabtu</b>
Silsilah sends on line its weekly news to members and friends. You may request to be included in our mailing list, write to us at <a href="mailto:silsilahdialogue@gmail.com">silsilahdialogue@gmail.com</a>		<b>1</b> All Saints' Day (CC) XII Dhu Al- Hijjah 5	<b>2</b> All Souls' Day (CC) 6	<b>3</b>  FIRST QUARTER 12:38 AM 7	<b>4</b> 8	<b>5</b> 9
<b>6</b> 'Id al Adha (MC) 10	<b>7</b> 11	<b>8</b> 12	<b>9</b> 13	<b>10</b> 14	<b>11</b>  FULL MOON 1:27 AM 15	<b>12</b> 16
<b>13</b> 17	<b>14</b> 18	<b>15</b> 19	<b>16</b> 20	<b>17</b> 21	<b>18</b>  LAST QUARTER 4:36 AM 22	<b>19</b> 23
<b>20</b> 24	<b>21</b> 25	<b>22</b> 26	<b>23</b> 27	<b>24</b> 28	<b>25</b>  NEW MOON 12:52 pM End of Year 1432 <sup>B</sup> 29	<b>26</b> 1 Muharram 1433 <sup>B</sup> Amun Jadid(MC) 1
<b>27</b> First Sunday of Advent (CC) 2	<b>28</b> 3	<b>29</b> 4	<b>30</b> Bonifacio Day (NC) 5	<b>Remembering Hadji Ahmad Sakaluran</b> He was a respected Muslim leader and a good friend of Silsilah. He contributed a lot to the summer course program facilitating the exposure activity with a welcoming spirit.		

**Remembering Fr. Vincent Lelievre**

"If you dont forgive...peace is not yet in your heart. If you have no peace in your heart, it means there is some corner in your heart lacking pardon. With forgiveness comes peace too. With forgiveness, comes joy too. With the forgiveness, love triumphs. It is a victory on evil."

(Fr. Vincent Lelievre was once a teacher of the summer course)

**Gregorian Calendar  
2011**

Biodiversity Month

**Hijrah Calendar  
1433<sup>B</sup>**

**DECEMBER**

**1 Muharram 6th - II Safar 6th**

<b>SUNDAY</b> <b>Ahad</b>	<b>MONDAY</b> <b>Ithnin</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b> <b>Thalatha</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b> <b>Arba'a</b>	<b>THURSDAY</b> <b>Khamis</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b> <b>Jum'ah</b>	<b>SATURDAY</b> <b>Sabtu</b>
Reminder: Silsilah members and friends are invited annually in December to renew their commitment for dialogue and peace in Zamboanga City or in Silsilah Forum areas or in any part of the world where they live and promote dialogue and peace.				1 I Muharram 6	2 FIRST QUARTER 9:59 PM 7	3 8
4 9	5 Ashura (MC) 10	6 11	7 12	8 Immaculate Conception (CC) 13	9 14	10 FULL MOON 4:13 PM 15
11 16	12 17	13 18	14 19	15 20	16 21	17 22
18 LAST QUARTER 12:18 PM 23	19 24	20 25	21 26	22 27	23 28	24 29
25 Christmas Day (CC) NEW MOON 1:36 AM 30	26 II Safar 1	27 2	28 3	29 4	30 Rizal Day (NC) 5	31 6

**Remembering Fr. Salvatore Carzedda**

"Those who accept the challenge of seeking a better society through Inter-religious Dialogue should have the faith to endure and the courage to hope."

*(Fr. Carzedda was killed in Zamboanga City on May 20, 1992 during the summer course. He is considered a martyr by Silsilah and an inspiration)*

# Calendar for 2012



*Peace be with you*

Touched by an experience of conflict between Muslims and Christians in Mindanao and inspired by God's dialogue with people of all cultures and religions, Fr. Sebastiano D'Ambra, PIME with a group of Muslim and Christian friends started officially the Silsilah Dialogue Movement in Zamboanga City on May 9, 1984.

*Silsilah* is an Arabic word which literally means chain or link. As used by the Sufis (Muslim Mystics), it describes a process of attaining an experience of the Divine. The same root word is used as "geneological tree" which implies a spiritual chain of humanity as created by the same God.

Thus, "Silsilah" in the context of the Movement is taken as an inspiring and key concept to describe Muslims, Christians and people of other living faiths who are moving together as one universal family towards a shared vision and mission of dialogue and peace.

## CALL

Recognizing the uniqueness of each religion, people are called to undergo a process of spiritual growth by a continuous discovering of God's dialogue in human experience. It is a call to witness God's presence in the plurality of religions and cultures. It is also a call to live the spirituality of life-in-dialogue as the basic experience that leads to dialogue and peace.

\* *Silsilah* is an arabic word which literally means chain or link.

JANUARY							JULY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31					29	30	31				
FEBRUARY							AUGUST						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
26	27	28	29										
MARCH							SEPTEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	23/30	24	25	26	27	28	29
25	26	27	28	29	30	31							
APRIL							OCTOBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	28	29	30	31			
29	30												
MAY							NOVEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	25	26	27	28	29	30	
27	28	29	30	31									
JUNE							DECEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	23/30	24/31	25	26	27	28	29
24	25	26	27	28	29	30							

## Vision

In the name of God, the Fountain and Source of dialogue, Silsilah envisions a life-in-dialogue for all Muslims, Christians and Peoples of other living faiths, in respect, trust and love for one another and moving together towards a common experience of harmony, solidarity and peace.

## Mission

As instruments of dialogue and peace, we, the members of Silsilah, commit ourselves:

- to live the essence of our own faiths and bear witness to the value of our religious traditions.
- to be in dialogue with all people, regardless of culture and faith, by promoting a culture of dialogue with particular emphasis on the spiritual values; and
- to be in solidarity with all people in the upliftment of the less privileged in the building up of a progressive, just, humane and ecologically sound society.

*Silsilah welcomes all to be part of the Movement as members, partners or friends willing to have a sincere responsible "link" in the spirit of dialogue and peace promoted by Silsilah.*

For more information, see [www.silsilahdialogue.com](http://www.silsilahdialogue.com)

## SILSILAH STRUCTURE

Activities and legal matters of Silsilah Dialogue Movement are ministered through the Silsilah Foundation, Inc. recognized by the Philippine government. It is also a donee foundation recognized by the PCNC.

Zamboanga City

- *Silsilah Center - Communities*
- *Harmony Village*

Philippines

- *Silsilah Forum*  
(*Mindanao-Visayas-Luzon*)

Other Countries

- *Groups, Members and*  
*Harmony Chain Initiative*

## PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES

### A. FORMATION

1. Formation for the Silsilah Family
2. Formation and Education Programs

#### **Silsilah Dialogue Institute**

- Silsilah Summer Course
- Orientation to Culture of Dialogue, Path to Peace
- Library and Research
- Exposure-Immersion Program

### B. INFORMATION

#### **Silsilah Media Desk**

- Silsilah Publications
- Media Center for Dialogue and Peace

### C. SILSILAH PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT

**SERVICES** - This program links communities and groups in need to government or private agencies who can respond with the particular services. Special focus:

1. Filipinos Overseas for Dialogue and Peace (FODP)
2. Inmates Welfare and Development Program

### D. DIALOGUE WITH CREATION PROGRAM

1. Training on Sustainable and Indigenous Agriculture
2. Community Organizing
3. Environmental Advocacy
4. Marketing Support for Farmers' Produce
5. Center for Holistic Health Care

## SILSILAH FAMILY

### INDIVIDUALS

- Regular Members
- Associate Members
- Volunteers
- Friends

### FAMILIES, GROUPS AND COMMUNITIES

#### - **Regular Members**

- A. Emmaus Dialogue Community
  - 1 *Padayon Center*
  - 2 *Emmaus House of Spirituality*
  - 3 *Emmaus Circle*
- B. Muslim Women for Dialogue and Peace (MUSLIMAH)
- C. Alumni
- D. Foster Parents
- E. Families in Dialogue

#### - **Associate Members**

- **Friends**
- **Linkages**

## SILSILAH SPIRIT

Silsilah is a dialogue movement promoting deeper understanding and better relations between Muslims and Christians, and together, with people of other faiths and traditions.

## FROM MINDANAO TO THE WORLD

### HARMONY CHAIN INITIATIVE

- *An Inter-faith Initiative of meditation and prayer for dialogue and peace.*
- *A Spiritual Chain of people of different cultures and religions*
- *A Response to God's dialogue with humanity to sustain our cry for peace*

## "NEW LABORATORIES" OF DIALOGUE AND PEACE

Silsilah promotes the "culture of dialogue path to peace" through many programs and initiatives. These are "new laboratories" because they have been tested to be shared to others as new challenges of dialogue and peace or other groups and institutions to which they can experience and adapt.

- a. TULAY-BATA FOR DIALOGUE AND PEACE
- b. HARMONY ZONES
- c. HARMONY AWARDS
- d. HARMONY POST



## SECTORAL FOCUS

### A. COMMUNITIES

1. Silsilah Elementary School
2. Silsilah Solidarity Programs
3. Madrasah
4. Harmony Zones

### B. YOUTH

1. Silsilah Students' Center
2. Youth Camps
3. Silpeace Youth Groups
4. Youth for Media for Dialogue and Peace

### C. LEADERS

#### *INTER-FAITH COUNCIL OF LEADERS (IFCL)*

- Activities:
1. Inter-faith Dialogue for Young Graduates
  2. Madaris Gurus and Catechists' Seminars
  3. Symposia and For a
  4. Publications
  5. Tulay 5 Initiative

## DIALOGUE STARTS FROM GOD AND BRINGS PEOPLE BACK TO GOD

- *Silsilah* -

For more information see our website: [www.silsilahdialogue.com](http://www.silsilahdialogue.com)

# Welcome to the Harmony Village!

Groups, Institutions, schools, government and non-government organizations are welcome to use the facilities of Harmony Village.

For more information:

Tel./ fax (062) 991-8712

(062) 991-5942

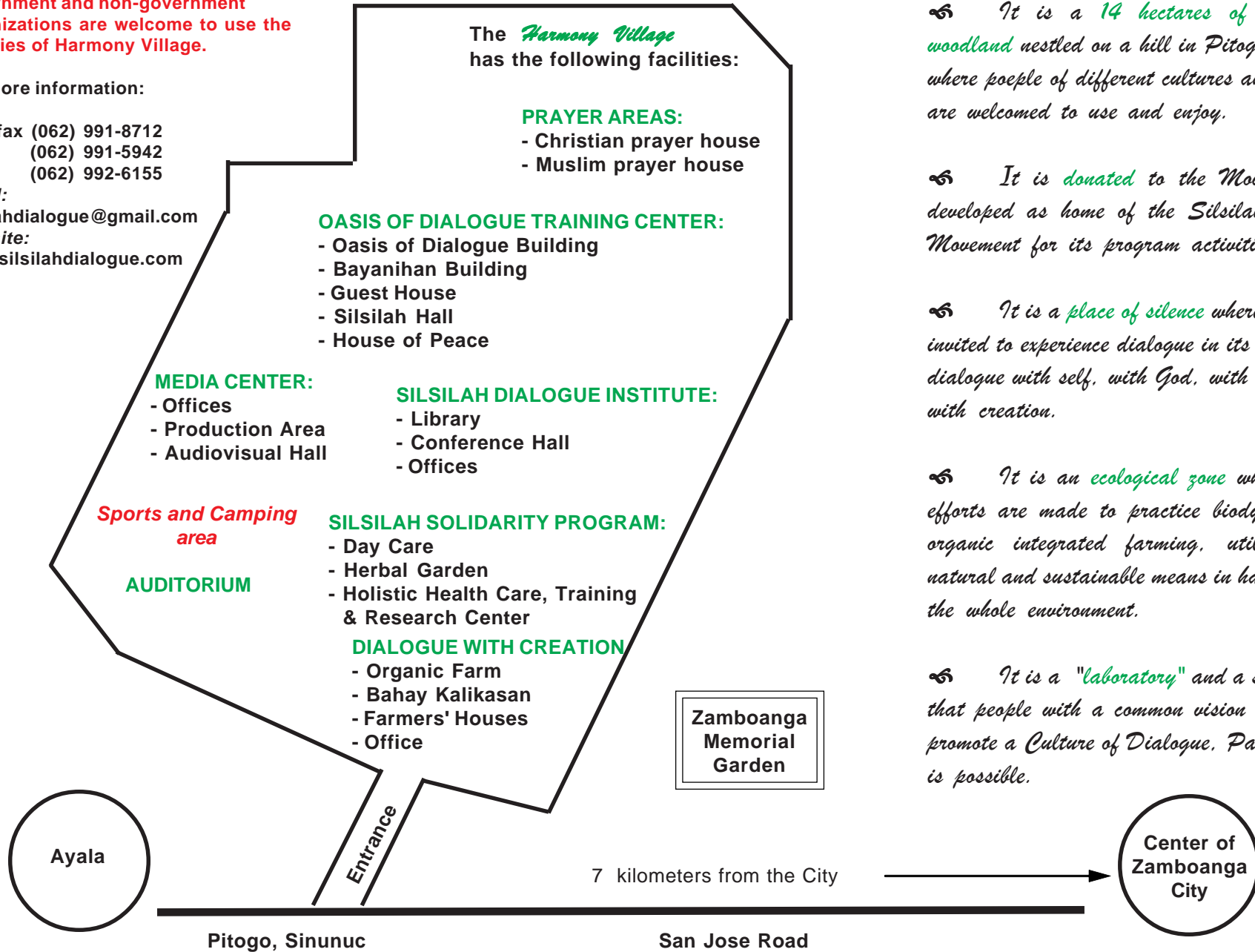
Tel. (062) 992-6155

Email:

[silsilahdialogue@gmail.com](mailto:silsilahdialogue@gmail.com)

Website:

[www.silsilahdialogue.com](http://www.silsilahdialogue.com)



It is a 14 hectares of farm and woodland nestled on a hill in Pitogo, Sinunuc where people of different cultures and religions are welcomed to use and enjoy.

It is donated to the Movement and developed as home of the Silsilah Dialogue Movement for its program activities.

It is a place of silence where people are invited to experience dialogue in its four levels: dialogue with self, with God, with others, and with creation.

It is an ecological zone where serious efforts are made to practice biodynamic and organic integrated farming, utilizing only natural and sustainable means in harmony with the whole environment.

It is a "laboratory" and a sign of hope that people with a common vision to live and promote a Culture of Dialogue, Path to Peace is possible.

# HARMONY CHAIN INITIATIVE

HARMONY CHAIN INITIATIVE- This is a special interfaith initiative of meditation and prayer for dialogue and peace from Mindanao to the world. It is a spiritual chain of peoples of different cultures and religions responding to God's dialogue with humanity to sustain our cry for peace. When the Philippine Government through then President Joseph Estrada declared "total war" in Mindanao in the year 2000 as a solution to the Moro problem, the Movement's quiet response was expressed in the slogan "Cry Peace with Your Life-in-Dialogue."

Thus this initiative was started.

The Harmony Prayer Initiative is:

- AN INTER-FAITH INITIATIVE OF MEDITATION AND PRAYER FOR DIALOGUE AND PEACE.
- A SPIRITUAL CHAIN OF PEOPLE OF DIFFERENT CULTURES AND RELIGIONS.
- A RESPONSE TO GOD'S DIALOGUE WITH HUMANITY TO SUSTAIN OUR CRY FOR PEACE.

Individuals, groups, and communities from different religions within and outside the country can become part of this "chain" by committing to specific time of the day to meditate or pray for peace. The goal is that every moment of the 24 hours of the day, some persons, groups or communities all over the world are united in prayer for peace.

The much needed impetus came when a director and a coordinator volunteered to give full time on this activity. At present, the membership has grown from local to international level and regular communication and links are maintained through its monthly newsletter "IN-TOUCH" and "Legame di Pace" (in Italian). Guidelines and the Harmony Prayer in different languages are accessible in the website: [www.silsilahdialogue.com](http://www.silsilahdialogue.com) or [www.silsilahforum.org](http://www.silsilahforum.org).

**SLOGAN:** "Cry Peace with your "Life-in-Dialogue." This means establishing loving, compassionate and peaceful relationships with God, with the self, with others (including peoples of other cultures and religions) and with creation.

**AIM:** To help bring peace to the hearts of people of all cultures and religions, from all walks of life, all over the world.

**PARTICIPANTS:** Anyone who believes in the aim of the Harmony Chain may become a participant by communicating with us. (No registration/membership fee).

**OBLIGATIONS:** Participants commit to a regular time to meditate and pray for peace, individual or with a group in any form familiar to them. The HARMONY PRAYER is recommended as a common prayer. It has been endorsed by BUC (Bishop-Ulama Conference) and OPAPP (Office of Presidential Adviser for Peace Process).

**INITIATOR:** Silsilah Dialogue Movement, a Movement for Dialogue and Peace among Muslims, Christians and Peoples of other living faiths.

## APPLICATION FORM FOR PARTICIPANTS

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_ Religion: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel.No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_  
Active Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Praying: (please check)  
Alone: \_\_\_\_\_ with a group \_\_\_\_\_

### MY COMMITMENT:

I commit to participate in the Harmony Chain and pray for peace in the following schedule:

Day/s: \_\_\_\_\_ Inclusive Hour/Time: \_\_\_\_\_  
Form of prayer offered/suggestions/message: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Note: You can follow this guidelines to fill up your application form. Send it via mailing, fax, email. If you wish to spread this initiative please contact us for more additional guidelines.

## HARMONY PRAYER

*O Lord, I cry for peace,  
Purify my eyes to see peace,  
Purify my mind to understand peace,  
Purify my heart to love peace,  
Purify my memory to work for peace:  
The peace that comes from Your love and compassion.*

*O Lord, sustain my vision of peace  
following Your inspiration,  
You have many ways of revealing Your  
Presence and love for humanity,  
But Your style is constant:  
You are in dialogue with all, You care for all.*

*Make me O Lord, a sign of Your peace,  
Living a life-in-dialogue with You  
to understand Your silence and seek Your presence:  
In dialogue with myself to rediscover the meaning of my life:  
in dialogue with others  
to move together in harmony with all:  
and in dialogue with creation to care for the earth.*

*Give me, O Lord,  
the courage to live in dialogue  
in the midst of divisions and conflicts  
and to build peace with all people  
of sincere hearts who believe  
in Your love and compassion  
Amen.*

## HARMONY CHAIN INITIATIVE

**SILSILAH CENTER,**  
137 Gov. Alvarez Avenue  
7000 Zamboanga city, Philippines  
Telefax Nos.: (062) 991-5942, 991-8712  
E-mail: [harmonychain@gmail.com](mailto:harmonychain@gmail.com)  
Website:  
[www.silsilahdialogue.com](http://www.silsilahdialogue.com)

# SOME TERMS COMMONLY USED IN ISLAM

**Adhan** — Call to prayer

**Alim (ulama-pl)** — An Arabic term which stands for a learned man in religious studies.

**Al-Jihad al-akbar** — The greater jihad, referring to the battle within a person to overcome his passions and subdue his lower nature.

**Al-Jihad al-ashgar** — The smaller jihad, referring to any external effort in the path of God and for the preservation of religion.

**Bilal** — An Arabic word which is used locally for a religious functionary related to a mosque with less power and authority than the Hatib.

**Duwa'a** — An Arabic word which literally means "to call upon". It is supplicating or calling upon God and address Him with one's praise, thanksgiving, hopes and needs.

**Dhikr (adhkar-pl)** — An Arabic word which literally means "remembrance" or "mention" and is frequently translated as "invocation". It is the act of mentioning a name or names of God, often in the form of repetition of a Qur'anic formula such as "There is no god but God, Praise belongs to God, Glory be to God, or God is great."

**Hadith** — An Arabic term which refers to the tradition that narrates the acts and the sayings of the Prophet Muhammad (PBH) or his approval of words and actions accomplished by others in his presence.

**Hajj** — An Arabic word which indicates pilgrimage to Mecca. It is the fifth Pillars of Islam.

**Haji/Haja** — A common Muslim Filipino term which indicates the one who has performed the pilgrimage to Mecca.

**Hatib (hutaba-pl)** — An Arabic term which means leader. The term was used among the ancient Arabs to indicate the name of the spokesman of the tribe.

**Hijrah** — The migration of the Prophet from Mecca to Medina which marks the beginning of the Islamic calendar.

**Hijab** — Veil. Commonly called "turny".

**Hutba** — An Arabic word which means sermon or oration delivered during the congregation prayer.

**Igma** — An Arabic word which means "consensus".

**Igtihad** — An Arabic word which indicates the effort or exercise of one's own judgment, based on the Qur'an and Hadith.

**Imam** — Literally, "he who stands before," leader of prayer, authority in religious sciences, caliph. In Shi'ism the term is used in a special sense and refers to those descendants of the Prophet who bear within themselves the "Prophetic Light."

**Iman** — Faith.

**Islam** — Surrender to the will of God. Or is the name of the religion whose final Prophet was Muhammad, and simply means a state of peace achieved through submission to God.

**Jam'** — Collectedness; reunification with God.

**Jihad al-nafs** — The battle against one's passions.

**Ka'bah** — The house of God in Mecca, built, according to Islamic belief, first by Adam, then by Abraham. It determines the direction toward which Muslims pray and is also the site to which Muslims make the pilgrimage.

**Madrasa (madaris-pl)** — An Arabic term which refers to a religious school.

**Makhдум (mahdumln-pl)** — A Tausug word which stands for master or one who is served. In India and in Malaysia as well as among Muslims in the Philippines the term is used to refer to pious men, saints, learned men and teachers.

**Masjid** — Where Muslims congregate to pray especially on Fridays.

**Mecca** — The religious center of the Muslim world where there is the Ka'bah Mosque, also called house of God is located and where Muslims go for pilgrimage at least once in their lifetime.

**Nabi** — Prophet, one who is appointed by God to bring some kind of message from Him to people.

**Nafs** — The self, the soul.

**Qiblah** — The direction determined by the location of the Ka'bah which Muslims must face while offering their prayers.

**Qur'an** — Holy Book of Muslims which according to Islamic tradition, contain the exact words of God as dictated to Prophet Muhammad (PBH).

**Ramadhan** — Is the ninth month of the Islamic lunar calendar. It is a sacred month for Muslims because the first verses of the Qur'an were revealed to Muhammad in Ramadan 610 C.E.

**Salat** — The daily prayers which are obligatory for all Muslims to perform five times a day. It is one of the five pillars of Islam.

**Sawm** — Fast, identified especially with the obligatory fast of the month of Ramadhan. Fasting daily during the Islamic month of Ramadhan as spiritual exercise.

**Shahadah** — Testimony of faith: "There is no god but God and Muhammad is His messenger". It is the first of the five pillars of Islam.

**Sharia** — An Arabic word which indicates the Islamic law.

**Shiism** — The Arabic term that refers to the large group of sects belonging to the shia, the Islamic tradition which recognizes Ali as the legitimate caliph after the death of the Prophet.

**Sunnah** — The tradition of the Prophet embracing his manner and ways of doing and acting in different circumstances in life.

**Surah al-Fatiha** — It refers to the opening chapter of the Holy Qur'an. It is usually used as opening or closing prayer in gatherings.

**Tariqah** — The spiritual way or path identified with Sufism (Islamic mysticism); also a Sufi order.

**Tawhid** — Unity, oneness, and also the act of bringing about oneness or integration.

**Umma** — An Arabic term which refers to the Islamic community

**Wudu** — Ablution required before the daily prayers and usually made before entry into a holy place.

**Zakat** — Religious tax which is obligatory and constitutes one of the pillars of Islam

## SOME TERMS COMMONLY USED IN CHRISTIANITY

**Bishop** - From the Greek word meaning "overseer". He has received the highest of the holy orders, is invested with the authority to govern a diocese, and is a successor of the apostles.

**Cardinal** — The term signifies the key clergy of a particular Church. The cardinals compose the college of cardinals who are the principal advisors to the Pope.

**Clergy** — This collective term refers to persons who administer the rites of the Church through holy orders and jurisdiction. It includes all bishops, priests, and deacons.

**Fasting** — Is the limitation of the quantity of food eaten, as distinguished from abstaining from foods (abstinence). Christians fast in order to mortify their appetites to progress spiritually and in order to overcome self-indulgence.

**Feasts of the Church** — In the calendar of the liturgical year, feasts are the sequence of festivals to commemorate a teaching or event of religious importance in the life, holiness or martyrdom of a canonized saint.

**Holy Bible** — It is also called the "Scriptures". It is a collection of Books of the Jews and Christians. It is the inspired Word of God written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and gathered in the Order of the providence of God, which destined men and women to a supernatural end. It is the basis of the doctrines and teachings of the Church.

**Holy Eucharist** — Usually called the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass which commemorates the Passion, Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus Christ which according to Christian belief, brought salvation to humanity.

**Holy Rosary** — This is the name of both the devotion and the chain of beads used for counting the prayers. As a devotion, the rosary arose in the 15th century. It was begun by a Dominican preacher, Alan de Rupe. The devotion is directed to the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is a help for meditation on the life of Jesus Christ.

**Host** — The host is unleavened bread. Once consecrated during the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, it becomes the eucharistic body of Jesus Christ. It is a mystery of love for humanity.

**Kenosis** — This broad term is derived from the Greek word for "emptying." It refers to Christ's act of concealing or not permitting his divinity to be evident when he became man. It is an invitation for Christians to journey the same path of humility and emptying of one's self so that God may become the all.

**Koinonia** — From the Greek word meaning "fellowship" or "community." It refers to the People of God collectively.

**Lent** — It is the period of six and a half weeks from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday. It is a forty-day period of spiritual preparation for the commemoration of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, through the religious practices of prayer, fasting and alms-giving.

**Meditation** — It is "mental discourse" on some concept of God, the history of the Church, the Liturgy, the saints, etc. It aims to make one understand one's faith more deeply and apply its truths to oneself; to love and hope in God, and to will to do those things that serve God better.

**Mission and Evangelization** — Mission means "to send" while evangelization means to proclaim the good news of salvation because of God's love and compassion. Mission and evangelization then refer to the sending out of missionaries — lay and religious — in order to proclaim the "good news". By virtue of their baptism, all Christians are missionaries because Christian baptism attaches with it the duty to proclaim the "good news" especially through one's witness or way of life.

**Paschal Mystery** - Refers to the Christian redemption through the passion, resurrection and ascension of Christ. From this originates the Church, the sacraments and the continuing memorial of the Christ-event that we celebrate/commemorate in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

**Pope** — The Pope, by divine law, has supreme jurisdiction over the Catholic Church. He may act alone or with a council in defining doctrines of the Church or in making laws. He is elected by the Cardinals.

**Priest** — One who is ordained or on whom the priesthood has been conferred, who offers sacrifice, and who has the threefold mission of teaching, ministering and governing.

**Prophet** — One who speaks in God's name and under His inspiration.

**Sabbath** — This is the seventh day of the week in Jewish religious law. Under Christian tradition, it has been supplanted by Sunday, the Lord's Day. This, for Christians, is a special day of rest and holiness.

**Sacraments** — These are visible signs instituted by Christ who gives sanctifying grace, the power to make one grow in holiness. Its purpose is to sanctify Christians. The seven sacraments are: Baptism, Confirmation, Reconciliation, Holy Eucharist, Matrimony, Holy Orders and Anointing of the Sick.

**Sign of the Cross** — The sign of the cross is the symbol of Salvation for Christians, the cross on which Christ died.

**Stations of the Cross** — Also called 'The Way of the Cross'. It is a devotion commemorating the Passion of Christ meditating on fourteen occurrences experienced by Christ on His way to the crucifixion.

**Vatican Council II** — The greatest religious event in the life of the Catholic Church during the 20th century. It started on October 1962 and closed on December 1965. It was initiated by Pope John XXIII. One of its documents, "Nostra Aetate" — Declaration on the Relationship of the Church to Non-Christian Religions, is a milestone in Interreligious Dialogue.

**Veneration of the Saints** — It is giving special respect which is due to the Blessed Virgin Mary, saints and the angels because, as friends of God they participate in His Holiness. The faithful ask the saints and angels to intercede in their behalf before God. This is a form of devotion NOT worship, an act offered only to God.

## MAJOR MUSLIM CELEBRATIONS 2011 (1432B-1433B)

**Amun Jadid** (Tuesday, Dec. 7, 2010-Saturday, Nov. 26, 2011) - The reckoning of the beginning of the Hijrah when Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) made the flight from Mecca to Medina in the year 622 AD. It is regarded as the Muslim new year. It is observed on the 1st day of Muharram.

**'Ashura** (Thursday, Dec. 16, 2010 - Monday Dec. 5, 2011) - A day observed for gratitude for Allah's Mercies towards the prophets. Among the Shiite Muslims it is a day commemorating the massacre of the Prophet's grandson, Imam Husain, and his followers in 58 Hijrah (680 AD). This feast falls on the 10th day of Muharram.

**Maulud al-Nabi** (Tuesday, Feb. 15) - The birthday of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). This day is remembered by Muslims as a day of mercy not only for Muslims but also for all humanity. This is observed on the 12th day of Rabi 'al-Awwal.

**Isra'wa-l-Miraj** (Tuesday, June 28) - the night of ascension when prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was miraculously transported from Mecca to Jerusalem and then ascended into heaven. It is on this occasion that the five times daily prayers for Muslims were established. Muslims celebrate this night with readings from the Qur'an and the narration of the event of the Prophet's ascension. This falls on the 27th day of Rajab.

**Nisfu al-Sha'ban** (Saturday, July 16) - Literally it means half of the month of Sha 'ban. This day marks the change of the direction of the qiblah (direction of prayer) from Jerusalem to Mecca. In the Philippines as well as in other parts of Southeast Asia, this day marks the beginning of the week-long visitation to the graves. This falls on the 15th day of Sha 'an.

**'Id al-Fitr** (Tuesday, August 30) - The feast of breaking the month-long fast of Ramadhan. It is commemorated with special prayer in the morning and the giving of zakat (obligatory alms) and other forms of charity. It is also a day of forgiveness. This is locally known as the Hari- raya Puasa. This is observed on the first day of Shawwal.

**'Id al-Adha** (Sunday, Nov. 6) - The day of sacrifice. It is considered as the great 'Id in comparison to 'id al-FUr (lesser 'id). As on the day of 'Id al-Fitr, it is observed with special prayer in the morning and the distribution of the flesh of animals (slaughtered as sacrifice) among relatives, neighbors, and the poor. This day is locally known as the Hari- raya Hajji. This is commemorated on the 10th of Dhu al-Hijjah.

**Friday** - On Fridays every adult Muslim male is required to attend the congregational noon prayer. It is not required of women, but they may do so if they wish.

## Silsilah Summer Course 2011

This year 2011 we celebrate the 25th Silsilah Summer Course on "Muslim-Christian Dialogue" is an extensive study program on Islam and Christianity in the context of the Culture of Dialogue, path to Peace, with a special focus on interreligious dialogue and offers three different courses:

1. **BASIC COURSE**, April 24-May 20, 2011  
*"A Dialogical Approach to Islam and Christianity in the context of the Culture of Dialogue, Path to Peace"*

2. **SPECIAL COURSE**, May 22-28, 2011  
Theme:  
*"The Mindanao Conflict: Multiple Perspectives of the Problem and the Need for a Common Articulation of the Solution"*

3. **INTENSIVE COURSE**, May 29 - June 4, 2011

Special Event  
**Alumni Homecoming**  
May 7-9, 2011

Harmony Village, Pitogo, Sinuncuc  
Zamboanga City

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Note: This 2010 Silsilah Calendar can also  
be found in our website, visit us at:  
[www.silsilahdialogue.com](http://www.silsilahdialogue.com)

## MAJOR CHRISTIAN CELEBRATIONS 2011

**Advent** (First Sunday of Advent Nov. 27) - This liturgical season begins the Church year. It includes the four weeks starting on the Sunday after the Solemnity of Christ the King. It is a time of preparation for Christmas and is observed with fasting, prayers and meditation to prepare Christians to welcome Jesus Christ's birth.

**Feast of the Immaculate Conception** (Dec. 8) - This is the privilege and singular grace that God bestowed upon the Blessed Virgin Mary, Jesus' mother, to preserve her from original sin by infusing into her soul sanctifying grace from the very instance of conception in the womb of her mother.

**Christmas** (Dec. 25) - The day on which is celebrated the birth of Jesus Christ. It is one of the most joyful celebrations of the year when Christians share their joy with the Muslims and all their neighbors in the spirit of dialogue and peace.

**Ash Wednesday** (March 9) - In the present Church calendar, it starts the observance of the forty-day Lenten season. It is the special time of penance and prayer that prepares Christians for the celebration of the Paschal Mystery during the Holy Week.

**Palm Sunday** (April 17) - This Sunday is the commemoration of Jesus Christ's triumphal entry to Jerusalem when the people paved his path with palm and olive branches as a sign of victory and of reverential honor. It is the beginning of the Holy Week.

**Good Friday** (April 22) - The Friday within the Holy Week on which the passion, crucifixion and death of Jesus Christ is commemorated. The day before is called Holy Thursday. It is also called Maundy Thursday. Two special celebrations are observed on this day: the Chrism Mass in the morning and the Mass of the Lord's Last Supper.

**Easter Sunday** (April 24) - This is the solemnity of Jesus Christ's resurrection and is celebrated in the Church calendar on the first Sunday after the vernal equinox. It is a movable feast falling on a different Sunday in about a twelve-year cycle. What Sunday is to the week, the Feast of Easter is to the liturgical year.

**Ascension** (June 2) - The Feast of Ascension is the "going up" to heaven by Jesus Christ by His own power forty days after his resurrection.

**Pentecost** (June 12) - It is the feast celebrated fifty days after Easter. It commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles (Acts 2:1-42) as foretold by Christ. It marks the beginning of the active apostolic work and is hailed as the birthday of the Church.

**All Saints' Day** (Nov. 1) - The feast is celebrated in the Church to honor the saints, especially those who have not been assigned a day in the Church calendar.

**All Souls' Day** (Nov. 2) - Is a day of solemn prayer for all the departed souls.

**Sunday** - It is the first day of the week for the Christians and it is called the "Lord's Day", set aside for community worship.