

ISSUE  
#07



CATHEDRAL OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS  
JOHOR BAHRU ✕ 新山耶稣圣心主教座堂



*stories from  
the heart...*



新山耶稣圣心主教座堂  
CATHEDRAL OF THE  
SACRED HEART OF JESUS  
JOHOR BAHRU

1982-2022

## ***HISTORY OF El Shaddai DWXI PPFi - Masai-Johor Chapter***

### ***EL SHADDAI DWXI Prayer Partners Fellowship International***

Popularly known as EL Shaddai, it is the biggest Catholic Charismatic movement in the Philippines. The movement is led by Bro. Mike Z. Velarde with Bishop Emeritus Most Rev. Teodoro Bacani Jr. as its spiritual adviser.

Formed: 1984, 38 years ago.

EL SHADDAI is one of the seven covenant names through which God, the Father, creator of heaven and earth, revealed himself to Israel. He is the same yesterday, today and forever.

EL SHADDAI is another name for God that explains another aspect of who God is. God first introduced Himself as EL SHADDAI to Abraham in Genesis 17:1. In Hebrew, El Shaddai means "the All Sufficient One", "the God who is more than enough", "the God Almighty".

#### **The Mission of EL Shaddai DWXI PPFi:**

To proclaim to the world the greatness, faithfulness, power, goodness and love of God; to provide relief to the people whose hearts and minds are burdened with problems; to heal spiritual and physical afflictions of men in our time.

#### **EL SHADDAI DWXI PPFi - MASAI-JOHOR CHAPTER**

Founded in 1984 by Bro. Mike Z. Velarde, the El Shaddai movement is estimated to have 9 to 10 million adherents, not only in the Philippines but also in countries overseas where Filipinos reside. Hence, we have here in Johor, Malaysia a Chapter to cater to Filipinos in Johor Bahru. There is also a sister Chapter located in KL.



The El Shaddai Charismatic Movement in Masai started on 6th August 1993 at St. Theresa's Church Masai. The parish priest then was Fr. Philip Kolandaisamy, who himself was a charismatic priest and guided the Filipinos back then. The influx of Filipino overseas workers in the area of Johor brought about the beginning of the Charismatic Prayer group. Back then, the boom of the oil and gas industry brought a lot of engineers to work in the Pasir Gudang area. Also, the opening of electronic companies such as Santronics (M) Sdn Bhd, Eltech Sdn Bhd and other companies in Senai, Kota Tinggi and Taman Mawar brought Filipino factory workers to work in Johor. These overseas Filipino workers made St. Theresa's Church a haven to satisfy their spiritual needs.

Since most Filipinos are Catholic by birth, they brought along with them the traditions and practices they are used to. They first started with the Holy Rosary in homes of Filipinos, transferring the image of the Blessed Mother Mary from one home to another with Bible Sharing thereafter. Thus is the birth of the EL SHADDAI Masai-Johor Chapter.

The initial leaders were all engineers working in Malaysia Marine Heavy Engineering (MMHE). Members started an outreach programme to reach out to Filipinos working in factories nearby and to encourage them to join the El Shaddai movement. Spiritual adviser then was Fr. Philip Kolandaisamy. The group then started a community of believers participating in all kinds of ministries in the church. Every Saturday evening they gathered at St. Theresa's Church for Mass, after which comes the El Shaddai Prayer meeting. Of course, this did not stop there, because the Word of God had to be spread and let God's love be known to His people.

It was then time to reach out to Filipinos in Johor Bahru. Members then started to reach out to church goers in Cathedral of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Fr. Moses Lui who was then parish priest in the Cathedral, agreed to have regular Sunday prayer meetings led by the Filipinos of the El Shaddai Masai-Johor Chapter. This led to the celebrations of the El Shaddai's 3rd anniversary in the Cathedral on 6th July 1996. Thanksgiving mass was celebrated by Fr. Philip Kolandaisamy, Bro. Peter Paul Bautista and Bro. Alan Gamiao, two Filipino preachers from Manila were also present for the occasion. The anniversary was graced by El Shaddai Chapters from Singapore, Kuala Lumpur and Penang.

With the completion of contracts of the factory workers in 1997, the group decided to transfer and have prayer meetings at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart of Jesus every Sunday. And since then, anniversaries of the chapter were held at St. James Hall. During the renovation of the cathedral, Fr. Peter Ng allowed the group to use the church for prayer meetings and anniversaries. Through the years, the Filipino community headed by the El SHADDAI group played an active role in the church and the diocese. Running on its 29th year here in Johor Malaysia, The EL SHADDAI DWXI PPFi- Masai-Johor Chapter, continuously serve the Lord and the people in whatever way they are mostly needed.

To whoever is lost, lonely and depressed, or whoever has problems and spiritual needs, we encourage them to join our group. With praise and worship, thanksgiving and prayers we build a community to know and learn about God's loving works in our lives, thereby building spiritual faith and trust in the Lord.

We thank the parish for its continuous support, especially Fr. Simon Yong, SJ, our parish priest, Fr. John Pereira, and Bishop Bernard Paul.

We hope and pray for many more years of service at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

**God bless us all.**

*By Cathy Mirasol*



*Youth ministry performing at 25th anniversary of El Shaddai Johor chapter.*



*Celebrating tagalog mass.*



*Family Holy Rosary with Mr Teh Teong Peng and the late Madam Teresa Yu Yin Har.*



*After Sunday praise & worship with Singapore Chapter Preacher.*



*House to house Holy Rosary.*



*Children's ministry performing at SHC Family Day 2019.*



*Walk for Unity.*



*Plogging Walk 28 Sept 2019.*