



Children posing with Opus Dei Fr Joe Lopez after receiving their first Holy Communion at the Church of St Bernadette.

Spanish-speaking kids receive First Communion

Twenty-three children from the Spanish-speaking community received their first Holy Communion on May 17 at the Church of St Bernadette.

Fr Joe Lopez, chaplain of the

community in Singapore, celebrated a special Mass at the parish, in front of at least 100 Spanish speakers from 19 different countries.

In his homily, Fr Joe urged the parents to continue setting a good example for their kids.

"This is not a graduation ceremony," he said.

"Today, a new chapter in the faith journey of your children starts. Now they will be energised with the power of the Eucharist."

At the end of the Mass, two parents, on behalf of all the parents present, made a pledge to commit themselves to continue to be the spiritual formators of their children.

This was followed by a traditional song to Our Lady, which was sung by the children as they offered up flowers to her.

To know more about the Catholic Spanish-speaking community in Singapore, visit their website at www.catholicosingapore.org □



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CHIJ students, staff donate hair to breast cancer patients

"I feel that cutting eight inches of my hair and turning them into wigs to help cancer patients is something very meaningful," said 15-year-old Celine Lee, a student from the Convent of the Holy Infant Jesus Secondary (Toa Payoh).

She was one of more than 50 students and current staff from the school, who pledged to donate eight inches of their hair, which will be made into wigs for breast cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy.

The initiative, called Strands of Love, is being carried out in collaboration with The Breast Clinic at Tan Tock Seng Hospital (TTSH), and the Recycle Your Hair volunteer group.

It was launched on May 26,



Students getting their hair cut on May 26.

when 12 students had their locks cut in the school hall by members of a hair salon, run by a parent of an alumnae.

The other students and staff will get their hair cut by visiting salons located around TTSH.

Prior to the event, each hair donor was given a pledge card

to collect \$90 in donations from family and friends.

"Whatever little we can do, we should do, because every little effort counts. If we all put in a little effort to help out, we can make a big difference," said Terena Hung, 15, a pupil who initiated the idea for the hair donation drive.

Her classmate Samantha Hong, 15, said that "by having my hair cut and made into a wig,

I will be able to help the cancer patients in their battle against cancer, and make their pain more bearable".

"CHIJ Secondary is proud to support Terena in this self-initiated project, in collaboration with TTSH Breast Clinic," said school principal Karen Tay. □

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