



## A joy in the midst

• Mirian G. Campos

Covid-19 pandemic may have brought challenges to the teaching profession, but Mrs. Josephine “Joy” Borja Sunglao said nothing will change her love for the calling she chose to take.

Her nickname “Joy” fits her personality as she is fun to be with and a vocal person who desires to bring smiles to everyone's faces.

She is a Master Teacher in the Science Department of Dagupan City National High School- Junior High School. Being in the academe for almost four decades now, she considers her bread and butter as the purpose of her existence.

When the pandemic struck, she was forced to work from home since the risk of contacting the virus is high considering her age and health condition. However, this did not stop her passion for teaching. She thought of offering free online learning and tutorials in Mathematics and Science to DCNHS and ECIS students who live in her neighborhood at Bayanihan Village in Barangay Caranglaan, as a way of helping the community to cope with the new normal in education.

With the help of her family, particularly her daughter, Jothesa B. Sunglao, an alumna of DCNHS and currently employed as a kindergarten teacher in an International



Teacher Joy facilitates free online learning and tutorial to some of her neighbor Junior High School students .

School in Indonesia, the plan came into fruition.

“I want to help the children whose parents are busy earning for a living for their family. Modules are difficult to answer without someone to guide these children. They must be assisted somehow,” said Sunglao when asked what prompted her to undertake this endeavor.

Also, it is her desire to walk an extra mile for the love of learners and teaching.

Her community project was blessed as many benefactors – friends, former classmates and students and parents went out of their way to aid her. With their financial assistance, Mrs. Sunglao was able to procure three laptops, a printer, and

the tables. To observe the required minimum health protocol, she was also able to solicit sanitizers, thermal scanners, and face masks. Together with her grade two granddaughter, she accommodated six learners in the tutorial class in their living room. The free online learning and tutorial for Junior High School students started last Oct. 19 with a two-hour session on a set schedule. Mrs. Sunglao handles Science subject while Justin Joyce and Jose, her other grown-up children tutor Mathematics subject.

Teacher Joy recognizes the importance of reading, so she is determined to embark on English Reading tutorial on the third quarter of

the School Year in partnership with DCNHS - English Department.

The threat of infection is real, but she said sacrifices should be made, particularly in this time of pandemic for the love of teaching.

“I do all of these things in the name of service. Although we do not know the potential long-term impact of the pandemic, if we continue to pursue quality instruction, we may be able to see some positive effects,” said Mrs. Sunglao.

Undoubtedly, this crisis brought fears and uncertainties, but in the midst of all these, there is Ma'am Joy who brings happiness by helping others.

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