



ELISHA

EMERGING LEADERS

PERSONAL MESSAGES & TESTIMONIES FROM
ELISHA 2023 & 2024 PARTICIPANTS



CATHOLIC
LEADERSHIP
CENTRE

ELISHA has been a life-changing experience for me...It has been a catalyst for my personal growth and a source of spiritual renewal. This newfound connection to God has ignited a desire to serve in my parish. ELISHA has empowered me to step out of my comfort zone and God has since opened up opportunities to serve in His church. I encourage anyone seeking to deepen their faith and develop their leadership skills to consider participating in ELISHA next year!

ADRIAN

ELISHA has been an eye-opening journey for me! It has led me to unlearn and relearn what it means to be a Catholic leader - a leader who is vulnerable and listens, a leader who draws on people's lived experiences (and many more learning points). These skills I not only bring back to community but to my work place. This leadership journey is a work in progress but hopefully I'll get to where God desires me to be! Through ELISHA, I have also had the opportunity to deepen, forge and reestablish relationships with many others - for me this has been a spruce of great joy as I see God at work through them!

MARIA



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Through the ELISHA journey, I feel overwhelmingly that I am not alone through the incredibly supportive community and sessions on how to build trust in community. This and the inner healing which I received during the retreat turn me towards the fact that God is a real and living God whom I have experienced because He reached out to me where I was and touched me. A lot of doubt about God and His love has been erased. I feel blessed and grateful for this journey, that I could experience Him in new ways. I feel God's hand in everything, the highs and the lows. I feel Him asking me to remain in Him so that He can remain in me. I desire to see His hand in everything in my life. I realise that life is easier when I lean on God and let Him do the heavy lifting for me. Consistently in these few months, I feel the work of the Holy Spirit moving in me and the rest of the ELISHA cohort. I would like to bring this to all areas of my life, not just church work, but also in the world where it seems that the call and greatest challenge is to be 'salt of the earth', to be a leader like Christ wherever we go.

REGINA

What I have learnt in ELISHA apply not only in ministry work but also in many aspects of life – relationships, at work, family etc. I felt discomfort in recognising that my own wounds played a part in who I am today and acknowledge that I most certainly cannot do leadership alone. I feel affirmed that I am guided and under the wings of God my protector. I feel heard and seen in my struggles as a leader and feel held as a leader journeying with fellow leaders. God is my role model, my infallible mentor. Jesus is the true servant leader. Jesus is Lord in all areas of my life.

RONALEEN

Through ELISHA, I felt a solidarity when meeting and sharing with those from other parishes with similar goals and struggles, and hearing and learning from their different faith journeys and points of view. I desire to continue the momentum and to grow my spiritual life, with better integration with my daily life and to inspire the youths to do the same.

DANI



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It has been a blessing to be on the ELISHA journey! The program equipped me with the relevant skills and growth in spiritual life to lead like Jesus. Through ELISHA, God tended to my inner wounds and deepen my walk with Him. Courses like “Building Trust in Community” and “Discerned Decision-Making” impart valuable life skills. Journeying together with others from the various parishes and church groups, listening to the similar and different challenges faced by them, has been insightful too.

My feelings in attending ELISHA has changed from inertia, reluctance and guardedness at the start, to openness and anticipation, to realising that I’m receiving so much, to freedom and security, gratitude and appreciation, and feeling empowered. I have come to encounter a God who desires so much for me, a generous, fun-loving God. In response, I have become more open, receptive and trusting in the Lord’s invitation (in big and small ways), feel healed and more integrated, and gaining a better understanding and confidence of myself as a leader.

CL



This ELISHA journey has allowed me to gain clarity on the person that God created me to be. It has made me reflect deeper on the vocation and desires that God has placed in my heart – how to be a missionary disciple in my roles as a daughter, sister, granddaughter, girlfriend, community leader, social worker, colleague, and friend while remaining secure in my identity in Christ. God has been so gentle with my raw heart, tending to my wounds and needs. The areas that needed to be revealed or surfaced came up in spaces where I was held. ELISHA has equipped me with greater awareness and insight into where my heart is – my feelings, intentions, and baggage. It has made soul-searching come more instinctively becoming second nature now.

CLARISSA



What I liked about ELISHA were the new friends from other parishes, the 1-to-1 session with the Spiritual Director and sacrament of Confession, being reconciled with God and the church from what hindered me from carrying out my mission. I moved from fear at the beginning, to clarity, learning attainable steps in leadership, from self-doubt to being reassured, learning from others' sharing, from feeling alone in my struggles as a leader, to knowing other leaders also face similar obstacles/struggles, from having no idea what is in store, to still not knowing but now have companions on the journey. I desire to apply what I've learnt in church to my family and work.

BRYAN

The ELISHA journey is about authentic Christian leadership in community, which extends beyond Ministry and Church. I gained valuable insights and practical tools that I can apply wherever I am; to always serve with humility, gratitude and courage. I strongly recommend ELISHA for both emerging and seasoned leaders!

CLARICE

The high point of ELISHA was that we could journey and learn together as a leadership team. It has shaped the way we hold meetings and relate to each other. I treasure spending time together as a team, the shared moments, laughing and embracing our quirks but growing together. I have been changed in my desire to draw even closer to Him, growing from self discipleship to Christian leadership. I have grown to become a more confident leader with tools that God has given me to build His kingdom. My heart's desire is for community to be united and loving and growing closer to Christ and for the leadership team to be more united in Christ and to trust in Him.

GRACE



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ELISHA has truly been a positive experience for me. This journey has allowed me to draw closer to Christ and embody the qualities of servant leadership. One of the biggest takeaways for me is practising intentional listening – to truly empathise with and value others’ perspectives. Listening not necessarily to act; but to listen with the heart of Christ.

RAYMUND

Through the ELISHA courses that I attended, it has equipped me with the skillset, knowledge and empathy with how to handle those who have been entrusted to me by the Lord, as a youth mentor. Thanks to the dedicated presenters who shared their experiences of their own lives which made it relative and I gained valuable insights and learnt how to see things from different angles and perspectives and not just from my own point of view.

CHRISTOPHER



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ELISHA was, in short, fruitful! Each course that I attended, be it Lead Like Jesus, the Inner Healing Retreat or Building Trust, led me to gaining greater insights of my relationship with God and of myself. Each of these courses and retreat was special in its own way but something that was common among them would be the brothers and sisters that were on the journey with me. It was refreshing, humbling and memorable to have journeyed with them and this companionship is what made ELISHA extra amazing. For those considering attending ELISHA take courage! The Lord knows you well and what you need. If you sense His invitation to attend it, follow Him with trust and He will take care of the rest. God bless!

LIONEL



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The thing that stands out is the effort that the planning team took to gather the resources and bring leaders from various parishes together for the journey. I thoroughly enjoyed interacting and hearing from the leaders from other parishes. It expanded my perspective on the Church, allowing me to appreciate what I have in my parish and take comfort in the common issues faced across parishes. Overall, I would say that it is a very good initiative by the Catholic Leadership Centre and I would support anyone who is thinking of attending.

BRANDON

A core point of the journey for me was when we pondered on our values and personal mission statement. Learning more about self leadership and the things God has placed in my heart gave me clarity and peace. The low points came in moments of discouragement, like seeing what ideal leadership, communication and working together looks like, and comparing that to the cracks I see in my day to day activity. I've encountered a God who appoints but does not abandon. In the ministries I have committed to, it's easy for me to fall into striving and take things into my own hands because of all my inner wounds. But this journey opened me to reclaim God as being a trustworthy shepherd again. He calls me to a task and gives the graces necessary. Growing in this dependance on God helps me to be less fixated on outcomes and more focused on the heart of it, which is how the people in the ministry, including myself, grow closer to God. I recognise once again that everything is grace and we love others because He first loved us. My heart's desire is to move in courage to wherever God calls me to go. To be open to the places He wants to plant me and to love people He sends my way.

HANNAH



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During ELISHA, I learnt about many spiritual and practical components of Christian leadership. From organising effective meetings to learning to listen to myself and others, I gathered a whole host of insights. I also connected with people from other parishes and organisations in conversations about our various ministries which allowed me to tap on their experiences and expertise!

MITCHELL

The high points were the “Heart-to-Heart Convos” and “At the Feet of the Good Shepherd Retreat”, because these were opportunities to connect to myself and to God. Who is God to me through this ELISHA journey? He is the One whom I am still learning to take the lead from. Growing in greater trust and endurance in this journey, especially when things don’t turn out the way I expect or want it to be. It is then allowing the Lord to lead and guide me, and not following my own lead.

GERALD

