



GFC: A Celebration of Unity Beyond Differences

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One Body, One Spirit, One Hope • Ephesians 4:4 • October 11, 2026 • Yomitan Catholic Parish



CELEBRATION OF GATHERING FOR CHRIST (GFC) OCTOBER 11, 2026

A Year of Unity for Migrants in Okinawa

Celebration of Gathering for Christ (GFC) was held last October 11, 2026 at Yomitan Catholic Parish. It is a yearly celebration for migrants from different parishes who live on Okinawa Island. Our theme was "One Body, One Spirit, One Hope" from Ephesians 4:4.

Bishop Wayne, in his homily, called all Filipino Catholics in Okinawa to live as one family in Christ. The Bishop also reflected on the parable of the wedding banquet. He invited everyone to choose unity, forgiveness, and a way of life that shows Jesus to others.

In the parable, a king prepares a wedding feast for his son. Many guests were invited but they refused and gave excuses. The king then sent his servants to invite anyone they could find—even people from the streets—to join the celebration.

The Bishop explained that the king represents God, and the banquet represents God's gifts. God invites all people to receive His love, peace, forgiveness, and new life. Yet many can choose to ignore this invitation.

The story reminds us to reflect on how we respond to God each day. When we neglect prayer, hold on to grudges, or distance ourselves from the Church, we miss the peace and healing God desires to give us.

Bishop Berndt on Living the Gospel

Bishop Berndt reminded everyone that accepting God's invitation goes beyond attending Mass. It means living the Gospel—loving others, helping the poor, working for justice and peace, and following the teachings of Jesus.

From his experience in many parishes, Bishop Berndt shared his admiration for the Filipino Catholic Community. He sees how Filipinos work together even with differences in language, regional background, and place of origin. He noted that differences can sometimes cause division, and even within the same faith and culture, misunderstandings can weaken unity.

He encouraged everyone to look beyond these differences and become one community with one heart and one spirit. This call to unity is connected to the Gospel invitation: God welcomes people of all backgrounds. A united Christian community becomes a strong witness of Christ's love when we show respect and compassion to one another.



"A Christian is someone in whom and through whom Jesus is alive today."

Christians show kindness, forgive others, care for the poor, and treat every person with dignity. As the gathering ended, Bishop Berndt shared his enjoyment of Filipino food, adding warmth and joy to the occasion. His simple comment reminded all that following Christ means living in love with one another.

The challenge for the Filipino Catholic community in Okinawa is to bring this message into daily life—by forgiving one another, helping those in need, overcoming divisions, and working together as one family in Christ.

