



# Lights OF THE World



**Celebrating the good works & dedication of faithful people everywhere**

## Ms. Lynn Pinugu

**"To one he gave five talents, to another, two; and to a third, one, each according to his own ability." – MT 25:15**

Ms. Eleanor 'Lynn' Pinugu not only embraces the Lord's call for us to use our talents, she sets the bar high. Ms. Pinugu is a member of Regnum Christi, a respected leader in social enterprise, former missionary, and co-founder and executive director of Mano Amiga Academy in the Philippines. Now leading an effort to help fellow countrymen re-build in the Philippines following the disastrous typhoon this past November, Ms. Pinugu has dedicated much of her life to answering God's call to serve.

Ms. Pinugu's zeal to succeed began in 2003 when she was awarded the Raul Locsin Scholarship for Student Excellence in Journalism, which gave her the opportunity to study for free at the Ateneo de Manila University for her last two years of college. In 2006, she traveled to Mexico to participate as an international youth volunteer for the Regnum Christi Mission Corps exchange program.

"The co-worker program is what really taught me to love and serve God's people. This was a valuable aspect of my formation as a Catholic and a human being," Ms. Pinugu tells us.

During her time as a Regnum Christi missionary, she worked with the Mano Amiga schools in Mexico, lifting up impoverished children through exceptional education. Two years later, when she heard about the opening of a Mano Amiga School in the Philippines, Ms. Pinugu resigned from her public relations job to take on the task of starting the first Mano Amiga School in the Philippines.

Determined to help the school succeed, Ms. Pinugu opened Bistro 3846, a "high-end cafeteria" donating 100% of its profits to the Mano Amiga Philippines, as well as providing training and employment to the local community.

In 2012, Ms. Pinugu was named a Global Shaper by the World Economic Forum, and was a recipient of the Social Entrepreneurship Star Award at the Asian Social Enterprise Summit in Korea.

When Typhoon Haiyan ravaged her country this past November, Ms. Pinugu quickly put her connections and energies to work, organizing distributions of supplies to stranded victims in the provinces of Cebu and Palawan. Working with Global Shapers of Manila and other Filipino-based non-profit organizations, she continues to lead and employ efforts to rebuild in the wake of the disastrous storm.

Ms. Pinugu was recently awarded The Outstanding Women in the Nation's Service (TOWNS) award for social enterprise and education. TOWNS Foundation Inc. is a Filipino organization of women who work to help transform lives through innovative programs.

"My dream for the country is for every child to receive high quality education no matter what their socio-economic background is. The Philippines Department of Education's recent efforts to uplift the state of education in the country have been really commendable but the challenges are just too numerous. We cannot solely rely on government solutions. I believe Mano Amiga Academy is a small but significant step toward that dream," says Ms. Pinugu.

Catholic World Mission salutes Lynn Pinugu as a true Light of the World and dynamic example of self-less giving.

**You are the light of the world ... your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.**

**Mt. 5: 14-16**

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**Catholic World Mission honors Lynn Pinugu and all those who use their gifts to be a Light of the World.**