

## Birhen ng Candelaria

*Feast of  
Patroness of  
Silang  
Cavite is  
Celebrated  
at St. Gerard  
Majella in  
Queens.*



Devotees with their Santo Niño images dance the Sinulog during Fiesta at St. Patrick Church in Long Island City.

# LADY and Her Children Pilgrimages

*cordially invite you to join us*

**Ancient World Culture and Bible Cruise**  
**MV Steps Cristal**

## Oberammergau Christ Passion Play

*Happens only once every ten years*

**September 18 - October 02, 2010 -- (14 days)**

**\$2990** from New York/New Jersey.  
Add-on from other cities available.

Category 2 Passion Play Tickets

pp in double inside cabin add

**\$220** for Standard outside cabin

Plus: **\$492** Airport tax

**\$195** Port tax



### Price includes:

Airfare from New York

Two nights in Oberammergau with Lunch and Dinner

Tickets to the Passion Play

Cruise on Steps Cristal - all meals included

Shore Excursions

Hotel night in Switzerland

Tours and admissions



*Under Spiritual Direction of*  
**Rev. John J. Oldfield, OAR**

### Including:

**Oberammergau, Germany** - Passion Play Tickets

**Jerusalem** - See the places where Christ Passion happened

**Switzerland** - See the Swiss Alps, the Lake District (Lugano and Lucerne)

**Greece** - Athens where St. Paul delivered his famous speech, Corinth, the Greek Islands of Crete and Mykonos

**Istanbul, Turkey** - See the Blue Mosque and Hagia Sophia and an opportunity to taste the culture of Turkey

**Cairo, Egypt** - See the Pyramids one of Seven Wonders of the world

**Contact for more information:**

**Evelyn Buenafe**

LADY AND HER CHILDREN

E-mail: [ebuenafe@optonline.net](mailto:ebuenafe@optonline.net)

Evelyn Buenafe, New York	646 775 1164
Carter/Stella Infante - California	951 735 3663
Agnes Barba - Los Angeles	323 898 1728
Razelle Manalang - Indianapolis	317 788 7255
Cherie Gumapac - New Jersey	732 225 7159
Susan Gasis	347 592 7933

### Payment Plan:

**Deposit USD 600 pp by Jan 15, 2010**

**Deposit USD 600 pp by Apr 15, 2010**

**Final Payment by June 15, 2010**

**For payment by Credit Card a 3% bank surcharge shall be charged.**

### ITINERARY

Sept. 19 - Arrive Zurich at 8:30 AM, proceed to Lucerne/Lugano, Switzerland have a glimpse of the Swiss Alps, embark on a city tour, after which we check in our hotel for dinner and overnight.

Sept. 20 - After breakfast and check-out, we travel to Lugano near the border of Italy and it's famous lake district. We take a panoramic tour to soak up the atmosphere of this special place in Switzerland. We take a full excursion in the Lake district of Switzerland and Italy which includes Ponte Tressa. Time permitting, we stop for lunch on our own in the famed retreat Lake Coumo. We proceed to Oberammergau, settle in the beautiful 3+ stars chalet style hotel. Dinner and overnight.

Sept. 21 - Time to relax or spend time at leisure, after lunch, shortly after we will be seated for the Passion Play. The play depicts the story of Christ's Passion starting with the entry into Jerusalem and ending with the Resurrection and Transfiguration. The performance starts at 2:30 PM and ends approximately at 10:30 PM with a three hour break for dinner/ intermission from 5:00 to 8:00 PM. The play is performed in German but printed in English translation are available. It is a moving spectacular experience as if you have witnessed it two thousand years ago!! Dinner and overnight.

Sept 22 - Early morning check out from our hotel we bid farewell to Oberammergau, we continue our journey to Innsbruck, a ski village made world famous for hosting the 1976 Winter Olympics. Proceed to Venice to take our great ferry to Greece.

Sept 23 - A day to relax on board.

Sept 24 FRIDAY Arrive Patras, Greece and drive to Piraeus; embark our cruiseship CRISTAL at Piraeus for our 7 nights Cruise "Ancient World - Culture & Bible"

Sept 25 Istanbul Begin the excursion with a sightseeing drive through the business centre of the modern city, across the Galata Bridge, along the banks of the Golden Horn and under the Byzantine Aqueduct of Valens. On the way, you can see the Stilemaniye Mosque, dedicated to Sultan Stileyman The Magnificent. Continue around the mighty citywalls, which once protected Constantinople from the many invasions and attacks it suffered over the centuries. In the Old City, the first visit will be to the Byzantine Hippodrome, which was once one of the largest chariot race arenas in the Byzantine Empire. Visit the Sultanahmet Mosque, where large groups of pilgrims start their pilgrimage to Mecca. It is decorated with 21,000 blue Iznik tiles from where it gets its name, the "Blue Mosque". Walk to the world famous monument of Hagia Sophia, the Byzantine Church of Divine Wisdom, where you can see the superb mosaics and the marble decorations. Return to the ship for lunch on board. After lunch continue the tour with a visit to the Topkapi Palace, the official residence of the Ottoman Sultans. See the famous treasury and the "Spoonmaker's Diamond", the 7th biggest diamond in the world. During the tour you will also have the opportunity to get a cultural taste of Turkey by enjoying an exhibition of oriental carpets, jewellery or leather.

Sept 26 Mykonos Enjoy some free time strolling around Mykonos.

Sept 27 At Sea

Sept 28 Jerusalem A panoramic drive of approx. 1 hour and half will bring you to Jerusalem, giving you the chance of catching a glimpse of Israel, old and new. Upon your arrival in town, your motor coach will drive through West Jerusalem, passing by the Knesset -Israel Parliament, the Supreme Court and the Museum of Israel with the Shrine of the Book. You will be amazed by the heartbreaking panorama from the Mount of Olives, where you will have a photo stop. The second visit will be the Gethsemane Garden and the Church of all Nation. Gethsemane garden is at the foot of the Mount of Olives, famous as the place where Jesus and his disciples prayed the night before Jesus' crucifixion. According to Orthodox tradition, Gethsemane is the garden where the Apostles buried the Virgin Mary. The Church of All Nations, also known as the Church or Basilica of the Agony is a Roman Catholic church which enshrines a section of bedrock where Jesus is said to have prayed before his arrest. Afterwards you will have a guided tour in the old city of Jerusalem starting with a stroll through the famous quarters of the old city. Until the 1860s this area constituted the entire city of Jerusalem. The Old City is home to several sites of key religious importance: the Temple Mount and its Western Wall for Jews, the Church of the Holy Sepulcher for Christians, and the Dome of the Rock and al-Aqsa Mosque for Muslims. Traditionally, the Old City has been divided into four quarters, although the current designations were introduced only in the 19th century. Today, the Old City is roughly divided into the Muslim Quarter, the Christian Quarter, the Jewish Quarter and the Armenian Quarter. The Jewish Quarter of the Old City was largely destroyed by Jordan following the 1948 Arab-Israeli War. In 1980, Jordan proposed the Old City to be inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage Site List. It was added to the List in 1981. The Wailing Wall, sometimes referred to as the Kotel and as al-Buraq Wall by Muslims, is one of the most important Jewish religious sites. Just over half the wall, including its 17 courses located below street level, dates from the end of the Second Temple period, being constructed around 19 B.C. by Herod the Great, while the remaining layers were added from the 7th century onwards. The tour will continue to Bethlehem, where you will have lunch in an oriental restaurant, followed by free time to stroll around and get some souvenirs from the Holy Land. The main site you will visit in will be the Church of the Nativity, one of the oldest continuously operating churches in the world. The structure is built over the cave that tradition marks as the birthplace of Christ, and it is considered sacred by followers of both Christianity and Islam.

Sept 29 Cairo/Pyramids This morning our ship will dock in Port Said where you will disembark and travel to Cairo via the Land of Goshen. Begin your tour of Cairo with a visit to the Egypt Museum which houses the King Tut treasures and many other artifacts from Egypt's long history. Continue to the Great Pyramids of Giza and see this last remaining ancient wonder which was built before the time of Moses and the Israelites in this ancient land

Sept 30 Crete Enjoy a stroll around Agios Nikolaos Village

Oct 01 Athens, disembark, Corinth and Athens tour The architectural splendors of the ancient city of Athens are as magical as ever. Follow your guide on a journey to the ancient Acropolis where you will see the Propylaea, the Parthenon and the Erechtheum.

View Mars Hill where Paul preached the gospel to the intellectual Athenian community of his day. View the ruins of the Agora, ancient market place where Paul preached to the skeptical Athenians. You will view the Olympic Stadium, where the modern Olympics began and where the games returned in 2004. Visit Corinth, a city that inspired of St. Paul's most familiar letter. You will visit the Archeological Museum, the Market Place, and Temples. Walk among the ruins and stand on the Bema where Paul stood. o/n Athens

Oct 02 Depart

# The Filipino Catholic

The Filipino Catholic (BN96001443), an independent newsmagazine with editorial offices at 453 Hawthorne Ave., Uniondale, NY 11553, is published monthly and distributed free in New York.

The Filipino Catholic is staffed by volunteers. Views expressed by the contributing writers do not necessarily reflect the views of the publisher or the Catholic Church.

## LETTERS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Contributions from our readers are welcome but subject to approval, editing and condensation. Please include names, addresses and phone numbers on all correspondence.

However, unpublished materials cannot all be acknowledged or returned.

## ADVERTISING AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

The Filipino Catholic is funded by the support of advertisers and subscribers. Advertisements do not infer implicit endorsement by the Filipino Catholic. Advertising rates are available upon request. One year subscription is available for a donation of \$25 or more.

## Contributing Writers & Columnists:

Rev. Peter James R. Alindogan  
Rev. Euly B. Belizar, Jr.  
Rev. Basilio Colasito  
Msgr. R. Dimaculangan  
Art Esguerra  
Robert Fernandez  
Andrea Florendo  
Fr. Alfred Guthrie  
Araceli Medrano  
Norma Pascual  
John Primi  
Fr. James Reuter  
Sonia S. Salerni  
Rene Tubilleja  
Maria Pascual  
Laura Vogel  
Jeanne Young

## Photography

Henry Medrano  
Albert Betito

## Circulation & Distribution

Jun Makinano  
Wendel Javier

## Spiritual Director

Fr. Joe Cadusale

## Editor & Publisher

Manny Pascual

## Write us at:

The Filipino Catholic  
P.O. Box 3067  
Garden City, NY 11531

(516) 292-1445 phone/fax  
Email: FilCath@optonline.net



Manny Pascual

## FROM THE EDITOR

Last month, I became a septuagenarian. It took me seven decades, but it was well worth the wait. Like any one who's earned this dubious honor, I was awarded a joyous celebration with family and reunion with old friends. Among other things, I was treated to a day in what claims to be "the happiest place on earth," where beautiful "princesses" in flowing gowns greeted me and characters who used to dwell only in my imagination frolicked on the streets. It was a place where no line separated reality from the make-believe. A place where you could be who you are and be someone else at the same time. A place of contradiction. And illusion. A place where imagination and fiction made no difference.

As a birthday present, my children masterminded my revisit to that magical place called Disneyland.

There I was catapulted once again to a time and place where a man-size mouse and a sailor duck were my best friends. Where I fought pirates and cartoon villains and was horrified by whimsical ghosts. Where I could soar high among the clouds like Peter Pan and Tinker Bell. Where I screamed and laughed and sometimes cried. Where I marveled at the colorful fireworks that crisscrossed above a castle in the midnight sky. Where oft times I was held breathless by the thrills and swirls, the ups and

downs of a speeding roller coaster.

Very much like the roller coaster on the road of life.

I have traveled this road for 70 years. I've built up many hopes and dreams along the way. Shed a few tears, some blood perhaps. Wept a little and laughed a lot. Some opportunities came and some were lost. Some happiness lingered. So did some blessings. Ah, God's blessings ... like the ones named Mark, Veronica and Paul. And a faithful woman who helped me up each time I fell on the dusty path. A path occasionally strewn with tears from the passing of a loved one or the death of a dream.

The sorrows and pains of life are real. And the road to the "happiest place on earth" certainly does not stop at Disney. Hopefully for us, it will go far, far beyond this world's illusions.

"And the grave is not its goal."

For the Lord has prepared a roadmap for us to follow and what awaits us is not a magical day of fantasy in a big amusement park ... but the heavenly home of our Father where his children find lasting happiness and eternal peace.

*"Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat upon them, nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes." - Revelation 7:15-17*

*"In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you." - John 14:2*

## OF FAITH AND PRACTICALITY

*"With God nothing shall be impossible."  
- Luke 1:37*

### Losing the February Blues

Except for those who are in a romantic relationship, February always seems to be a boring month. It is after all the month immediately following all the hullabaloo of the Holiday Season. It feels like the days after a town Fiesta back home when all has settled down and the folks are now just finishing off the leftovers. Here in the Northeast, in our new adoptive home, February is further made worse by the wintry and cold weather. Some of us even have the lighted decorations of Christmas still frozen into the ground, but without the lights. The trees are still in winter hibernation and there are yet no flowers to add color to the drab surroundings. The only official holiday that breaks the monotony is the Presidents' Day, which even that is not a big Sale day.

In contrast, the Church calendar has many significant Feast Days and events in February, thus making it a spiritually colorful and warm month. February 2<sup>nd</sup> is the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple, a very important commemoration that is even included in the Joyful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary. Jesus, who is God-made-Man, subjects Himself to the old Law as a man, and then later revises it with the Law of Love as our God. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of February is the Feast of St. Blaise, the Patron Saint of the healthy throat, which includes the ability to use it for the good as preachers, teachers, singers, lawyers and even politicians. We have a special blessing after the Mass in honor of St. Blaise, where two crossed candles are touched to people's throat to invoke that blessing.

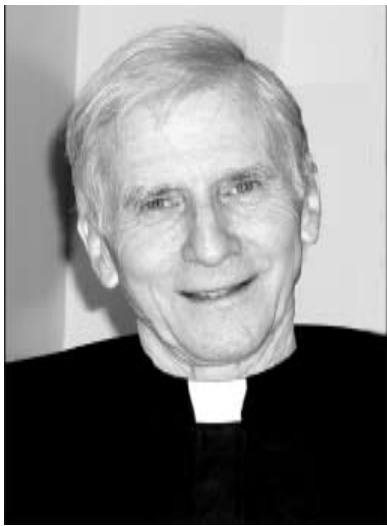
My special favorite is the Feast Day of Our Lady of Lourdes on the 11<sup>th</sup> of February. Many of us, including myself and my family, have been recipients of great miracles and special blessings from Our Lady of Lourdes. This would be the day to say a special prayer of thanksgiving for all these miracles and blessings. Those of us in the area, who may not get a chance to visit the Grotto in France, would be happy to know that there is a Shrine to Our Lady of Lourdes in Litchfield, Connecticut. It is cared for by the Montfort Missionaries and built like the original Grotto in France. Underneath the Statue of Our Lady is a small piece of black stone, which came from the rock in the original Grotto. Touching it would give you the same warm inner glow in your heart that pilgrims in France could feel by touching the Grotto's rock there. I share this with all conviction because I've been blessed to visit both places.

Closely related to this is the February 20<sup>th</sup> Feast Day of the two young siblings who witnessed the Apparitions of Our Lady at Fatima. They are Blessed Jacinta and Francisco Marto. They were only 10 and 11 when they joined Our Blessed Mother in Heaven. The third visionary, Carmelite Sister Lucia, died just recently on February 13, 2005, at age 97. The canonization process has already been started and in the future this could be another Feast Day in February. There is a Shrine to Our Lady of Fatima in Washington, New Jersey, which also has a replica of the "Little Chapel" in the original site in Portugal.

Ash Wednesday this year is on February 17<sup>th</sup>. It ushers in the Season of Lent, a 40-day period of penitence, prayerfulness and acts of charity. During this period we are encouraged to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, and to abstain from meat on all Fridays of Lent. It is aimed at improving our personal relationship with God and not just to impose a set of rules that make our life harder. So let's be honest with ourselves and practice the spirit instead of the letter of rules. On days of abstinence, if we refrain from meat but seek out the best place in town for eat-all-you-can lobster and crabs, then we have not practiced the spirit of abstinence. Let us instead do things we don't ordinarily do but would be pleasing in the eyes of God. The more difficult it is to do, the better. Forgiving somebody, helping a co-worker we don't like, refraining from *tsismis*, going to Confession, going to Church during a lunch hour, and so many other little things that could enrich our soul. Finally, let's pray more often, especially the Rosary, which directly invokes the intercession of Our Lady. Let's do them with gladness in our heart, because that is how our sacrifices will be translated into wonderful blessings.



by Rene Tubilleja



by **Rev. Alfred R. Guthrie**

## LIVING THE AUTHENTIC CHRISTIAN LIFE:

The need, more urgent than ever, goes on - to listen to Our Lady's prophetic call for souls and true world peace.

## LYING AND COWARDICE

The following observations do not apply to all. Many thousands of Americans are living today because of courageous interventions by their fellow citizens whether on the streets, on the internet, on the radio, in the press - many of whom suffered physical abuse at the hands of morally misguided police officers, crippling fines and jail sentences by ruthless and politically "correct" judges, or who have been and still are registered as criminals for the "crime" of saving human lives.

The very fact of these often courageous American citizens puts into stark contrast the real criminality of deliberate and convenient non-involvement - of the rest of us who are sitting by, "busy" with other "important" things, other than the conscientious fulfillment of basic responsibilities, rather than being a "pro-life nut".

We will all have to answer to God for what we have done and for what we have failed to do.

## THE REAL CRIMES:

One of the calling cards of the evil one is the practice of lying. In this connection this Newsletter has noted in the past the pervasive presence of dishonesty in the practices of those who are promoting the culture of death.

Most "professional" branches of our culture, lawyers, medical personnel, educators and the media are especially involved in this dishonesty.

The New York Times is one of the most repulsive examples of this dishonesty. In an article, for example, about extremely premature infants, the author, while ignoring the contradiction involved in the massacre of more developed infants by late-term abortions, discusses the marvels of increased survival of very premature babies. And then concludes with the ruthless politically correct "bottom line" of newly proposed health bills: is the work of saving lives a profitable investment when the baby grows up and pays taxes?

This ducking of the real truth has become, because of cowardly cooperation such as this, by many "professionals" with the lies of the culture of death, which have become pervasive in all areas of American life.

But one of the most significant signs of the work of the enemy of God is not only the lies of the activists who are actually engineering the promotion of the culture of death, but rather the cooperation with them by the millions of "ordinary" people, including our "Catholic" politicians, and our Catholic people, in the "culture of dishonesty", which is an indispensable part of the culture of death.

This dishonesty began with the acceptance of artificial contraception by the Western world as not evil, or even as something "necessary" or "good". Sadly, many Catholic laity accept this practice in their own lives and advise it to others.

But the most outstanding example of this "culture of dishonesty" is the failure of so many "ordinary Catholics" to recognize the extreme importance of the previous universally accepted recognition by mankind of the fact that when a woman is pregnant she is "with child". And so these Catholics consider the killing of the unborn as not such a big issue.

On the other hand, some pagan cultures, even today, in spite of intense UN propaganda in favor of the culture of death, still look with horror on what they consider the shameful practice of ending the life of the unborn child.

The culture of death is attempting to make the very carrying of a child in the womb into something "shameful", especially if the mother is single, or, worse, is a teenager.

In the past, having the child outside of wedlock was considered so shameful that such a birth was kept secret. But the fact of being pregnant itself was not considered shameful.

Now, against this almost universal past consensus of human society, the culture of death has managed to label "shameful" the very fact of being pregnant, and, praiseworthy the killing of that child, especially if the mother is a teenager.

## BUT THE TRUTH...

And yet, deep down, we still recognize the universal consensus of all of us that it is still true that, if the woman is pregnant, she is already a mother because she is "with child".

The scientists know this because our DNA is distinct to us from the moment of conception. But most scientists appear to be too cowardly to recognize the truth of their research. And so, support the convenient elimination of these human beings.

Ordinary people like us know that a pregnancy involves a child because we recognize that we begin to exist at the moment we are conceived. But to be "politically correct" a large number of ordinary people, while they recoil at the very concept of the killing of a child, they accept the "termination of a pregnancy". That is, they lie to themselves.

The doctors know this. But most doctors appear to not have the courage to tell the truth or act on it.

The politicians know this. But they appear to not have the courage to act on their convictions, lest, perhaps, they lose an election or a donation from a pro-death organization.

The babies' fathers know this but, if they haven't already abandoned the mother, they appear to not have the courage, except in rare and beautiful examples, to defend the lives of their own children..

And, above all, the mothers know this. But very often in the first stages of pregnancy a woman, especially a young teenager, is herself extremely vulnerable and is in great need of support, especially the support of the father, to help her nurture her child with much love.

And so the cowardice goes on and we all join in the holocaust.

For a variety of "political" or "convenient" reasons, which are really in many cases, just cowardly excuses by which we avoid involvement, so many of us consider it "necessary" to ignore the horrible on-going reality of the killing of our children. And so we lie to ourselves, and distract ourselves with "more important" things.

We hide from the truth, we lie to ourselves and thus we share in the ongoing murder or our children..

Last month this Newsletter asked where are the men? All people have a natural tendency to recognize truth. But so many of our men allow personal "convenience" to distort the truth and accept the lie to the extent that we convince ourselves to accept the lie as if it is the "truth".

And, as regards all of us, by going on with "business as usual" we are dishonestly ignoring the new and massive holocaust constantly going on in our midst: the destruction of the hearts of our mothers, especially those of our unmarried young women who are students in our colleges, "Catholic" and otherwise, and our high schools.

This is where our entire culture has gone. We are now living in our very own developing Socialist dictatorship.

And, to repeat what Mother Teresa of Calcutta once asserted, the principal cause of war today is the killing of our unborn children.

I think that it is safe to say that all the signs in daily news reports indicate that a catastrophic and extremely horrible war is on our very doorsteps.

But, again, even with regard to the nearness of a catastrophic war, we lie to ourselves and, again ignoring reality, but with some inner unease about what we are hearing, we, again, continue to go on with "business as usual".

## AGAIN, FATIMA-

All this brings us back to the urgent call of God through the prophetic messages of the Mother of God, especially at Fatima, to authentic discipleship: the love of the cross, which is obedience to the will of the Father as taught by the Church that Jesus founded; penance, especially but not only the faithful fulfillment of the duties of our state in life; and prayer, especially the daily rosary, said with as much devotion as we can bring together.

Fidelity to the requests of the Mother of God will help us to see reality as it is - and will rid us of our own self-deceiving lies and will give us the help we need not to be needlessly frightened, but rather, fidelity to Our Lady will help us to be concerned about the avoidance of eternal death and the salvation of souls instead of worrying only about, as bad as it can be, the awful destruction of war, physical violence, and death. And in this we can find true peace.

## SEASONAL NOTES: little reminders-

The special feasts of Christmas do not end, until we celebrate on February 2, the feast of the Purification of Mary.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

If you would like to begin a "Pilgrim Virgin" program in your parish, using a parish image of Our Lady of Fatima, which, if you wish, we can obtain for you and donate to your parish apostolate if you are not able to pay for it, please let us know by calling Nenita at 917-301-7414.

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

The next "40 Days for Life" program will be from Thursday, February 17 to March 28, in which, as in the past, organizers will conduct an intense, powerful and effective prayer program for the unborn and their mothers. If you wish to take part, please call Mr. Ray Mooney at 718-309-6126.

If you wish to send comments or contribute helpful information or material to this Newsletter, please write to the address under the title NEWSLETTER found above.

Please pray the rosary with as much devotion as possible daily, and do penance, in reparation to the Hearts of Jesus and Mary. Many souls need our rosaries and penance for their salvation. And God's plan at Fatima is the only way to ensure the success of all efforts for world peace.



## Awesome

by Fr. Peter James R. Alindogan

A county truck once pulled to a stop on a quiet street. A worker armed with pick and shovel climbed out and set to work. Laboriously he dug a large hole between the curb and the sidewalk. Then a second man exited the truck, filled in the hole, and tamped down the earth. And that was their pattern all the way down the street, the one carefully digging holes to just the right depth, the other filling them in and tamping them down to just the right height.

“What in the world are you doing?” asked a woman who had been watching them. “We’re part of an urban beautification project,” was their reply.

“Beautification!” sniffed the woman. “I fail to see what’s so beautiful about a row of filled-in holes.” “Well, you see,” said the worker, “the man who plants the trees is out sick today.”

Our God is an awesome God and He wants our lives to be awesome and big too. That is why we were made in His own image and likeness. But making it big in our lives is not an easy thing to do. So many difficulties clutter along the way, so many distractions darkening our path, so many temptations clouding our journey, so many senseless things than digging holes and filling them up again.

God knows us inside and out and He came to give us the way, the truth and the life. He leads us through life when we find it heavy and demanding. He wants us to get rid of our fears, things we are afraid to challenge and confront.

The people in the synagogue were first delighted when they heard Jesus. They knew him from childhood. He was one of them. But fear took over and shut down their contentment. Fear choked the challenge for them to live a better and bigger life. Fear led them to drive Jesus to the very edge of a cliff. They realized that Jesus was no longer one of them. He was too much for them.

Had they grasped the real idea why Jesus came and spoke before them, things could

have been different. Love demands and dares. Love challenges and confronts. Love is more concerned about the other person than oneself.

And so Jesus warned them about the choices they made. And they did not like it. Far from being popular, because that is one of the temptations Jesus had in the wilderness, our loving Lord wants us to choose wisely and to stand up for what we believe.

The choices that we make in our homes, schools, workplaces, churches and in our lives should be indicative of our being Catholic. All the right and moral choices have very unpleasant consequences. We, as Catholics, have already been divided in many issues regarding sex, marriage and family. The bottom line remains: Just do the right thing.

Somehow we have to be challenged that the degradation of our families began with the fragmentation of our values. Somehow we have to be reminded that it takes more than a village to raise a child. Somehow we have to be reminded that as parents and grandparents, it is our God-given responsibility to teach our children and grandchildren about what is true, what is good and what is right. And as God’s children, we have to be reminded that we need to listen, to follow and to do the commands of God.

When a prophet, like Jesus, calls into question our lifestyle and our morality, some of us might find it very uncomfortable. If what the prophet said was right, then we have to change. And to change means to subject ourselves to pain.

The word of God should challenge us personally. If we know that what we are doing is not right, then why do we have to continue doing it? If we know that we had been living a sinful life, then why do we have to persist in the squalor of sin? If we know that we had disobeyed the commandments of God, then why do we wallow in our misery?

Sometimes the most honest thing in life is to know which bridge to cross and which bridge to burn. It is undoubtedly true that there are sins which we need to point out, that our faith should not be watered down by the delusional condensation of relativism, that our journey to heaven needs to pass through the rocky roads of challenge and sacrifice.

Truth hurts. We learned from our childhood that it was a child who exclaimed that the emperor had no clothes. We learned from Jesus that hypocrisy has no place in His kingdom. And we know that faith without works is dead.

Would we react like those in the gospel story if Jesus were to challenge us about the way we live? Would we also be mad at Jesus because he wants us to change our ways? Would we also be angry with our God if he confronts us in our sinfulness because he wants us not to be digging up holes and filling them up again but in order to live a life of grace?

*Rev. P.J. Alindogan is the pastor at St. Charles Borromeo Church in Cinnaminson, NJ. This homily was delivered on January 31, 2010.*



by Fr. Mike Lagrimas

## Love is Never Selfish Lk 4:21-30

Perhaps you will agree with me that most of the beautiful songs composed throughout the years were inspired by that many-splendored thing called love. But I believe, and I am sure you will also agree with me, that the best song ever composed about love is the second reading this Sunday: the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter St. Paul’s First Letter to the Corinthians. It is a simple, but profound description of love. What is love, we may ask? St. Paul took pains in enumerating all those adjectives because there is no word that can fully capture the essence of love.

The Apostle St. John, being the pneumatic author that he was, goes right into the core of love: “*Love is of God...for God is love*” (1Jn 4:7-8). In other words, love is not just a thing, or an emotion. Love is a Person – it is the Person of God. I think St. John must have considered using the word “God” in place of “love”. So, instead of saying “Love is patient, love is kind,” we may say “God is patient, God is kind, God is not jealous”...and so on - and we will not be mistaken. And God revealed Himself to us in Jesus Christ. So love is the Person of Jesus Christ Himself.

We are followers of Jesus Christ. We ought to be like Him. That should be our only ambition as Christians. If love is the Person of Christ, then as His followers, we should also be true reflections of love. If God is love, and we are children of God, we ought to be men and women of love. Perhaps an effective way to examine how closely we imitate Christ would be to replace the word “love” with our name. For example, if my name is John Doe, can I honestly say, “John Doe is patient and kind; John Doe is not rude and quick-tempered; John Doe does not seek his own interests and does not brood over injury...”? Think about that.

In all honesty and humility, we have to admit that we do not feel worthy and comfortable applying the adjectives of love to our names. So, the big question now is: What hinders us from becoming vivid images of love? Let me share with you this anecdote:

The Eskimos have a very effective way of killing a wolf. First, the hunter coats his knife with animal blood and allows it to freeze. Then he adds layer after layer of blood until the

blade is completely covered by the frozen blood. Next, he fixes his knife in the ground with the blade up. In a short while, a wolf would smell the blood and finds the bait. He then licks it, tasting the fresh frozen blood. He begins to lick faster and harder, and very soon his tongue reaches the blade of the knife. His craving for blood is so great that he does not notice the sharp sting of the naked blade on his tongue. He does not realize that the blood he is licking is already his own blood from his wounded tongue. His appetite is so insatiable that he never stops craving for more. In the morning, the wolf is dead. (Adapted from Hot Illustrations for Youth Talks by Wayne Rice, 1994, Youth Specialties, Inc.)

This story applies to so many of us. When we become so engrossed with our selfish ambitions, vices and worldly desires, we only focus on ourselves and disregard everything and everybody else around us. Insatiable worldly appetite will make us slaves and victims of self-destruction. Worse still, selfishness also causes the destruction of others. A selfish person will never consider the welfare of others. And this is the cause of so much sufferings and troubles in the world today. A quotation says: “The world is enough for man’s need, but not for man’s greed.”

Needless to say, selfishness is the greatest obstacle that hinders us from becoming living images of love. St. Paul said, “*Love is patient.*” But why am I so impatient? The answer is simple: because I only think of myself, my own schedule, and my own benefit. I do not take into consideration the situation and the welfare of others. “*Love is kind.*” Why am I unkind and rude towards others? It is because I only care about myself, and I do not mind if I hurt or harm them. “*Love is not jealous, it does not seek its own interests, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing.*” But why am I jealous? Why am I eager to talk about the mistakes and sins of others? It is because I believe I am superior to the rest. So I resent the gifts and talents of others and I am glad if they fail. “*Love does not brood over injury.*” I cannot do that because my ego was hurt and I cannot forgive. Indeed, selfishness is the greatest enemy of love. Where there is selfishness, there is no possibility of love, and where love is absent, God is absent too.

This is what happened in the Gospel. The people of Nazareth rejected Jesus, and even attempted to kill him. The reason for this is the same: selfishness. They could not accept the truth that God plays no favorites; that this ordinary carpenter of Nazareth is now more famous and powerful than them. They could not accept the truth because it destroys their belief and feeling of superiority and it hurts their pride. Hence, they could not accept Jesus.

To really love, we need a great amount of humility and selfless disposition. A lot of unresolved conflicts in our family and among friends are caused by pride and selfishness. Our hearts remain wounded for so long because we are too proud to admit our mistakes and we refuse to reconcile. Many people are hurting due to self-inflicted wounds. In this Mass, let us pray that we may learn to truly love so that our hearts will once again discover supreme joy and lasting peace.

# POPE'S LENTEN MESSAGE

*“The justice of God has been manifested through faith in Jesus Christ”.*

VATICAN CITY - Made public today was the 2010 Lenten Message of the Holy Father Benedict XVI. The text, dated 30 October 2009, has as its title a passage from St. Paul's Letter to the Romans: “The justice of God has been manifested through faith in Jesus Christ”. The full English-language translation of the document is given below:

“Each year, on the occasion of Lent, the Church invites us to a sincere review of our life in light of the teachings of the Gospel. This year, I would like to offer you some reflections on the great theme of justice, beginning from the Pauline affirmation: ‘The justice of God has been manifested through faith in Jesus Christ’.

“First of all, I want to consider the meaning of the term ‘justice’, which in common usage implies ‘to render to every man his due’, according to the famous expression of Ulpian, a Roman jurist of the third century. In reality, however, this classical definition does not specify what ‘due’ is to be rendered to each person. What man needs most cannot be guaranteed to him by law. In order to live life to the full, something more intimate is necessary that can be granted only as a gift: we could say that man lives by that love which only God can communicate since He created the human person in His image and likeness. Material goods are certainly useful and required - indeed Jesus Himself was concerned to heal the sick, feed the crowds that followed Him and surely condemns the indifference that even today forces hundreds of millions into death through lack of food, water and medicine - yet ‘distributive’ justice does not render to the human being the totality of his ‘due’. Just as man needs bread, so does man have even more need of God. St. Augustine notes: if ‘justice is that virtue which gives every one his due ... where, then, is the justice of man, when he deserts the true God?’

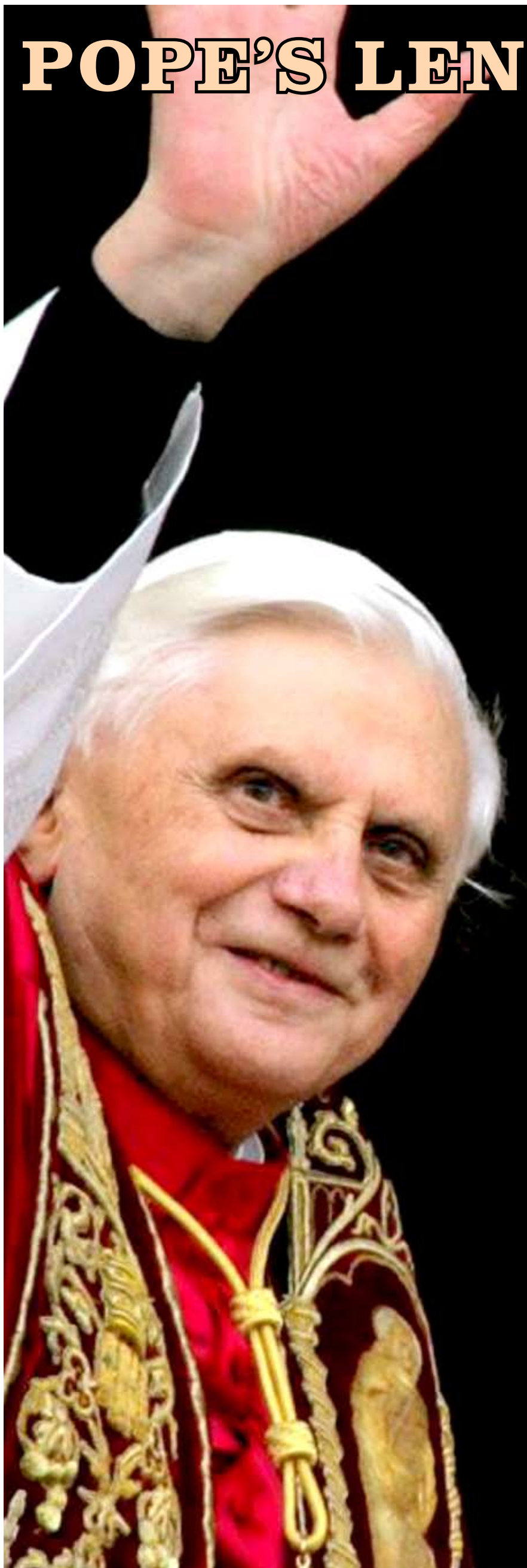
“The Evangelist Mark reports the following words of Jesus, which are inserted within the debate at that time regarding what is pure and impure: ‘There is nothing outside a man which by going into him can defile him; but the things which come out of a man are what defile him. ... What comes out of a man is what defiles a man. For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts’. Beyond the immediate question concerning food, we can detect in the reaction of the Pharisees a permanent temptation within man: to situate the origin of evil in an exterior cause. Many modern ideologies deep down have this presupposition: since injustice comes ‘from outside’, in order for justice to reign, it is sufficient to remove the exterior causes that prevent it being achieved. This way of thinking - Jesus warns - is ingenuous and short-sighted. Injustice, the fruit of evil, does not have exclusively external roots; its origin lies in the human heart, where the seeds are found of a mysterious co-operation with evil. With bitterness the Psalmist recognises this: ‘Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me’. Indeed, man is weakened by an intense influence, which wounds his capacity to enter into communion with the other. By nature, he is open to sharing freely, but he finds in his being a strange force of gravity that makes him turn in and affirm himself above and against others: this is egoism, the result of original sin. Adam and Eve, seduced by Satan's lie, snatching the mysterious fruit against the divine command, replaced the logic of trusting in Love with that of suspicion and competition; the logic of receiving and trustfully expecting from the Other with anxiously seizing and doing on one's own, experiencing, as a consequence, a sense of disquiet and uncertainty. How can man free himself from this selfish influence and open himself to love?

“At the heart of the wisdom of Israel, we find a profound link between faith in God who ‘lifts the needy from the ash heap’ and justice towards one's neighbour. The Hebrew word itself that indicates the virtue of justice, ‘sedaqah’, expresses this well. ‘Sedaqah’, in fact, signifies on the one hand full acceptance of the will of the God of Israel; on the other hand, equity in relation to one's neighbour, especially the poor, the stranger, the orphan and the widow. But the two meanings are linked because giving to the poor for the Israelite is none other than restoring what is owed to God, who had pity on the misery of His people. It was not by chance that the gift to Moses of the tablets of the Law on Mount Sinai took place after the crossing of the Red Sea. Listening to the Law presupposes faith in God who first ‘heard the cry’ of His people and ‘came down to deliver them out of hand of the Egyptians’. God is attentive to the cry of the poor and in return asks to be listened to: He asks for justice towards the poor, the stranger, the slave. In order to enter into justice, it is thus necessary to leave that illusion of self-sufficiency, the profound state of closure, which is the very origin of injustice. In other words, what is needed is an even deeper ‘exodus’ than that accomplished by God with Moses, a liberation of the heart, which the Law on its own is powerless to realize. Does man have any hope of justice then?

“The Christian Good News responds positively to man's thirst for justice, as St. Paul affirms in the Letter to the Romans: ‘But now the justice of God has been manifested apart from law ... the justice of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction; since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, they are justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as an expiation by His blood, to be received by faith’.

“What then is the justice of Christ? Above all, it is the justice that comes from grace, where it is not man who makes amends, heals himself and others. The fact that ‘expiation’ flows from the ‘blood’ of Christ signifies that it is not man's sacrifices that free him from the weight of his faults, but the loving act of God Who opens Himself in the extreme, even to the point of bearing in Himself the ‘curse’ due to man so as to give in return the ‘blessing’ due to God. But this raises an immediate objection: what kind of justice is this where the just man dies for the guilty and the guilty receives in return the blessing due to the just one? Would this not mean that each one receives the contrary of his ‘due’? In reality, here we discover divine justice, which is so profoundly different from its human counterpart. God has paid for us the price of the exchange in His Son, a price that is truly exorbitant. Before the justice of the Cross, man may rebel for this reveals how man is not a self-sufficient being, but in need of Another in order to realize himself fully. Conversion to Christ, believing in the Gospel, ultimately means this: to exit the illusion of self-sufficiency in order to discover and accept one's own need - the need of others and God, the need of His forgiveness and His friendship.

*Turn to page 20*



## Priests and Medical Practitioners

We priests and medical practitioners have many things in common. Aside from having a long period of training, we serve and care for our people often times in *gratis et amore*. Ours is not just a profession or career but a ministry. Jesus' public ministry is more of teaching and healing ministry. He preaches about the Kingdom of God and those who are touched by his powerful word, experiences healing.

Our healing ministry is a way of sharing in the work of Christ, the doctor par excellence. Sharing our presence and care we give hope and joy to those who have infirmities. In fact we are teaching them on how to trust in God's providence. There are ailments which medical intervention may have limits but we all know that God's love respects no boundaries. It overflows into the mind and heart of persons who have deep faith in him.

However, in our private moments where we may be doing a review of life, we notice that we also need to savor our experiences of joy, to hope, and to trust in his divine providence. Our vulnerabilities and frustrations may always be around the corner but they can be gradually healed and transformed to be our strength. When we think of the life story of successful persons who humbly serve the less fortunate, they are the same persons who learned how to transform their trials and pains into blessing.

I appreciate and thank the doctors, nurses and care givers for showing their love, care, and concern for our sick and retired priests. Church awards may not suffice the quality time, kindness, and generous love you have shown to my brother-priests. As you provide medical healing, and we offer sacramental healing, we recognize in faith that everything comes from the Lord, the great healer who restores us to health. We are only channels of his grace, though blest in many ways and not immune from human weakness, we keep trying our best to share God's blessings and become ourselves true blessings to others.

## Mass Media and the Young

Desire for connectedness is obvious among the culture of the young. Through the use of electronic gadgets they can keep in touch and foster friendship. The Church is aware of the role of mass media as a potent force for evangelization thus various magisterial documents have been issued. Benedict XVI, in his message on the 43<sup>rd</sup> World Communications Sunday, invites the young Catholics to become missionaries in the new digital continent, to announce with renewed enthusiasm the Good News of a god who became man who suffered, died and rose again to save us. Unfortunately, people now a days are seemingly more interested of listening to a "new gospel:" that Christ did not suffer, did not die, and did not rise from the dead or he may have sexual affair with Mary Magdalene which in the end becomes a billion dollar industry orchestrated by novelists, Hollywood actors and producers in the guise of freedom of expression. What is labeled as fictitious is sometimes easily believed and disseminated but what is known as revealed truths may be dismissed as obsolete. Secularism and ethical relativism have penetrated our homes, classrooms, market, public offices and even human conscience.

A scientific survey of the Filipino youth shows that twenty seven percent of their time is used for internet, video games and text messaging. Most of them have either one or no parents guiding them, either product of broken family or parents are abroad. And the practice of cheating during exams, pre-marital sex, abortion, drug addiction, homosexual relation, alcoholism, and stealing are seemingly acceptable and not morally wrong at all! Young people are well-talented and full of energy. Generally nothing is wrong with them. They are eager to know the "veritas, bonum, pulchrum and unitas" by a simple click of a mouse in computer. In fact, they are inclined to enroll in prestigious schools or apply as working students. But one should also observe them carefully, for they may not be interested on listening to classroom lectures but mainly to socialize with friends, boasting their top of the line gadgets, and enjoy Sabado nights. They rather listen more to their peers, favorite movie or sports personalities and not so much on the social institutions such as the family, school, church, market and politics. Sad to say, they are often scandalized by their internal squabbling about power and money.

Remember, the media and information technology are God's gifts. They are manifestation of man's search for development. However, these gadgets and facilities should serve the common good. They should be used to promote the dignity and worth of the human person, thus, words and images should not exploit human sexuality. What is alarming - the gradual deterioration of moral values! Not that they don't have values at all, but they lack the capacity to do value clarification. It is time to review among the young the basic lessons of life through an integral faith formation. It is imperative then for all social institutions including the mass media to be youth-friendly, empowering them for the renewal of society.

## Theology of the Heart

When God creates human life, the first organ to develop is the heart. As we celebrate the Year of Two Hearts, it is fitting to have a renewed understanding of the theology of the heart. In Hebrew Old Testament, the word "heart" is called *leb* which means the center of life thus it needs to be restored by food. This is evident when Abraham provided food to his guests that they may restore their hearts. While in Greek New Testament, it is called

by: **Fr. Ronald S. Quijano, SThD**

*cardeia* which occurs 148 times and signifies the corporal organ that is the center of physical life.

The heart according to the book of the prophets, however, is not just the center of physical life but also of spiritual life. Jeremiah claims that it is the place of memory of God's salvific action. The heart may be forgetful sometimes thus the Word of God is inscribed in man's heart. Hosea believes that the heart is the place where God speaks: "I will lead her (Israel) into the wilderness and speak to her heart." Furthermore, Ezekiel emphasizes the heart as the seat of the new covenant. It represents the whole person. "I will replace your heart of stone with natural hearts," that is with new spirit!

Jesus' teachings in the New Testament focus more on the heart as the symbol of the whole interior life of the person. In his Sermon on the Mount, he says: "Blessed are the pure of heart, they will see God." His heart is moved with pity every time he sees people who are in need, and during his Last Supper, he gives his apostles a new commandment, to love one another. When he died on the cross, water and blood flowed from his side, the signs of the sacramental life of the Church: water is the cleansing power of baptism while blood is the saving power of the Eucharist. The Church then is given birth from the side of Christ, the moment when he "breathed the Spirit," the same spirit of love which will be the life-principle of the Church.

The biblical basis of the heart has been developed during the Patristic period. During the fourth century, St. Augustine of Hippo illustrates that the heart is the center of God's presence. The heart remains anxious unless it rests in God. The heart should bow down and makes an act of *humilitas et laude* in order to be completely in union with God. Augustine, moreover, refers to the heart with variety of symbolisms: the "Organ of Knowledge" that is through the heart, we can know God; the "Memory of God" wherein we can learn the Word by the heart; the "House of God" that is his dwelling place; the heart is meant for "Compassion" that is a choice to do good to help others; and "Center of Moral Life" that is the seat of conscience, the voice of God.

During the scholastic period, St. Bonaventure emphasizes that humility must be possessed by the heart in order to gain knowledge of the truth. His contemporary, St. Thomas Aquinas mentions in his *Summa Theologiae* that the heart is the first principle of bodily movement, the principle of life itself. These reflections of great figures of the Church became the philosophical and theological framework for the promotion of the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus which flourished during the 17<sup>th</sup> century through the visionary nun, St. Margareth Mary Alacoque.

The Spirituality of the Heart is a grace-filled experience for the Church due to the internal threat of Jansenist heresy which undermines the capacity of man to be in a state of grace and gains redemption; and the external threat of French revolutionaries who openly expressed their contempt against any form of authority. St. John Eudes composed the prayers for the Sacred Heart now being used in the liturgical sacramentary. Even St. John Mary Vianney, Patron of Priests, true to what his bishop told him, that is to infuse the love of God for his people, propagated this devotion diligently in Ars. Thus, Pius IX in 1856 established the Feast of the Sacred Heart in the universal church calendar. And on the occasion of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the declaration of its official feast, Pius XII issued an Encyclical Letter in 1956, *Haurietis Aquas in Gaudio*. Indeed, love is something that is not diminished when shared. May his love permeate and transform all the strata of our society.

## Faith Enrichment

A devout parishioner once asked, "Father it is better that we have bible study, recollections or catechesis for the enrichment of faith." It is indeed good and noble to have this kind of activities. However we need also to examine our motive: it is out of piety or just for curiosity? The luxury of time will always be around the corner but do we have the amount of diligence and willingness to do so? Are we ready to commit ourselves to what the Gospel demands?

To have a personal experience of Christ is the main reason why these activities are organized. Our encounter with him brings conversion, renewal and commitment to service. In this huge arena of Christian life, we cannot afford to remain as mere passive spectators. We need to be actively involved. Strive to Christianize our Filipino culture shattered by the evil of human greed and find alternatives on how to promote hope and real change among our people.

A great challenge rests on the part of the servant leaders to deepen the content of our Christian doctrine, repackage our methodology, and make it relevant to our daily life. Faith enrichment is not the task of priests and religious, not just of teachers and parents, but of all baptized Christians. All of us by virtue of baptism are stakeholders of this precious gift. Let our family then be the seedbed of faith.



# Happenings



by AA Medrano

## January Birthday Happenings

The month of January begun and ended with birthday party celebrations for friends and members of the Filipino Pastoral Ministry. Some celebrated birthday milestones like Alex Dy and Fr. John Massari. January have by far the most birthday celebrants at Pompei.

Msgr. Romy Montero, Malou Bugarin, Dayday Unarosa led the first week celebrants with a special celebration on January 10 at Pompei. Fr. Lito Cabatuan also had a special birthday party in his honor at St. Emeric Church given by friends from Holy Family and the San Lorenzo Group.

On January 9, after the celebration of the Poon Hesus Nazareno at the Holy Family church, well wishers and friends waited for 12:00 midnight to celebrate Nick Libramonte's birthday at the San Lorenzo Ruiz Scalabrini Center.

On Saturday, January 16, Dayday Unarosa hosted a triple birthday celebration for her birthday, myself and for Simon Quirico A. Gamallo, Susan Gamallo's son at LaGuardia Buffet in Astoria. It was a very wonderful celebration, thanks to all the effort of Annie Swanson who coordinated the party and to Biebic Rivera for the entertainment.

After the party in Astoria, the celebration continued at Our Lady of Pompei for a surprise party of the Pastor, Fr. John Massari, cs. on his birthday. Msgr. Romy Montero, Fr. Mike Lagrimas led the members and volunteers of the Filipino Pastoral Ministry in celebrating Fr. John's birthday with a birthday cake, champagne toast and some Italian pizza. The FPM Music Ministry led by Bro. Adolfo serenaded the Pastor who was very grateful for the birthday surprise.

On January 17, Fr. Romy Hontiveros, Josie Olalo and myself held the Sunday birthday celebration.

Bobby Villanueva celebrated his birthday on January 20. He did not attend his Sunday birthday party due to some personal commitment but his absence did not deter the celebration. Everyone enjoyed the food prepared by his friends. Kevin, Justine and Nelia helped blow the candles of the cake on his behalf.

Alex Dy celebrated a big "60" on January 26. A surprise double party celebration was held at the San Lorenzo Ruiz Scalabrini Center for Alex and for Edith Libramonte who's birthday was on January 23rd. The celebrants especially Alex, were really surprised of the celebration.

On January 29 was Christopher Salvador Go's 1<sup>st</sup> birthday. A special birthday party was hosted by Jun and Elvie on January 30 at Rene's Restaurant. Jun Makinano also celebrated his birthday on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

Happy Birthday also to the following January Birthday celebrators - Fr. Warlito Namu, Fr. Ruben Camayo, Eliza Lapitan, Rosie Rodico, Jesse Montero, Manny Pascual, Letty Dolan, Rochelle Pascual, Jourjine Pascual, Oscar de la Isla, Carmela Sikorski, Armando Caringal, Tess Reyes, Violeta Sangalang, Dr. Cesar Malantic, Maileen Tiamson, Jaime Macatulad, Cecilia Hombrebueno, Virgil Christopher Dizon, Melchor Misa.

Birthday comes only once a year, we should enjoy it while it lasts. But never forget to give thanks to our Lord for the gift of life and the blessings you received. **Happy Birthday to all.**

### SAVE THE DATE: MARCH 26 to 27 - PABASA NG PASYON

The annual non-stop **Pabasa ng Pasyon** on March 26 Friday 8:00 P.M. to Saturday March 27 3:00 P.M. sponsored by the Filipino Pastoral Ministry- Poon Hesus Nazareno sa Village at the San Lorenzo Ruiz Scalabrini Center, 168-41 84<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Jamaica Hills, NY 11432.

### SAVE THE DATE: APRIL 24 - SAYAWAN SA VILLAGE

The Filipino Pastoral Ministry will celebrate its **20<sup>th</sup> Sayawan sa Village** on April 24, 2010, Saturday at the Father Demo Hall of Our Lady of Pompei Church. Tickets is now available. Donation is \$25 with dinner and non-stop dancing.

The first Sayawan sa Village was held on April 6, 1991 when dancing in church halls were unheard of. The Santo Nino Prayer Groups of New York (SPGNY) initiated the Sayawan sa Village to raise funds for the first Santakrusan and Santo Nino Fiesta celebration at Our Lady of Pompei. And because of its success, it became an annual celebration of the SPGNY in the village.



Volunteers and staff members of the Filipino Pastoral Ministry of Our Lady of Pompei Church in Manhattan gave Fr. John Massari, pastor, a surprise birthday party led by Fr. Romy Montero and Fr. Mike Lagrimas.



**Blessing of the throats by Msgr. Romy Montero and Fr. John Massari on St. Blaise feast day on February 3 at Our Lady of Pompei Church in NYC.**

**FILIPINO PASTORAL MINISTRY of Our Lady of Pompei Church  
SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES  
February to April 2010**

**Wednesday 6:30 P.M. Mother of Perpetual Help  
Sunday 3:00 P.M. Misang Pilipino \*  
First Friday 6:30 P.M. Mass and Holy Hour**

**February**  
05 Fri 6:30 PM 1<sup>st</sup> Friday Mass & Holy Hour  
06 Sat 6:00 P.M. Cenacle  
13 Sat 1:00 P.M. FPM Management Committee meeting  
14 Sun 3:00 PM Valentines Day  
17 Wed 6:30 PM Ash Wednesday  
21 Sun 3:00 PM Fr. Bobby Sison's B-day  
28 Sun 3:00 PM February B-day celebration

*\*Fellowship and Free line dancing after the Mass*

**March**  
05 Fri 6:30 PM 1<sup>st</sup> Friday Mass & Holy Hour  
06 Sat 6:30 PM Cenacle  
26 & 27 Fri/Sat 8:00 PM **PABASA NG PASYON** - SLRAA Center  
*Coordinator – Cely & Henry Medrano*  
28 Sun 3:00 PM Palm Sunday  
March Birthday celebration

*\*Fellowship and Free line dancing after the Mass*

**April**  
01 Thu 7:00 PM Holy Thursday - Washing of the Feet  
02 Fri 9:00 AM **Brooklyn Bridge Way of the Cross**  
7:00 PM Good Friday - Veneration of the Cross  
03 Sat 8:00 PM Easter Vigil  
04 Sun 3:00 PM Easter Sunday  
**Children's Easter Egg Hunting**  
11 Sun 3:00 PM Divine Mercy Novena Mass  
18 Sun 3:00 PM **1<sup>st</sup> Day Novena Mass SANTO NINO**  
21 Wed 6:30 PM Perpetual Novena to Mother of Perpetual Help  
1<sup>st</sup> Day in preparation for Feast day - June  
23  
24 Sat 6:30 PM **20<sup>th</sup> SAYAWAN SA VILLAGE**  
25 Sun 3:00 PM April Birthday celebration

*\*Fellowship and Free line dancing after the Mass*

# ON SCHEDULE

Masses, novenas, fiestas and other important religious celebrations.

*"This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it."  
-- Ps 118:24*



by Gene Salle

**FEBRUARY 2010 EVENTS**

**February 14, 2010**  
2:00 PM - **Filipino Mass**  
Incarnation Church,  
89-43 Francis Lewis Blvd.  
Queens Village, NY 11427.  
(Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the Month)  
2:00 PM - **Filipino Mass**  
St. Rose of Lima Church  
269 Parkville Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11230.  
(Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the Month)  
2:00 PM - **Filipino Mass**  
Church of Holy Child Jesus  
111-11 86<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Richmond Hill, NY  
(Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the Month)  
5:00 PM - **Filipino Mass**  
Mary's Nativity Church  
4602 Parsons Blvd., Flushing, NY 11355  
(Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the Month)

**February 21, 2010**  
1:30 PM - **Filipino Mass**  
St. Joan of Arc Church,  
82-00 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Jackson Heights, NY  
(Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the Month)  
1:30 PM - **Filipino Mass**  
Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church,  
101-41 91<sup>st</sup> Street, Ozone Park, NY 11416  
(Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the Month)  
2:30 PM - **Filipino Mass**  
Guardian Angel Church,  
2978 Ocean Parkway, Brooklyn, NY 11235  
(Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the Month)

5:00 PM - **Filipino Mass**  
St. Bartolomew Church,  
43-22 Ithaca Street, Elmhurst, NY 11373  
(Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the Month)

**February 27, 2010**  
6:30 PM - **Filipino Mass**  
Our Lady of Mercy Church,  
70-01 Kessel St., Forest Hills, NY 11375  
(Every 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the Month)

**February 28, 2010**  
2:00 PM - **Filipino Mass**  
Corpus Christi Church,  
31-60 61<sup>st</sup> Street, Woodside, NY 11377  
(Every 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Month)  
2:00 PM - **Filipino Mass**  
St. Agatha Church,  
702 48th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11220  
(Every 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Month)  
5:00 PM - **Filipino Mass**  
Most Precious Blood Church, (Basement)  
32-23 36<sup>th</sup> Street, Long Island City, NY

**MARCH 2010 EVENTS**

**March 6, 2010**  
6:15 PM - **Filipino Mass**  
St. Brigid Church,  
409 Linden Street, Brooklyn, NY 11227  
(Every 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the Month)  
7:00 PM - **Filipino Mass**  
Presentation Church,  
88-19 Parsons Blvd., Jamaica, NY 11432  
(Every 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the Month)

**March 7, 2010**  
12:15 PM - **Filipino Mass**  
St. Patrick Church,  
39-38 29<sup>th</sup> Street, LIC, NY 11101  
(Every 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the Month)  
2:00 PM - **Filipino Mass**  
Our Lady Help of Christians Church,  
1315 E. 28<sup>th</sup> Street, Brooklyn, NY 11210  
(Every 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the Month)  
1:30 PM - **Filipino Mass**  
Our Lady of the Island

Eastport, Long Island  
Long Island Expressway, Exit 70  
(Every 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month)  
**March 14, 2010**  
2:00 PM - **Filipino Mass**  
Incarnation Church,  
89-43 Francis Lewis Blvd.  
Queens Village, NY 11427.  
(Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the Month)  
2:00 PM - **Filipino Mass**  
St. Rose of Lima Church  
269 Parkville Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11230.  
(Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the Month)  
2:00 PM - **Filipino Mass**  
Church of Holy Child Jesus  
111-11 86<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Richmond Hill, NY  
(Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the Month)  
5:00 PM - **Filipino Mass**  
Mary's Nativity Church  
4602 Parsons Blvd., Flushing, NY 11355  
(Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the Month)  
**March 21, 2010**  
1:30 PM - **Filipino Mass**  
St. Joan of Arc Church,  
82-00 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Jackson Heights, NY  
(Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the Month)  
1:30 PM - **Filipino Mass**  
Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church,  
101-41 91<sup>st</sup> Street, Ozone Park, NY 11416  
(Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the Month)  
2:30 PM - **Filipino Mass**  
Guardian Angel Church,  
2978 Ocean Parkway, Brooklyn, NY 11235  
(Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the Month)  
5:00 PM - **Filipino Mass**  
St. Bartolomew Church,  
43-22 Ithaca Street, Elmhurst, NY 11373  
(Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the Month)  
**March 27, 2010**  
6:30 PM - **Filipino Mass**  
Our Lady of Mercy Church,  
70-01 Kessel St., Forest Hills, NY 11375  
(Every 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the Month)  
**March 28, 2010**  
2:00 PM - **Filipino Mass**  
Corpus Christi Church,  
31-60 61<sup>st</sup> Street, Woodside, NY 11377  
(Every 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Month)  
2:00 PM - **Filipino Mass**  
St. Agatha Church,  
702 48th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11220  
(Every 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Month)  
5:00 PM - **Filipino Mass**  
Most Precious Blood Church, (Basement)  
32-23 36<sup>th</sup> Street, Long Island City, NY 11006  
**Filipino Mass every Sunday - 5:00 PM** at the Most Precious Blood Church (Basement), 32-23 36<sup>th</sup> Street, Long Island City, NY 11006.

**Novena to Mother Perpetual Help at 7:00 PM every Wednesday** at St. Patrick Church, 39-38 29<sup>th</sup> Street, LIC, NY 11101.

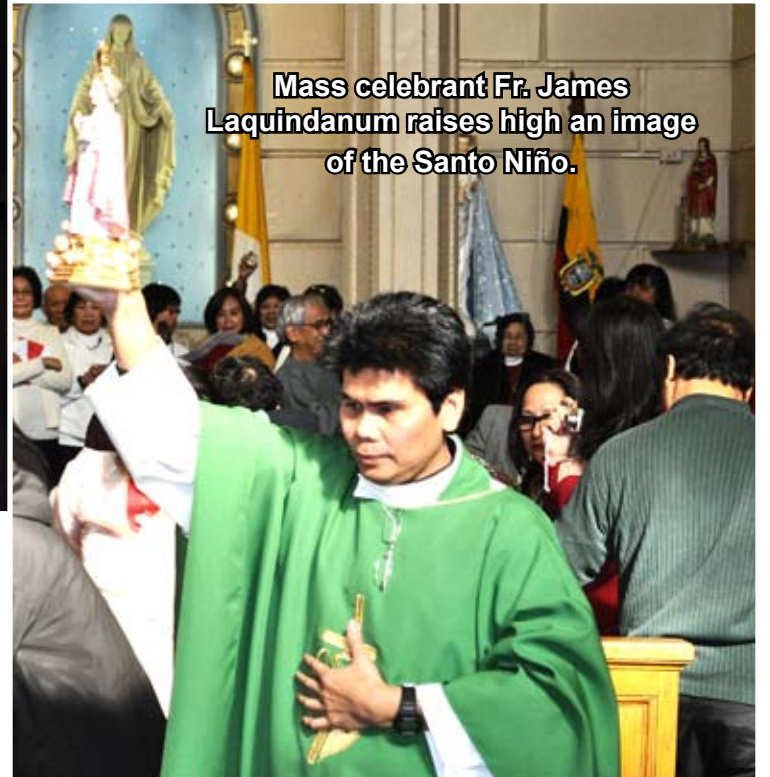
Please show your support to our Filipino Apostolate by participating and joining with us in any of these events. The readings, prayers, homily and songs are said in Tagalog.

# PIT SEÑOR!

## Santo Niño Celebration at St. Patrick's Church, LIC



*The Filipino Apostolate of St. Patrick's Church under Rudy Barrion, and together with the Divino Nino and the Infant Child of Prague Prayer Groups celebrated the fiesta of Señor Santo Niño de Cebu last February 7. The affair was held at St. Patrick's Church in Long Island City with Fr. James Laquindanum as main celebrant.*



Transfer of Santo Niño image from Tess Herradura to Mr. and Mrs. Romeo Marquez, Jr.

Cultural dancers entertain the guests.

# Awit ng Hangal na Alipin

*Sinulat sa Ingles ni Felix Carrol para sa Missionaries of Our Lady of Divine Mercy  
(Pahatid kay Ka Naldo ni Sis. Edna Dy)*

Tanging hiling ni Jack Fullen nuong siya'y kapanamin  
Bilang isang katibayan ng tulong ng Ina Natin  
Na sa ngayo'y siyang diwang ng buong sandaigdigang  
Ating Ginang Niyong Lourdes, siyang turing ng simbahan.

"Isang Hangal?" Siyang tanong niyong manga naruruon;  
Hindi naman katangahan, ang sa paaralang tugon;  
'Di rin naman Katoliko sa tindi ng katapatan;  
Subali at isang araw, ang Diyos ang nagtakdang tunay.

Tubo sa hirap ng Brooklyn, humula nga si Jack Fullen,  
Nuong dalawang gabing tabing bago siya ay kasalin;  
Ang pangako sa kabiyak kapag tatumpo nang taon  
Matatamo'y milyong dolyar ihahandog ang ganuon.

Siya mandin ay dalampo at dalawa na yaong gulang  
Nuong pangako at hula sa asawa'y binitiwang;  
Subali at tatumpo na, yaong milyon ay naparam  
Sa halip ay yaong sakit na Kanser ay ang nakamtan.

Sa madali't yaong sabi yaong isip ay kay tindi  
Magkaroon niyong Kanser bale wala ka ng silbi  
Kung hindi ay yaong buhay mawalan na niyong saysay  
Kung hindi ay ang maglamay:maparam na yaong buhay.

Ito manding si kabiyak, bagaman at hindi tiyak  
Yaong pagka-katoliko, nagbilin sa kanyang liyang  
Sa tindi ng kapansanan, isa lamang tanging lunas:  
Ang magbalik sa simbahan, ang sa sala ay maghugas.

Ito manding si Jack Fullen sa asawa'y walang pansin  
At sa bisyo ay nalugmok simbahan ay nalimot din;  
Bagkus pa nga ay si Sandy na asawang maramdamin  
Ang sa ngayo'y sa simbahan ay nalulong na magdim-

Nuong taong isang libo, pitumpo at limang toto,  
Siyang Pista ng simbahan, kung turinga'y "jubilosong"  
Dahil dalampo at limang taon diwang ng "Devoto"  
Sa Roma ay kapistahan, simbahan ng buong mundo.

Ang mag-asawang Jack Fullen at Sandy ay naki-angkas  
Sa manga taong simbahan na sa Roma nagsi-likas;  
Yaong daang tungong Roma, lahat mandy'y bumabagtas  
Upang biyaya'y matamo, kagalingan niyong lahat.  
Ay kung bakit yaong pangkat hindi agad nagsisulong  
Tungong lungsod niyong Roma siyang dapat na nilayon;  
Sa halip ay yoang Lourdes ng Francia ay ang tinuon  
Na sinsayin habng daan sa Groto pumaruon.

Ay kung bakit mag-asawa nakisakay sa balana  
Maging yaong pagdarasal sa ating Mahal na Ina;  
Sila manding mag-asawa sa ganuo'y napasama  
Maging sa Santo Rosaryo, inusal na kapagdaka.

Ay kung bakit nang sumapit sa pintuan ng San Hosep;  
Mandin sila'y nakaramdam ng ihip na matahimik;  
Mandi'I napawi ang hirap, naglaho na yaong sakit;  
Mandi'y tuluyang yumao yaong bakas niyon Kanser.

Sa pagusal ng dalangin sa Ina natin ng Lourdes;  
Sa pakiki-sabay sa awit na duo'y dinadalit  
Gaya ng Ave Maria niyong iba't ibang tinig;  
Napapawi yaong sakit mula kay Santa Bernadette.

Mandi'y tunay na himala kay Jack na paniwala  
Ay Makita ang asawa gawang pagmamaka-awa;  
Sa pagdasal ng Rosaryo aba'y kanyang kuruin nga  
Asawa na Potestante siya ngayong ginagawa.

Aba'y ano't kapgdaka ang asawa ay sumigaw  
Na yaon daw si Jack Fullen ay lumakas yaong galaw;  
Bunghalit ay "Gumaling na! Gumaling na!" yaong  
sigaw;  
"Asawa ko'y gumaling na, gumaling na siyang tunay."

Yaon kaya ay totoo siya agad naisip ko;  
Paano kung hindi tunay ang sigaw ng asawa ko  
Sampalataya niyang tunay maglalaho at papanaw;  
Yaong aming pagsasama magtatapos yaong saysay.

Kapag balik sa USA agad Doctor ay sinadya  
Upang duon sa Hospital ang X-ray ay isagawa  
Yaong Doctor na Hudyo sa Washington ay natatwa  
Bakit walang nakikita sa X-ray na sinagawa.

Ito manding si Jack Fullen, tunay hindi maniwala  
Yaong Doctor na Hudyo tila mali yaong hula;  
Pasiya ay ang magtungo sa Nuweba York yaong sadya  
Upang sa Sloan Kettering magpasiya niyong kusa.

"Ikaw mandy'y isang Hangal at ayaw mong maniwala!"  
Yaong Kanser naglaho na, yaon mandin ay himala!"  
Itong si Jack ay lumabas sa langit ay tumingala  
"Ikaw mandy'y magaling na!" Ating Ina ang nagwika.

Agad-agad ay tumawag sa asawang naghihintay;  
"Sandy, Sandy ay ako raw, magaling na at mahusay.  
Ang tumor ay di Makita ng Doctor na nagsalaysay  
"Ikaw mandy'y magaling!" Ating "Ina" ay nagsaysay!

"Ikaw mandy'y isang Hangal at ayaw mong maniwala!  
Yaong Kanser naglaho na, yaon mandin ay himala!"  
Yaon mandy'y alam ko nang sa langit ay tumingala:  
"Ikaw mandy'y magaling na!" Ating "Ina" ay nagwika.

Nuon taong isang libo, siyam, walumpo at isa;  
Si Jack mandin ay nagtungong magdasal sa Basilica;  
Duon sa Washington DC, sa Mahal na Ating Ina;  
Upang siya ay gabayan sa buhay ng magasawa.

Subali at siyang tinig na kanya ngang naririnig,  
Wari ay paulit-ulit ng "Ina" ay sinasambit:  
"Ikaw ay magiging Pari!" Tunay hindi ko mabatid  
Sa buhay kong isang ama parang dyablo yaong tinig.

Yaong ganong pangyayari na hindi nga mapagwari;  
Hindi nga kapaniwali, sa asawa'y hinantabi;  
Subali't sa paglalakbay sa Alemanya, ginawi  
Sakit naman ng asawa ang duon ay napagwari.

Duon mandin sa pagsimba sa simbahan niyong Man-  
nheim  
Tila mandin pahimakas sa kanilang pakinabang;  
Si Jack Fullen sa pagbalik nagging Pari kapagkuwan  
Sapagka at ang asawa na si Sandy ay lumisan.

Labing siyam taon nuon, kaarawan niyong taon  
Ng asawa na si Sandy, yumao sa ating Poon;  
Si Father Jack Fullen ngayon siyang amo, siyang patron  
Ng Diyos Ng Madlang Awa, Ating Ina ang katugon.

## Yu Ay Lab

Peter James R. Alindogan

Hawak ko pa ang binigay mo. Halimuyak ni-  
tong kapisasong taglay matagal nang nawala at sa  
gunita na lang nahimlay. Patpat na ang ribbon at  
halos lupaypay na ang papel na kung saan nakasaad  
ang pangalan mo. Alaalang matagal nang inangkin,  
iniwasan, itinabi at isinaalang-alang.

Natatandaan ko pa ang hapong iyon. Pauwi na  
ako. Tapos na ang pagtitipon. Matagal na naman  
bago kita makita. Sa kalungkutang nadama ay  
nakadikit ang pag-asang magiging bahagi ka sa  
mga gabing pangalan mo ang sasambitin, sa mga  
panaginip na mukha mo lang ang hahanapin at sa  
mga araw na kasama ka sa mga bakas ng bukas  
natin.

Ayokong maging gunita ka lamang ng aking ka-  
hapon. Hindi maaaring maging gunita ang umukit  
na sa nataranta kong damdamin. Hindi maaaring  
maging kapisasong alaala ka na lamang ng naghi-  
hikahos kong kaisipan. At hindi maaaring maging  
kasa-kasama lamang kita sa mga panahong ako  
lamang ang nakakaalam ng katapusan, sa kaligaya-  
hang ako lamang ang nakakabatid ng hangganan.

Hanggang malaman kong nasa likuran kita pala.  
Dala ang pangako nating magpapalitan ng mga  
alaala. Dala ang susi na nagpapahiwatig na ako  
pala'y mahalaga. Dala ang palatandaan na parehas  
ang tingin natin sa bawat isa.

Walang katagang lumabas sa bibig kong ang  
tanging bukambibig lamang ay pangalan mo. Kung  
maaari nga lang na pigilan ang takbo ng orasan at  
sa habambuhay ganda mo ay masaksihan. Kung  
maaari nga lang na ipinid ko ang aking mga mata  
at sa bawat sulok ng buhay ko ikaw ang maging  
alaala. Kung maaari nga lang na masaksihan mo  
ang pagmamahal na sa puso ko'y nakabantay.

Ay lab yu. Wala ka na nang sambitin ko ito. Ay  
lab yu. Wala ka na nang sa kadiliman ng gabi ito ang  
naging sigaw ko. Ay lab yu. Wala ka na nang sa  
paglipas ng panahon ito ang naging panaghoy ko.

Sana naging mga luha na lamang ako ng mata  
mo nang sa pagtulo nito'y mahalikan ko ang mga  
labi mo. Ngunit hindi ko nanaisin na maging mga  
luha ka sa mata ko, dahil mawawala ka sa tuwing  
umiyak ako.

Maraming tulad ko ang dumaaan na sa ganitong  
mga pag-alinlangan, pag-atubili, pagsisipi at panghi-  
hinayang. At maraming mga tulad ko ang daraan  
pa sa ganitong mga paghihinagpis, pag-aalala, at  
pagsasaalang-alang.

Ay lab yu. Madaling sabihin, mahirap gawin.  
Ay lab yu. Madalang sabihin sa hirap ng gawain.  
Ay lab yu. Palagiang sinasabi ng mas nakahihigit  
sa atin.

Ito ang palagiang sinasabi ng Panginoon sa atin.  
Sinasing hindi natin naririnig dahil mayroon  
tayong pinapakinggang iba. Sinasing ayaw natin  
marahil marinig dahil kinakailangang gawin natin  
ang sinasabi niya. Sinasing dapat nating marinig  
dahil katotohanan ang nasasalob niya.

Hindi Siya mawawala, madilim man ang gabi o  
lumipas man ang panahon. Hindi Siya mawawala,  
may halik man ang ating mga labi o may luha man  
ang ating mga mata. Hindi siya mawawala, dumaaan  
man tayo sa iba't ibang pag-alinlangan, pag-atubili,  
pagsisi at panghihinayang.

Ay lab yu. Katagang binitawan ng Diyos sa  
bawat taong gawa niya. Ay lab yu. Katagang na-  
rarampat bitawan at gawin ng bawat tao sa Diyos na  
gumawa sa kaniya. Ay lab yu. Mga salitang parat-  
ing naririnig at dapat mapakinggan mahalimuyak  
man ang hangin o lupaypay ang alaala, madilim  
man ang gabi o maliwanag ang pag-asa.

Yu ay lab.



by Ate Norma

# FACES & PLACES



Pacita Zaratan (center, seated) turned 72 last January and members of the Filipino-American Association of St. Mary of the Isle (FAASMI) in Long Beach joined her in her celebration. The celebration was held at Lambrous Seafood and Restaurant in Island Park, NY. Also at the party were her children: Lorenzo Zaratan with wife Grace and son Ethan; Josephine Zaratan Chang; and Joseph M. Zaratan and son Jaja.



SPOTTED IN LONG ISLAND CITY. Mely Borgonia and Linda Jimenez of the God the Father Prayer Group were seen celebrating with members of the Santo Niño at St. Gerard Majella Church in Long Island City.



HAPPY DAY for Fr. Romy Hontiveros (circled) as he celebrated his birthday last January with members of the Filipino Pastoral Ministry of Our Lady of Pompei in NYC.

*"Let us love one another; for love is of God." -- 1 John 4:7*



SCARLETT



CALEB



QUINN



ETHAN



ALLISON

# Suffolk Santo Niño Celebration

*Members of the Suffolk Santo Nino Prayer Group had their 27th Fiesta Celebration last January 17 at St. Cyril and Methodius Church in Deer Park, Long Island. Main celebrant was Fr. James Dineros. The affair started with a rosary and novena to the Santo Nino, followed by a procession before the celebration of the mass. This year's chairman of the Santo Nino Prayer Group of Suffolk is Inday Dineros.*

*The fellowship that followed included cultural programs, singing and dancing.*



Frs. James Dineros and Tony Pascual talk to the congregation.



Chairman Inday Dineros with members of the group.



Installation of new members.



Members of the Suffolk Santo Niño Prayer Group in colorful costumes provided the entertainment during the 27 fiesta celebration of the group at Saints and Cyril and Methodius Church in Deer Park, Long Island.

# Nuestra Señora de Candelaria

Natives of Silang, Cavite, along with other Marian devotees, celebrated the Feast of Our Lady of Candelaria (Nuestra Señora de Candelaria) last February 6 at the Church of St. Gerard Majella in Hollis, New York. Our Lady is the patroness of the town of Silang.

The mass started with the blessing of the candles. Celebrant during the Tagalog mass was Fr. Josh Hugo. After the mass, the celebration continued at the basement of the church where children were treated with "palaro" and games. For the adults, there were food, music and dancing.

The event was coordinated by Gene and Nene Salle.



Mass Celebrant Fr. Josh Hugo with Fiesta Coordinators Gene and Nene Salle.

## Message of Thanks from Fiesta Coordinator Nene Salle

To all who joined us in the celebration of the fiesta of Nuestra Senora de Candelaria (the patron saint of Silang, Cavite) on February 6, 2010 at the Shrine Church of St. Gerard Majella in Queens, New York - **MARAMING SALAMAT PO.**

Gene and I used to accompany Inay almost every year so she can celebrate the fiesta in Silang. Inay loved to do the preparations (of course with help from relatives), watch the caracol pass by our house during the day with all the caracol dancers competing for best presentation and musical bands for best costume and music. At night, the procession also passed by our house with the patron saints of all the Silang baranggays, with the Nuestra Senora de Candelaria at the end of the procession. However, in February 2005, we observed Inay looked really exhausted (perhaps from the long trip from New York to the Philippines) and did not really take much part in the preparations so we decided that would be her last trip to the Philippines to celebrate the fiesta. But Gene thought that if we couldn't celebrate the fiesta in Silang, why not do the celebration in New York.

Thus, the start of the fiesta celebration in New York in February 2006. There would be blessing of candles at the church entrance before the Eucharistic celebration (thanks to Father James Laguindanum who officiated our first fiesta celebration for suggesting this), followed by a procession to the church altar, then the Tagalog Mass with the Filipino Diocesan Music Ministry led by Ricky & Cecil Matela always providing the music (in addition to their already hectic weekly schedule). The mass would be followed by a party – with games, line dancing and a lot of food prepared and brought by family and friends.

At mass, we've asked for a second collection and **ALL** donations went to the Silang Parish Church. The 2006 donations of \$1,000 financed all the upholstery of the church kneelers while the 2007 & 2008 donations totaling \$2000 went to the cabinets, chairs & tables of the multi-purpose center at the parish rectory. We have committed with Father Marty Dimaranan, the current parish priest to assist in the building of the Candle Chapel with the donations of the 2009 and 2010 fiesta celebration of \$1200 and \$750, respectively. **MARAMING SALAMAT PO SA INYONG LAHAT.**

Last but not least; we would like to share how the power of prayers and the intercession of our Blessed Mother worked in this year's fiesta celebration. The week of the fiesta celebration, with the news of a snow storm to hit the tri-state area, some have called us and asked whether the celebration would proceed as scheduled. We said "of course" and added confidently that the snow storm would not hit our area, because Mama Mary would intercede as we included this petition during our novena prayers. Lo and behold the 3-6 inches snow forecast in our area turned out to be just flurries, although it was only natural for some who opted to stay home in light of the storm warnings.

**LET US CONTINUE TO TRUST IN OUR LORD, WITH THE INTERCESSION OF OUR BLESSED MOTHER AND GIVE THANKS FOR OUR ABUNDANT BLESSINGS.**



The month of January is very festive in the Philippines because of the Santo Nino. Many miracles have been attributed to the infant Jesus. Famous among the holy images are the Santo Nino in Tondo, the Santo Nino of Pandacan, and the Santo Nino in Cebu. And of course, all over the world, the Infant Jesus of Prague is very well known. The image in Pandacan is very dark, because I was told that once there was a big fire across the street from the Pandacan church and was fast approaching the church. In desperation and fear, the priest held the image towards the fire, and miraculously, the

fire stopped. There is also a rhyming song about the image, and let me say here the first stanza:

*Santo Nino sa Pandacan  
Puto Seko sa Tindahan  
Kung ayaw kang magpautang  
Ubusin ka nang langam*

I was born in Pandacan and throughout my life, have prayed to the miraculous Santo Nino de Pandacan. The novena begins 9 days before the third Sunday of January, and every night of the novena is a town procession. At the 9<sup>th</sup> day, would be the longest procession as it winds itself down to Beata Street where I lived, some 30 minutes of walk one way, from the Pandacan Church. So you can picture the young and the old processing for an hour, rosary on one hand, a candle on the other hand, praying and chanting together. What faith... what a beautiful sight.

Oh, and then for the town Fiesta, each house is open for guests, and always with a beautiful spread on the table. For us, my father would hand pick a baby pig, either from the babies of our "Red, the Pig" that we had for 12 years, or from another source. He would start the process of preparing the pig at 4:00 am of that Sunday, and by lunch time, for families and guests, was this succulent lechon. Only for the Santo Nino did my father do all this.

Yes, the Santo Nino leaves a strong desire of faith. Here in New York and Long Island, are the Coordinators of the Santo Nino Group (SNG), who dedicate their very limited time (all are actively working), to gather Filipino Catholics in the community, so that the holy image of the Santo Nino could continuously be moved from house to house, family to family and be prayed to. The various Santo Nino groups were started at different times, one as long as more than 29 years ago.

Some of the Coordinators are the following:

**Josephine Bueno (Manhattan)**  
**Noemi Alparo (Queens)**  
**Norma de Jesus (Brooklyn)**  
**John and Alma de la Cruz (Staten Island)**  
**Norma Pascual (Nassau)**  
**Inday Dineros (Suffolk)**  
**Juliet Capili (Queens-San Sebastian Church)**  
**Fe Sales (Rosedale Santo Nino Group)**  
**Rudy Barrion (Long Island City – St. Patrick Church)**

I was able to catch one of the coordinators, Josephine "Josie" Bueno, and she graciously provided me with some information.

Josie has been a Coordinator since 2001, when she was elected to the position, at Our Lady of Pompeii Church. As a Coordinator, Josie makes a lot of telephone calls. The Holy image is brought to a different house every week where the actual transfer takes place on a Sunday. She calls the new host two weeks in advance. And we all know that this is not just the transfer of the image, but also almost like a Fiesta, because there is food served. Presently, the Santo Nino is in Woodside, and at one time, Josie said the Holy image was in New Jersey. Three sets of nine days in the year - in April for the Holy Week, in May for the Santa Cruzan, and in June for the Fiesta (instead of January because of the Winter weather), the Holy image is in the church of Our Lady of Pompeii. This particular image came from Tayuman in Tondo, which was brought by the first Coordinator in 1998.

On a personal side, Josie hails from Ilocos Norte. She has travelled all over the world, and one of her many memorable pilgrimages is in Prague, when she visited the Holy Infant Jesus. "A very holy place", she said, and truly this has inspired her to be a Coordinator for the Santo Nino Group.

# Profile

by Laura Vogel



## Santo Niño Group Coordinators



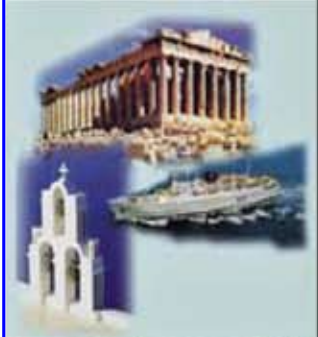
**Josephine Bueno  
Manhattan**



**Rudy Barrion  
Long Island City**



**Fe Sales  
Rosedale, NY**



**PILGRIMAGES 2010**

MAY 10-20	MILAN, TURIN, FLORENCE, ASSISI, ROME <i>Milan, Shroud of Turin, Florence, Assisi, Lanciano, Rome</i>	\$2,649 MIA
MAY 16-25	FATIMA, LOURDES, ZARAGOZA, MADRID <i>Lisbon, Santarem, Fatima, Burgos, Lourdes, Zaragoza, Madrid</i>	\$2,299 EWR
SEP 9-21	WATERWAYS OF RUSSIA <i>St. Petersburg, Mandrogi, Kizhi, Goritsy, Yaroslav, Moscow</i>	\$2,599 JFK
SEP 27-OCT 9	EGYPT & HOLY LAND <i>Cairo, Mt Sinai, Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Tiberias, Cana, Dead Sea</i>	\$2,699 JFK
OCT 9-22	FATIMA, LOURDES, NICE, ROME <i>Fatima, Madrid, Zaragoza, Lourdes, Nice, Florence, Assisi, Rome</i>	\$3,399 EWR
OCT 18-29	ROME and HOLY LAND <i>Rome, Vatican, Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Tiberias, Nazareth, Dead Sea</i>	\$2,999 EWR
OCT 19-27	GERMANY, NETHERLANDS, BELGIUM <i>Frankfurt, Mainz, Maastricht, Louvain, Bruges, Brussels</i>	\$2,899 EWR
OCT 23-NOV 24	EASTERN EUROPE and MEDJUGORJE <i>Warsaw, Krakow, Vienna, Prague, Medjugorje</i>	\$3,149 LAX
OCT 30-NOV 8	HOLY LAND <i>Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Tiberias, Cana, Nazareth, Dead Sea</i>	\$2,299 EWR
NOV 17-28	EGYPT & HOLY LAND <i>Cairo, Mt Sinai, Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Tiberias, Cana, Dead Sea</i>	\$2,599 JFK
NOV 28-DEC 7	HOLY LAND <i>Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Tiberias, Cana, Nazareth, Dead Sea</i>	\$2,299 EWR
DEC 8-13	OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE <i>Mexico City, Puebla, Ocatlan, Teotihuacán</i>	\$1,199 EWR

**OBERAMMERGAU 2010 (PASSION PLAY)**

*(Tickets are limited for each pilgrimage trip)*

MAY 19-30	POLAND/CZECH REPUBLIC/AUSTRIA/GERMANY <i>Warsaw, Krakow, Prague, Vienna, Salzburg, Munich, Oberammergau,</i>	\$3,649 EWR
MAY 20-29	ITALY/SWITZERLAND/GERMANY <i>Milan, Turin, Lugano, Lucerne, Oberammergau, Munich</i>	\$3,399 EWR
AUG 26-SEP 4	ITALY/AUSTRIA/GERMANY <i>Milan, Turin, Padua, Salzburg, Vienna, Prague, Altoetting, Regensburg</i>	\$3,599 EWR
SEP 08 -19	GERMANY/AUSTRIA/SLOVENIA/CROATIA <i>Oberammergau, Salzburg, Bled, Zagreb, Medjugorje, Dubrovnik</i>	\$3,449 JFK
SEP 11-22	GERMANY/AUSTRIA/ CZECH REPUBLIC/ POLAND <i>Munich, Oberammergau, Salzburg, Vienna, Prague, Krakow, Warsaw</i>	\$3,499 EWR
SEP 18-30	GERMANY/AUSTRIA/SLOVENIA/CROATIA <i>Oberammergau, Salzburg, Bled, Zagreb, Medjugorje, Dubrovnik</i>	\$3,399 EWR
SEP 26-Oct 6	GERMANY/AUSTRIA/ CZECH REPUBLIC/ POLAND <i>Munich, Oberammergau, Salzburg, Vienna, Prague, Krakow, Warsaw</i>	\$3,399 JFK

**FAMILY CRUISES**

MAY 26-JUN 8	GREEK AISLES, VENICE, & ROME <i>Venice, Dubrovnik, Athens, Ephesus, Santorini, Rhodes, Naples, Rome</i>	from \$2,040 EWR
JUN 28-JUL 3	5 DAY CANADA & NEW ENGLAND CRUISE <i>New York, Saint John, NB, Halifax</i>	from \$ 579 NY

NOTE: Prices and itinerary are subject to change. Please browse our website for the latest updated schedule. 100204



**Noelette Tours, LLC**

206 Parrott Rd, West Nyack, NY 10994  
 Tel: 1 866-NOELETTE or 845-323-4522  
 Fax: 845-818-3679  
 Email: [sales@noelette.com](mailto:sales@noelette.com)  
 Web: [www.noelette.com](http://www.noelette.com)

Let's study the

# CATECHISM

## Come Holy Spirit, Come.

by Sonia S. Salerni

(Continued from last month)

Come, Holy Spirit, Come!

### IV. THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST IN THE FULLNESS OF TIME

#### John, precursor, prophet, and baptist

717 "There was a man sent from God, whose name was John." John was "filled with the Holy Spirit even from his mother's womb" by Christ himself, whom the Virgin Mary had just conceived by the Holy Spirit. Mary's visitation to Elizabeth thus became a visit from God to his people.



718 John is "Elijah [who] must come." The fire of the Spirit dwells in him and makes him the forerunner of the coming Lord. In John, the precursor, the Holy Spirit completes the work of "[making] ready a people prepared for the Lord."

719 John the Baptist is "more than a prophet." In him, the Holy Spirit concludes his speaking through the prophets. John completes the cycle of prophets begun by Elijah. He proclaims the imminence of the consolation of Israel; he is the "voice" of the Consoler who is coming. As the Spirit of truth will also do, John "came to bear witness to the light." In John's sight, the Spirit thus brings to completion the careful search of the prophets and fulfills the longing of the angels. "He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit. And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God.... Behold, the Lamb of God."

720 Finally, with John the Baptist, the Holy Spirit begins the restoration to man of "the divine likeness," prefiguring what he would achieve with and in Christ. John's baptism was for repentance; baptism in water and the Spirit will be a new birth.

#### "Rejoice, you who are full of grace"

721 Mary, the all-holy ever-virgin Mother of God, is the masterwork of the mission of the Son and the Spirit in the fullness of time. For the first time in the plan of salvation and because His Spirit had prepared her, the Father found the dwelling place where His Son and His Spirit could dwell among men. In this sense the Church's Tradition has often read the most beautiful texts on wisdom in relation to Mary. Mary is acclaimed and represented in the liturgy as the "Seat of Wisdom." In her, the "wonders of God" that the Spirit was to fulfill in Christ and the Church began to be manifested:

722 The Holy Spirit prepared Mary by His grace. It was fitting that the mother of Him in whom "the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily" should herself be "full of grace." She was, by sheer grace, conceived without sin as the most humble of creatures, the most capable of welcoming the inexpressible gift of the Almighty. It was quite correct for the angel Gabriel to greet her as the "Daughter of Zion": "Rejoice." It is the thanksgiving of the whole People of God, and thus of the Church, which Mary in her canticle lifts up to the Father in the Holy Spirit while carrying within her the eternal Son.

723 In Mary, the Holy Spirit fulfills the plan of the Father's loving goodness. With and through the Holy Spirit, the Virgin conceives and gives birth to the Son of God. By the Holy Spirit's power and her faith, her virginity became uniquely fruitful.

724 In Mary, the Holy Spirit manifests the Son of the Father, now become the Son of the Virgin. She is the burning bush of the definitive theophany. Filled with the Holy Spirit she makes the Word visible in the humility of His flesh. It is to the poor and the first representatives of the gentiles that she makes Him known.

725 Finally, through Mary, the Holy Spirit begins to bring men, the objects of God's merciful love, into communion with Christ. And the humble are always the first to accept Him: shepherds, magi, Simeon and Anna, the bride and groom at Cana, and the first disciples.

726 At the end of this mission of the Spirit, Mary became the Woman, the new Eve ("mother of the living"), the mother of the "whole Christ." As such, she was present with the Twelve, who "with one accord devoted themselves to prayer," at the dawn of the "end time" which the Spirit was to inaugurate on the morning of Pentecost with the manifestation of the Church.

# FOR SALE

By Owner



## Townhouse in Long Island City Queens, NYC

Minutes away from Manhattan, one-stop No.7 subway train. Strategic location in the gentrified section of Hunter's Point, Long Island City. Wonderful amenities. And much, much more!

FOR MORE INFORMATION,  
Visit our Website at

[LongIslandCityTownhouse.com](http://LongIslandCityTownhouse.com)

or email us at

[longislandcitytownhouse@wildblue.net](mailto:longislandcitytownhouse@wildblue.net)

#### Christ Jesus

727 The entire mission of the Son and the Holy Spirit, in the fullness of time, is contained in this: that the Son is the one anointed by the Father's Spirit since His Incarnation - Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah. Everything in the second chapter of the Creed is to be read in this light. Christ's whole work is in fact a joint mission of the Son and the Holy Spirit. Here, we shall mention only what has to do with Jesus' promise of the Holy Spirit and the gift of Him by the glorified Lord.

728 Jesus does not reveal the Holy Spirit fully, until He himself has been glorified through His Death and Resurrection. Nevertheless, little by little He alludes to Him even in His teaching of the multitudes, as when He reveals that His own flesh will be food for the life of the world. He also alludes to the Spirit in speaking to Nicodemus, to the Samaritan woman, and to those who take part in the feast of Tabernacles. To His disciples He speaks openly of the Spirit in connection with prayer and with the witness they will have to bear.

729 Only when the hour has arrived for His glorification does Jesus promise the coming of the Holy Spirit, since His Death and Resurrection will fulfill the promise made to the fathers. The Spirit of truth, the other Paraclete, will be given by the Father in answer to Jesus' prayer; He will be sent by the Father in Jesus' name; and Jesus will send Him from the Father's side, since He comes from the Father. The Holy Spirit will come and we shall know Him; He will be with us for ever; He will remain with us. The Spirit will teach us everything, remind us of all that Christ said to us and bear witness to Him. The Holy Spirit will lead us into all truth and will glorify Christ. He will prove the world wrong about sin, righteousness, and judgment.

730 At last Jesus' hour arrives: He commends His spirit into the Father's hands at the very moment when by His death He conquers death, so that, "raised from the dead by the glory of the Father," He might immediately give the Holy Spirit by "breathing" on His disciples. From this hour onward, the mission of Christ and the Spirit becomes the mission of the Church: "As the Father has sent me, even so I send you."

Source: *The Catechism of the Catholic Church*

to be continued ...



# The Gospel Truth



by Rev. Joe Cadusale

The Feast of Santo Niño that we celebrate reminds us of the beginnings of the Christian faith in our land. When the Spanish colonizers arrived in the Philippines, they brought with them, among other things, two symbols of the Catholic faith: The cross and the image of the Holy Child. These symbols continue to deepen the faith of many Catholics in Jesus who became Man, lived among us, and offered His life for us. The origins of the devotion to the Holy Child can be traced to Prague.

In the Philippines, it became widespread even in the early years of the Christianization of the country. The image of the Holy Child was brought to the country by Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan on April 14, 1521, as a gift to Queen Juana of Cebu who was reportedly moved to tears after she saw the 15-inch tall wooden statue of the Santo Niño. She allowed herself to be baptized as a Christian along with her husband Rajah Humabon and more than 800 natives. After Magellan was killed by Lapu-Lapu in the Battle of Mactan, not much was heard about the image, except that the Cebuanos worshipped the Santo Niño as a rain god. Forty years later, in 1565, when Spanish "conquistador" Miguel Lopez de Legaspi arrived in Cebu, a Spanish soldier, Juan Camus, found the image inside the house razed by fire that miraculously spared the holy image.

Today the image is enshrined in the Basilica del Santo Niño in Cebu City. Filipinos love the Santo Niño which mirrors the childlike qualities that are necessary for our entry into God's kingdom. It is our duty to know and to do what is expected of us to truly be called children of God. We must follow the way of Jesus who was obedient to the will of God, His Father. May the will of God be the center of our lives. VIVA SANTO NIÑO!

## JOIN FR. JOE'S BIBLE STUDY CLASS

For more information, please call: (718) 275-3936

Most Precious Blood Charismatic Prayer Community  
Most Precious Blood Church  
32-23 36th Street  
Long Island City, NY 11106  
Head Servant: Nenet Barbilla  
718 937 5242  
2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday 7:30 PM

El Shaddai Prayer Community  
Most Precious Blood Church  
32-23 36th Street  
Long Island City, NY 11106  
Head Servant: Amerito Gerodias  
718 458 8214  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday 3:00 PM

Light Of Christ Prayer Group  
St. Nicholas of Tolentine  
150-75 Goethals Avenue  
Jamaica, NY 11432  
Head Servant: Cookie Fernandez  
718 380 1712  
Last Thursday 7:30 PM

Family of Christ Prayer Community  
Presentation Church  
8819 Parsons Blvd., Jamaica, NY 11432  
Head Servant: Margie Fontanilla  
718 658 2078  
1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday 7:30 PM

Mary Mother of Divine Healer  
St. Gerard Majella Church  
188-16 91<sup>st</sup> Ave., Hollis, NY 11423  
Head Servant: Raymonde Cesaire  
718 445 4423  
1<sup>st</sup> Friday 7:30 PM

Haitian Community  
90-33 184<sup>th</sup> Place  
Hollis, NY 11423  
Head Servant: Alberte Madame Delatur  
718 454 8572  
3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday 7:30 PM

Sacred Heart Family Apostolate  
37-74 6<sup>th</sup> St.  
Woodside, NY 11377  
Head Servant: Remy Consoli  
718 424 7984  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday 6:30 PM

English Community  
161 Le Grand St.  
Brentwood, NY 11717  
Coordinator: Rose Nallie Germain  
631 231 8758  
1<sup>st</sup> Thursday 7:30 PM

Filipino Catholic  
453 Hawthorne Avenue  
Uniondale, NY 11553  
Coordinator: Dr. Norma Pascual  
516 2921445  
Last Monday 8:00 PM

Handmaid of the Lord/Couples for Christ  
202-35 Foothill Ave., A-38  
Hollis, NY 11423  
Head Servant: Dolly Pawal  
718 468-8463  
Last Sunday 6:30 PM

San Sebastian Charismatic Prayer Group  
39-63 57th St.  
Woodside, NY 11377  
Head Servant: Loida Villacompa  
201-993-5599  
4th Monday of a 5-Monday Month, 8 PM

Our Lady Queen of Martyrs  
110-06 Queens Blvd.  
Forest Hills, NY 11375  
Head Servant: Nellie Milite  
718 544 5141  
2<sup>nd</sup> Friday 7:30 PM

Haitian Community  
16339 130th Ave., Apt 5C  
Jamaica, NY 11434-3014  
Head Servant: Raymonde Cesaire  
718 481 9683  
4<sup>th</sup> Saturday 7:00 PM

Filipino Community Our Lady of Angels  
2860 Webb Ave., Bronx, NY 10468  
Head Servant: Josette Camino  
718 543 0884  
2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday 7:30 PM

Divine Mercy Devotion Our Lady of Victories  
2217 Kennedy Blvd.,  
Jersey City, NJ 07304  
Head Servant: Tess Alvarez  
4<sup>th</sup> Friday 7:00 PM

St. John Prayer Community  
272 Boyd Ave  
Jersey City, NJ 07304  
Head Servant: Purita Vasquez  
201 333 3136  
3<sup>rd</sup> Monday 7:00 PM

St. Nicholas Prayer Group  
122 Ferry St.  
Jersey City, NJ 07307  
Head Servant: Elsa Leonida  
210 656 2010  
1<sup>st</sup> Sunday 6:30 PM

Puissance Divine D'Amore  
820 Wallace Ave  
Baldwin, NY 11510  
Head Servant: Vyrose Saint-Urban  
516 378 8173  
2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday 7:30 PM

Home Bound Bible Study  
St. Rose of Lima  
269 Parkville Ave  
Coordinator: Violeta Robbins  
718 677 8131  
1<sup>st</sup> Saturday 2:00 PM

The Vine & the Branches Incarnation Prayer Group  
92-19 212th St., Queens Village, NY 11428  
Head Servant: Ofelia Villar  
718 465 0087  
3<sup>rd</sup> Friday 7:00 PM  
Family of God  
160-31 78th Rd

Flushing, NY 11366  
Coordinator: Perla Leonardo  
(718) 591-4579  
2<sup>nd</sup> Friday, 9:00 PM

The Lord's Flock Prayer Group  
Sta. Rita  
281 Bradley Ave., Staten Island, NY 10314  
Coordinator: Myrna Leyson  
718 983 1410  
3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday 8:00 PM

Filipino Community  
Our Lady of the Angelus  
63-63 98th St., Rego Park, NY 11374  
Coordinator: Ofelia Concepcion  
(718) 897-4444  
2<sup>nd</sup> Monday 7:30 PM

Saint Martin de Porres Healing Ministry  
Flushing Chapter  
86-60 Range St., Bellrose, NY 11427  
Coordinator: Sylvia David  
(718) 913-6922  
3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday 8:00 PM

St. Anne Prayer Group  
3545 Kennedy Blvd  
Jersey City, NJ 07307  
Coordinator: Tina Edelmann  
(201) 653-4785  
5th Friday 7:30 p.m.

Dominican Nuns  
Corpus Christi Monastery  
1230 Lafayette Ave., Bronx, NY 10474  
Coordinator: Sr. Maria Pia  
718 328 6996  
Last Saturday, 9 AM

God the Father/I Am Prayer Group  
150-38 Union Turnpike, Apt. 5-0  
Flushing, NY 11367  
Coordinator: Cecilia Pang  
718-380-0922  
2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday, 2:00 PM

## REAL ESTATE



### Is Buying Your First Home Stressful?

by Robert Fernandez

As in anything you're doing for the first time, an activity like buying a home can be full of worries or concerns and can put a lot of stress on anyone. There are many questions going through the homebuyers' heads. Issues may be about affordability, location, schools, home's condition, conveniences, commuting, quality of life, financing, environment, among others. One can not avoid stress. However, there are ways how to reduce the amount of stress like being prepared by educating oneself and asking help from the right people – professionals with the know-how and experience. The right team of professionals can enlighten and guide you to make your life bearable during the home buying process. Homebuyers have to deal with many people in industries like real estate, mortgage, home inspection, pest control, legal and insurance, among others. Have an open mind. Do your homework, listen and ask questions. Communication is a key factor. Once you have an understanding of the current home buying process a lot of things will make sense. When you feel comfortable you'll make informed decisions that will ease your feelings and ultimately reduce your stress level.

Here are some suggestions:

- Communicate with your spouse or partner. You have to be on the same page – either agree or compromise. Resolve questions that are important to you like: What's the range of monthly amortization are you comfortable with? What particular styles of home do you prefer? What's the maximum commuting time to work? Misunderstandings are reduced, if not eliminated, through communication.
- Get pre-approved by a reputable lender or mortgage broker – As credit tightens, mortgage programs have more stringent requirements. Good credit scores are quite important. Find out how much funds are needed for down payment for different type of loans, closing costs and other expenses and the timing of when you need them. Know your sources of funds – savings, gifts, investments, etc.
- Deal with knowledgeable and trustworthy professionals – You'll be dealing with various organizations and individuals. They should be working for your best interests, can educate and guide you with the intricacies of the transaction.
- Have a home inspection done. Buying a home may be the biggest purchase you may make in your life. Knowing the condition of the property you're buying is in excellent shape is a great stress reliever.
- Speak to your critics after everything is all said and done. Yes, your critics – could be any of your relatives and friends who could spoil things for you – putting doubts on your decision. They may make comments like: What! You're paying that much? It's not worth the money. You're moving in that town? Mind you, they mean well. Remember, however, you'll be the one living and paying for the house, not them. You already made up your mind and you know what's best for you and your family. Just tell them you bought a house after the closing.

Robert L. Fernandez, Certified Residential Specialist and Notary Public, is Broker / Owner of Realty Network in East Meadow, New York. He can be reached at 516-542-7936 or by email: Robert@RealtyNetworkNY.com.

# ADVERTISE

in

## THE FILIPINO CATHOLIC

Call for Rates

### (516) 292-1445

**PrimeLending**  
A Plains Capital Company



## MORTGAGES

PURCHASE OR REFINANCE

Mortgages without Obstacles

**KURUR RAJAN**

**FREE  
FLOAT DOWN  
RATE LOCK OPTION**

PH: 914-760-9525 , Fax: 914-375-3044  
1279 Route 300, Newburgh, NY 12550

**INSTANT CREDIT APPROVAL AND FAST CLOSING**

# Guiradelco

Philippine-Oriental  
Restaurant & Grocery

324 Post Avenue  
Westbury, NY 11590

## (516) 333-9898

*Authentic Philippine  
Cuisine • Home style  
Cooking • Philippine  
and Oriental Food*



Emma Yuson  
Proprietor

# ARE ALL PROPHETS?



by Deacon Rolando V. Nolasco

St. Paul in his teaching tries to compare the Church with the body to cast light on the intimate bond between Christ and his Church. This will help us understand the complex thought of unity in diversity – “though the body has many parts, we are one body in Christ”. So he concludes that not all are apostles, prophets or teachers to distinguish the varied functions each one must perform. Such truth emphasizes the reality that we are called to contribute our share in building-up the “Body of Christ”. With the same thought, the many parts perform specific task for the well-being of the one body. Any condition that will inhibit performance of such task, even the least of the part, will affect the whole being. This affirms that each part is important though the task it performs may not be

as significant in comparison to the vital organs. So St. Paul declares: “If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it. Every member of the Church therefore can meaningfully contribute its share of the responsibility. It does not matter how menial the task we undertake. Remembering Mother Theresa of Calcutta, her very pious advice is to “do simple tasks with great love.” This thought allows us to comprehend God’s unconditional love for everyone regardless of his state of life. It does not mean however that we are to be content with our desire for less and unchallenging task. This simply does not fit to what Mother Theresa asked of us to accomplish our task with great love. Much more, St. Paul’s Letter to the Romans asked of us to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice. Only the best can be an offering to God.

In the eyes of God, we are all the same whether we do ordinary or extra-ordinary tasks as long as we do our share with a sincere and willing heart. God shows no favoritism. Perhaps, this could raise the issue why some receive more blessings than others. So Scriptures tell us that those who had been given much, much is expected of them. In the Church, there is division of labor and everyone is asked to become active member of the community. Unfortunately, I have witnessed reluctance of some to allow others to participate. There is the tendency for some to hung-on to their ministry as if they were ordained to it. We do have what we call “super ministers” in Church communities performing varied tasks even in the same Eucharistic celebration. I have seen some doing multiple tasks within one liturgical celebration. It has been encouraged and practiced to rotate lay ministers so as to allow new recruits to become active participants in a very lively and robust faith community. The tendency for some to dominate church functions must always be discourage. Hence the need for continued education of the faithful is a must for the pastoral team to undertake.

Catechism of the Catholic Church states that the body’s unity does not do away with diversity of its members. The Church being Catholic means universal and hence embraces all peoples and culture is gathered together. Using the image of many grains of wheat that makes bread, we are all gathered as one; the many clusters of grapes that makes wine. The use of bread and wine in the Eucharistic celebration is a fitting image to symbolize our unity with God. Among the “Church’s members, there are different gifts, offices, conditions and way of life.” Unfortunately, ruptures that harm the unity of Christ’s Body do occur because of human sinfulness. Origen wrote “where there are sins, there are also divisions, schisms and disputes.” We had been warned of the coming of false teachers of faith preaching destructive untrue doctrines. This too, can bring in division and confusion to the community of believers. St. Paul urged in his pastoral Letter to Titus that “presbyter must hold fast to the authentic message” and the faithful to follow sound doctrine. In addition, he urged us to refute who contradict such authentic teaching. Labeling these false teachers as “empty talkers and deceivers” he directed that they be silenced. Those rightly called to the ordained ministry pass a thorough and rigid scrutiny to ensure that they pass on authentic doctrine. Meanwhile, efforts to curb proliferation of false teachers distorting the truth have never been done. A case in point is a religious cult leader teaching his followers that they are different, simply being a member of his group, from the rest of the faithful. Using the slogan: “*Ibang-iba kaysa iba*”, many seem contently embracing this fallacy. Such stance is blatantly wrong and arrogant. I believe that many apparently seem to forget the reality that “all have turned away from God and have fallen short of the glory of God.” It is because of our sins that God had given our Lord Jesus over to death. Thus St. Paul wrote that no one has ever put himself right with God; only by the blood of Jesus. With God, there is no one who can claim to be above anyone else. “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for we are all one in Christ Jesus.”

## Pope’s Lenten Message ... from page 6

“So we understand how faith is altogether different from a natural, good- feeling, obvious fact: humility is required to accept that I need Another to free me from ‘what is mine’, to give me gratuitously ‘what is His’. This happens especially in the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist. Thanks to Christ’s action, we may enter into the ‘greatest’ justice, which is that of love, the justice that recognises itself in every case more a debtor than a creditor, because it has received more than could ever have been expected. Strengthened by this very experience, the Christian is moved to contribute to creating just societies, where all receive what is necessary to live according to the dignity proper to the human person and where justice is enlivened by love.

“Dear brothers and sisters, Lent culminates in the Paschal Triduum, in which this year, too, we shall celebrate divine justice - the fullness of charity, gift, salvation. May this penitential season be for every Christian a time of authentic conversion and intense knowledge of the mystery of Christ, who came to fulfil every justice. With these sentiments, I cordially impart to all of you my apostolic blessing”. (VIS)

# SACRAMENTALS

## Holy Water

Did you know there are many different types of Holy Water for different applications?

For example there is exorcised holy water and there is blessed holy water. Which type do you have? Are you gaining all the benefits that Holy Water offers? Do you know what some of these benefits are?

Holy water is perhaps the most plentiful sacramental on earth and yet it is perhaps the least effectively used by us lay people.

Suppose some one were to tell us that every time you put your hand in a holy water font and made the sign of the cross we would receive one thousand dollars.

Would we do it? Of course we would. However what we would actually receive would be something worth more than a million dollars. It would be priceless. What would it be?

It would be grace. It is grace purchased by the Blood of Christ.

When we make the sign of the cross with holy water it washes away venial sins. The traditional prayer one can say when doing this is: “*By this holy water and your Precious Blood washes away my sins, O Lord.*” It helps drive away the forces of evil and allows better concentration on such things as the mass. This is one of the reasons for holy water fonts in churches. It gives an added grace of purity and helps us in many ways to develop other virtues as well. There has been, as you may know, many healings in mind, body and soul with the application of holy water. Katherine, a school secretary put regular holy water daily on her husband’s cancer of the jaw for some seventeen years and the cancer was held in check. Knowing this we can see why so many people make use of holy water fonts in their homes.

Many people when they cook add holy water. One lady always used holy water when she made cookies. A Jewish man she knew loved them. Eventually he converted into the Catholic Faith. She felt it was the holy water in the cookies that did it. Other people will add a splash of holy water to their drinks for the graces one derives from it.

Many smart mothers will sprinkle holy water on their children’s beds for a peaceful night’s sleep. Many mothers have seen their children’s nightmares and fears disappear after a liberal sprinkling of holy water.

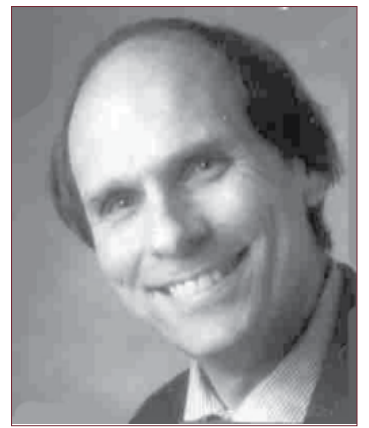
It is good to sprinkle holy water in each corner of the rooms of the house. It should be done as piously as possible. Making the sign of the cross with holy water on each door and window of the home has proven to be very effective against storms and other threats.

When traveling it is wise to carry holy water on you at all times. In hotels and motels sprinkle holy water in each corner of the room. Who knows what took place there and what evil spirits of drugs, illicit sex, etc. are hanging around to tempt and bother you.

Holy water can be put into two different classes, exorcised and blessed. Before Vatican II all the Catholic Churches used exorcised holy water. For example, every holy water font in Churches had exorcised Holy Water. In all the Baptisms, exorcised holy water was used. After Vatican II, the holy water they use is blessed. What is the difference?

To formulate exorcised holy water two pages of prayers are said exorcising the water and the salt and then combined with more prayers. To make blessed water, now used after Vatican II, one paragraph of a blessing prayer is said with usually no salt added. Fr. Gabriel Amorth, the chief exorcist of Rome who did some 30,000 exorcism said in his book, “An Exorcist Tells His Story,” that he felt one of main reasons we are losing so many of our youth to the occult is due to the lack of use of exorcised holy water for baptism and the stripping away of some of its prayers. Exorcised holy water has specific prayers against the forces of evil and specific graces for health in mind body and soul.

As you may know the effectiveness of any sacramental also depends in part to our faith in Jesus Christ in whom all things are possible.



by Scapular John

The  
**OPTICIANS**



**Quality Eyeglasses & Sunglasses  
at Budget Prices**

Located in: TRI-COUNTY Shopping Center  
3041 Hempstead Turnpike, H-10, 1st Floor  
Levittown, NY 11756

**(516) 735-4307**

Thurs. & Friday - 12 noon to 9 p.m.

Sat. & Sun 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**E. HENRY DE LOS REYES, your kababayan optician**

*“Should there be a prophet among you, in visions will I reveal Myself to him, in dreams will I speak to him.” -- Numbers 12 : 6*

## VISION A Religious Experience

by Karen Canillas

Through all the years, almost always during a healing session, some among the many who have been prayed over by Sister Josie would pleasantly and joyfully be surprised with a wonderful gift of a vision. Some others would be deeply affected by the steering message they receive during this holy moment. So much that this extraordinary religious experience led them to their conversion, from their evil ways to a Christian life of honesty and goodness. The gift of vision was manifested while the individual was resting in the spirit previously termed as “being slain by the spirit.”

All those who experience this religious phenomenon wondered how and why such manifestations were revealed to them. All of them however, were one in saying that the experience brought them great joy and peace of mind. It inspired in them piety and increase faith. Then they wonder, are these religious experiences received through divine grace or are they a paramystical phenomenon?

May all who receive this religious experience humbly pray for the presence and guidance of the Holy Spirit that they may heighten their desire for closer union with God and remain faithful to His teachings.

### TESTIMONY

Spiritually starved, I still did not know what to expect when Sister Josephine came to our home in Watchung, NJ Sept. 1993. See, I did not know in the least the gifts from the Holy Spirit, like healing, prophecy, wisdom, etc... which is explained in Corinthians 2 of the Holy Bible. All I knew was that I wanted my dad to be healed and it was worth it to me to pray as hard as I could. We were told by Sister Josephine that we should continue a nine day novena for my father’s intention. So one of the first days of the

novena, I actually received a gift from the Holy Spirit but I could hardly believe my eyes.

We started praying the novena, and I was crying, the next thing I knew, the ceiling opened up and I saw the sky with the Virgin Mary standing on the clouds. She was beautiful and both of her hands were extended downwards. From her hands came bright rays of yellow light and they were coming down on my dad and Sister Josephine. (At the moment my dad was on the ground and Sister

Josephine’s hand was on his tumor and Sister Josephine was in ecstasy.) Sister Josephine later explained to me that the Virgin was in the title “The Miraculous Medal” as I did not know the Virgin has many titles. From the ceiling, the day was so beautiful and the sky was blue but from the window it was gray and raining all day. This was an apparition - I did not know that, either. From then, I knew that God was pouring out graces on my dad who was in a very late stage of prostate cancer with metastatic tumor-pressing on the abdominal aorta. Sister Josephine was the Lord’s instrument to bring us back to Him. Her strong faith in the Lord through the intercessory power of the Blessed Mother and St. Martin de Porres inspired every member of my family, friends and relatives to pray continuously for healing. This sacrifice of prayer was lovingly rewarded with a miraculous cure. The tumor disappeared. My dad’s physical healing brought about my spiritual awakening realizing that I have strayed away from the path of salvation for many years. I thank the Lord for accepting me back through the sacrament of confession. As a prodigal daughter fully acknowledging how much I neglected my Christian obligation, I now keep myself in prayers to strengthen me against the evil forces and lead a life most pleasing to the Lord.



**Sister Josephine praying over Karen Canillas at Our Lady of the Angelus Church, Rego Park, New York.**



**Karen Canillas  
New Jersey -- May 11, 1995**

# Five Star DP Sea Cargo, Inc.

"Door to Door Cargo from the USA to the Philippines"

## BALIK BAYAN BOXES

For Speedy and Reliable Service  
call our Authorized Agents:

**Jun Makinano**  
**Cell # (718) 440-5332**

**Francis Zarraga**  
**Cell # (646) 510-1242**

**\$60 Metro Manila**  
**\$65 Luzon • \$70 Visayas/Mindanao**

**Main Office:**  
8 Palisade Ave., Bergenfield, NJ 07621

**Manila Office:**  
59 Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City, MM



**Would you like  
to sponsor  
a Santo Niño  
Novena?**

**For information, call...**

Nita Vasquez..... (516) 931-5229  
Zeny Berroya ..... (516) 869-8202  
Eden Gaceta ..... (516) 942-0203  
Norma Pascual ..... (516) 292-1445



## Virgin of the Barangay

If you wish to sponsor a novena to  
Our Lady in your home, please call:

Bayani Villaver (201) 451-1669  
Aida Manlangit (973) 335-4435  
Josette Camino (347) 879-3674  
Cora Mendoza (973) 364-5241  
Maria Sulat (201) 386-1132  
Myrna Agustin (201) 222-6365  
Fred Soliva (718) 365-9253  
Norrie Cornelio (212) 777-2662



### Prayer to SAINT MARTIN DE PORRES

St. Martin de Porres, you always had sympathy for the poor and those who were suffering. I need your help and now ask for it with great confidence in your goodness and power. The favor you received from God encourage us now to ask your intercession. We ask you most humbly to befriend us and assist us from your place in heaven. When you were here on earth you spent your life loving God and your neighbor. Now that you live in the presence of God, intercede for us and beg the Divine Physician to give us health of soul and body. Amen. JCC

**Do all your food shopping at ...**



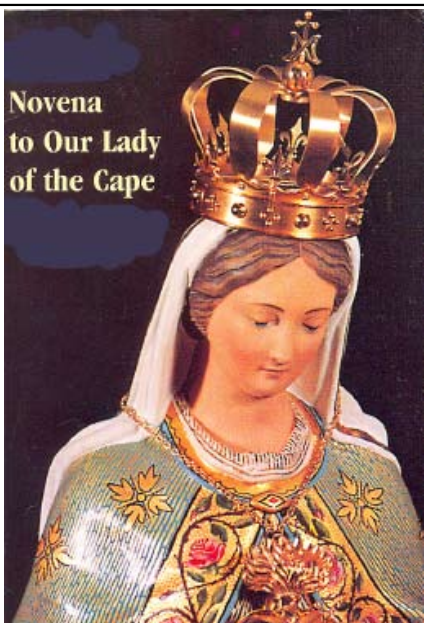
**Philippines' Best**



*Long Island's largest and most complete  
selection of fresh and canned Filipino and  
Oriental foods ... cooking ingredients ...  
snacks and delicacies ... and a variety of  
other Philippine products.*

**56 Woodbury Road  
Hicksville, New York 11801**

**(516) 939-0800**



### Seventh Month

Virgin Mary, you know the misery and wickedness of our world, its violence, its injustice, its lies . . .  
We implore you, Mother of all, defend the defenseless who tremble and are afraid. Be the refuge and strength of victims of hatred and violence.  
Obtain from the Holy Spirit that those who humiliate others, who burden and exploit them, may experience a radical conversion and change of heart.  
Have compassion on those who are dying of hunger. Intercede for all those who cannot find work and must continue to live with inadequate food and shelter.  
Enlighten governments and leaders who have the responsibility to care for the weakest and most vulnerable in our society.  
Where accidents and disasters strike relieve the sufferings of families overwhelmed with loss and grief.  
Our Lady of the Cape, with your assistance, may our children grow and live in a world of peace, justice and love. JCC

# SACRED HEART FAMILY APOSTOLATE

63-27 64th Roosevelt Ave., Woodside, NY 11377 • 718-606-1873 • 718-606-2670

Divine Mercy Images in poster, vinyl or canvas print in three designs, Vilnius (original image), Hyla or Skemp (with a door). Available in all sizes.

Call 718 424 7984

or Cell 917 607 6137

Church Display, framed or unframed.

Get special discount.

Also available, affordable pilgrimages in August and September at Krakow, Poland, or/and Papal Audience in Rome, and/or Medjugorge, Fatima,

Lourdes accompanied by a priest.

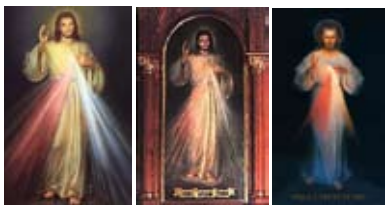
Please call same numbers.

By The Sacred Heart Family Apostolate  
Bilingual Library and Gift Shop.

37-74 64th Street, Woodside, NY 11377

Office: 718-424-7984, 718-606-1873, 718-606-2670

Cell 917-607-6137



## Divine Mercy

On Canvas

Church Display Sizes Available

Call for Prices

### Our Lord to Saint Faustina

This is the hour of great mercy for the whole world... In this hour, I will refuse nothing to the soul that makes a request of Me in virtue of My Passion.

My daughter, try your best to make the Stations of the Cross in this hour, provided that your duties permit it; and if you are not able to make the Stations of the Cross, then at least step into the Chapel for a moment and adore in the Blessed Sacrament.

### The Three O'Clock Prayer

Thou died Jesus, but the source of life flowed out for souls and the ocean of mercy opened up for the whole world.

O Fountain of Life, immeasurable Divine Mercy, cover the whole world and empty Thyself out upon us.

O Blood and Water which flowed out from the Heart of Jesus as a Fountain of Mercy for us, I trust in Thee.

Holy God, Holy Omnipotent, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us and on the whole world. (3 times) Amen.

### The Chaplet of the Divine Mercy (Divine Mercy Feast Day, April 19)

(To be recited on ordinary Rosary beads) Begin with: Our Father... Hail Mary... The Apostles' Creed

### On the Our Father Beads

V. Eternal Father, I offer Thee the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Thy most beloved Son, Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ;

R. In atonement for our sins and the sins of the whole world.

### On the Hail Mary Beads

V. Through the most Sorrowful Passion of Jesus,

R. Have mercy on us and on the whole world.

### In conclusion

Holy God, Holy Omnipotent, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us and on the whole world. (3x) Amen. Jesus, King of Mercy, I trust in Thee.

## ILO-COST TRAVEL

Visit the Philippines at low cost!

Book your flight before Christmas! Book NOW!

PROMO Package Tours:

a. \$1900.00 - Backpack Pilgrimage to 3 countries

May 7-16, 2010

Destinations: Miraculous Medal Shrine, Vincent de Paul, Lisieux, Rouen-  
Joan of Arc,

St Theresa of Avila, St John of the Cross, Fatima and Santarem

**BOOK NOW** (with 50%DP) to avail of the lowest price.

Price may change if booked on later days due to changes in airfare.

b. "Suggest-your-choice-of-Pilgrimage" Package

Every 13th of the month starting from May to Oct - Fatima

In June, Sacred Heart Shrine in France

c. 5-day or a week Tour for less than a thousand

Destinations: Fatima, Medjugorge, Rome-papal audience, Shrines of  
Italy and/or Krakow.

\* Around 10 persons in every package tour with a priest.

CALL 718.606.1873 or 917.607.6137 for reservations.

## IRS TAX PROBLEMS ... we can help.

Formation of business organization.  
Corporation, LLC, Federal ID. Restore  
your credit score in a month.  
Call 646-209-4971 (accountant) or  
visit the office at 37-74 64th Street,  
Woodside, NY 11377

Boxes to the Philippines  
Promo: Pick-Up Only  
Padala 5, Libre 1  
Padala 10, Libre 2  
Rates:  
Manila - \$59  
Luzon - \$69  
Visayas/Mindanao - \$79

### Sponsors of this ad and services:

1. Sacred Heart Family Apostolate (64th St.)
  - Family Library, Club -- assist in starting religious libraries
  - 2nd Sunday Bible Study, Family Monthly Support Group Meetings
  - Assist in Home Enthronement of the Two Hearts
2. Quality Hands Placement Co. - Employment Services (64th St.)
3. NY Construction - Licensed and Bonded (64th St.)
4. Taxes - Authorized IRS E-File Provider (64th St.)
5. BPI MONEY REMITTANCE-WOODSIDE. Main BPI in Queens. Send Money to the Philippine, only \$7. 718-606-1873 / UNITELLER / PLACID"
6. East Coast Lifesavers, Inc. - ACLS and BCLS, and NCLEX review (64th St.)
7. FedEx Authorized Dealer - 64 St. and Roosevelt
8. Five Star RP Sea Cargo, Inc - Special Drop-off Rates: \$49-Manila, \$54-Luzon, \$59-Visayas/Mindanao. 718-606-1873. 718-606-2670. OR Global Cargo - Pick-up only. Minimum of 5, ONE FREE. Rates are as follows: \$59-Manila, \$69-Luzon, \$79-Visayas/Mindanao
9. Bamboo Hut Grill and Juice Bar - Opening late September. Located at 39-08 64th Street, Woodside, NY 11377. 718-606-0551.
10. Woodside Mailbox rentals.
11. Water Alkaline and Anti-Oxidant, Kangen or Universal Company. Call 718-606-1873

### GLOBAL CARGO

Boxes to the Philippines: PICK-UP Only  
PADALA SABAY LIMA, ISA LIBRE

Rates: Manila - \$59

Luzon - \$69

Visayas/Mindanao - \$79

We also accept donation boxes for the  
victims of Typhoon Ketsana (local name:  
Ondoy).

Pay at Cost!

Lend a helping hand! Send goods! Be a  
Samaritan!

### Woodside Mail Box Rentals

for those who do not have a permanent address  
64 St corner Roosevelt

NEW--E 5 investment visa, inquire to  
get family here in US legally...inquire for  
several options..at 718 606 1873

### Affordable Religious Articles

Take advantage of the FREE  
BILINGUAL LIBRARY. DIVINE MERCY  
IMAGES - ON SALE NOW!!! Come to  
our office to view display.  
Also Available: AFFORDABLE  
RELIGIOUS ITEMS- Any religious articles  
, books and gifts can be ordered at the  
store at discounted prices.  
Small profit will help maintain the place.  
- Philippine Library Crusade - tax  
deductible \$500 donation for a religious  
library at their designated parish church  
in the Philippines consisting of religious  
DVDs, books, TV and VCR.

### OFFICES FOR RENT

Affordable offices 8x8 ft includes  
utilities and desk at a traffic area. 64  
St and Roosevelt. Available for rent.  
(718) 424-7984

DALAW KALINGA FOUNDATION  
OPERATION ONDOY/KETSANA RELIEF  
DRIVE (for TYPHOON victims)  
Drop off center: 56-16 Roosevelt Ave.,  
1st Floor, Woodside, NY 11377  
(clothing, canned goods, school  
supplies, toiletries & monetary gifts)  
Relief Drive will run from Oct 3-24, 2009

37 - 74 64th Street  
Woodside, NY 11377



Tel. 718-424-7984  
NYC Tel. 212 731 9662  
Mobile 917 607 6137

Sacred Heart Family Apostolate

[www.sacredheartfamilyapostolate.net](http://www.sacredheartfamilyapostolate.net)

Library and Religious Book Store is open to public at 64th Street Location

# FOR LEGAL HELP IN ANY STATE OF THE U.S.A. ON

- ★ Working Visas
- ★ Labor Certification
- ★ Immigrant Petitions
- ★ Citizenship



**CALL:**

**Atty. Wilfrido E.  
Panotes, Jr., Ph.D.**

(Practicing Immigration & Naturalization Law since 1973)

- LL. B. (Ateneo de Manila); A.B., Ph. B., Ph. L. (UST); M.A. (Fordham Univ.); Ph.D. (Graduate Theological Foundation - Indiana/Oxford/Rome)
- Admitted: New Jersey, New York and Philippine Bars
- Member: Association of Immigration and Nationality Lawyers; National Lawyers Association

3000 Kennedy Blvd., Suite 303  
Jersey City, N.J. 07306  
Tel. (201) 963-5565  
Tel. (212) 244-0581  
Fax (201) 798-0636

MAILING ADDRESS  
72 Van Reipen Avenue  
PMB #405  
Jersey City, NJ 07306



Burial and Cremation  
services available anywhere in  
New York, L.I., Westchester & N.J.

*Specializing In*  
**SHIPPING TO MANILA**  
*At Minimal Cost*

199 Bleecker Street + New York, NY 10012  
(1 block from Our Lady of Pompei Church Filipino Ministry)  
Msgr. Romy Montero, Chaplain

**212 677-9600**  
24 HOUR SERVICE

visit us at:  
[www.filipinofunerals.com](http://www.filipinofunerals.com)

# COME, JOIN OUR FILIPINO MASS

Every First Sunday of the month  
at The Shrine of

**Our Lady of the Island**  
Eastport, Long Island, New York

**Mass in Tagalog at 1:30 p.m.**  
preceded by Rosary in Tagalog



## FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL:

Primo & Tessie Carlos (631) 325-1177

### Infant Jesus Prayer Group of Nassau

- Manny & Norma Pascual (516) 292-1445
- Ben & Lou Ileteo (516) 433-2338
- Nita Vasquez (516) 931-5229 • Gilda Abejar (516) 476-7274
- Zeny Berroya (516) 869-8202 • Eden Gaceta (516) 942-0203
- Elsa Vergara (516) 640-5580

• Helen & Peter Buni  
Good Samaritan Prayer Group (631) 543-8775

• Inday Dineros  
Santo Niño Prayer Group of Suffolk (516) 822-0270

Directions: Head east on LIE, then take exit 70 South on Port Jefferson-Westhampton (Capt. Daniel Roe Hwy - Route 111). Drive for a couple of miles, then turn right to Eastport Manor Rd. and follow the signs to the Shrine.

Visit the Shrine's website at:  
[www.OurLadyoftheIsland.org](http://www.OurLadyoftheIsland.org)