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The Filipino

CATHOLIC

VOL. 13, NO. 9

Spreading the Good News

April 9 - May 13, 2009

Alleluia!

He is Risen.

- **News & Commentaries**
- **Devotions and Novenas**
- **Reflections and Opinions**
- **Sacramentals**
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ITINERARY

NOV 11 (Wed): ARRIVAL ATHENS

Upon arrival, you will be met by our airport representative and transferred to the ship,

NOV 12 (Thu): AT SEA

NOV 13 (Fri): CAIRO

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

NOV 14 (Sat): JERUSALEM

From Ashdod, you'll travel to Jerusalem to pray at the Western Wall, Stand upon the Mount of Olives and view the city as Jesus did. wander among the olive trees of the Garden of Gethsemane. You'll walk along the Via Dolorosa to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Enter the Old City and visit the Pool of Bethesda. Worship together in the Garden Tomb.

NOV 15 (Sun): BETHLEHEM

Your cruise ships docks in Ashdod this morning. Travel to Bethlehem where you'll visit the cave revered as the place where Jesus was born

(Matt. 1: 18-25; Luke 21-7). The church, which was constructed on the site, is the world's oldest functioning church. Nearby you'll view Shepherds' Field where the Good News was first heard. Continue to Jerusalem where you will visit the Upper Room, the traditional site of the Last Supper, Continue to the House of the High Priest Caiaphas, where Jesus was tried before the Sanhedrin. Finally, visit the Western Wall, the last remains of the Herodian Temple and the holiest site in Judaism.

NOV 16 (Mon): THE GALILEE

Your cruise ship docks in the port of Haifa. Travel inland to the Sea of Galilee. Much of the Gospel is centered around the Sea. You'll stand on the Mount of the Beatitudes where Jesus gave his most famous sermon (Luke 6:12-49). At Tabgha, the traditional location for the calling of the disciples and the feeding of the 5000, you'll visit the Church of the Fish and the Loaves (Luke 9:10-17). You'll also visit the Chapel of the Primacy where three times Peter professed his devotion to the risen Christ (John 21). You'll travel to the shore town of Capernaum where Jesus called Peter, Andrew, James, John (Matt 4:13) and later Matthew, and you'll stop by the River Jordan where those who wish to be baptized may do so.

NOV 17 (Tue): AT SEA

NOV 18 (Wed): RHODES

Rhodes, island of "roses", is the legendary home of the sun god Apollo. The old town (the largest inhabited medieval town of Europe) and its mighty fortifications (built by the crusaders of St. John) are the finest surviving example of defensive architecture. An optional tour takes us to Lindos. From the Acropolis a breathtaking view covering the great expanse of the Aegean Sea and St. Paul's Bay, where the Apostle cast anchor during his historic voyage to Ephesus.

NOV 19 (Thu): EPHEBUS

Your cruise ship docks in Kusadasi. (Turkey pre-tours join today's touring.) Journey to Ephesus, the marble city where Paul spent 3 years of his ministry.

It was to this community that Paul may have written his epistle to the Ephesians. The ruins of Ephesus have been restored much like the city was in Paul's time. You will visit the ancient Agora and imagine where Demetrius, the silversmith, sold his silver shrines of the Greek goddess, Artemis, See the library of Celsus and enter the Great Theatre mentioned in the book of Acts.

NOV 20 (Fri): DISEMBARKATION.

ATHENS & CORINTH

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 (Acts 17: 15-34). View the ruins of the Agora, ancient market place and center of Athenian public life, 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 (Acts 18: 1-18), 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. Read Paul's letter to the Corinthians and visualize his address to the Gentiles as he began the task of building Corinth's church. Imagine where Aquila and Priscilla lived and where they had their tent making business. Overnight in Athens.

NOV 21 (Sat): DEPARTURE

The Filipino Catholic

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However, unpublished materials cannot all be acknowledged or returned.

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Manny Pascual

FROM THE EDITOR

Not too far from our house is a place that is absolutely fascinating. It's a huge building where people go for a multitude of things. Stuff for the home. Materials for personal use. Electronics, gadgets, appliances, food, whatchamacallits, etc. etc. My wife and I went there the other day for a DVD. She started to push a shopping cart, and I told her, "We're just getting a DVD. We don't need a cart."

"Well," she replied, "you never know." We wound up with 3 dozen rolls of toilet paper, a 20-pound sack of potatoes, 2 dozen muffins, bag of onions, some apples, 2 large containers of orange juice, milk, ice cream, 2-gallon cooking oil, socks, Spam, Vienna sausage and other non-essentials I won't even mention.

Sometimes I think Costco is run by the devil. As soon as you enter it, you're tempted to do things against your better judgement. A tiny voice keeps whispering in your ears, "Spend, spend. Buy, buy!"

When I confronted my wife, who is usually frugal, about her uncontrollably excessive spending at that store, she just shrugged her shoulders and said, "The devil made me do it."

I knew it. I knew it. There's something absolutely demonic about that place!

But just a few blocks away is a small concrete building where not too many people go. There you don't have to spend money. What you spend is time in quiet contemplation. It has become one of our favorite places to visit. At 12:10 every afternoon, mass is said at St. Brigid's Church. That's the best time to be there to feel God's caring presence through the Eucharist, the Sacrament of Reconciliation and by listening to the Scriptures. What a difference it offers from the din and clamor of a busy wholesale warehouse!

In life we are faced with hard choices. We're challenged every day to head in the right direction. But a number of times we wind up taking the fun and easier route. We end up taking care more of our material rather than spiritual needs. Places like Costco are great. But in the long run what counts most is where to find sustenance for our soul.

Sustaining the soul is what more and more of our "kababayans" do when they attend the Filipino Mass every first Sunday of the month at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Island in Eastport. Two big events are scheduled to take place there in the coming months. On May 3 the Pangasinan Association will sponsor the feast of Our Lady of Manaoag. They will take the replica of the miraculous image to Shrine. And on June 7, Fr. Fernando Suarez, a Filipino priest who is gifted with the miracle of healing, will also be there. Check this newspaper for details on these two events.

Take a break from wholesale shopping. Head instead for the Long Island Shrine for a date with Our Lady and with a the healing priest.

OF FAITH AND PRACTICALITY

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

A New Look at Vocation

Whenever Palm Sunday comes around I am always reminded of the many wonderful years I spent in the Seminary. The Holy Week, which Palm Sunday ushers in, was an especially memorable period for me. The prayers and the chants were the most beautiful of the entire liturgical year. Sometimes my eyes would even well as we sang the lamentation Our Lord in "My people, why have you abandoned me," or during the Good Friday adoration of the Cross as the priest chanted "Ecce Lignum (Here's the Wood)." The outpouring of love from Christ as expressed in the Holy Week Services was what gave me inspiration to return that love by pursuing a dedicated life of service to Him.

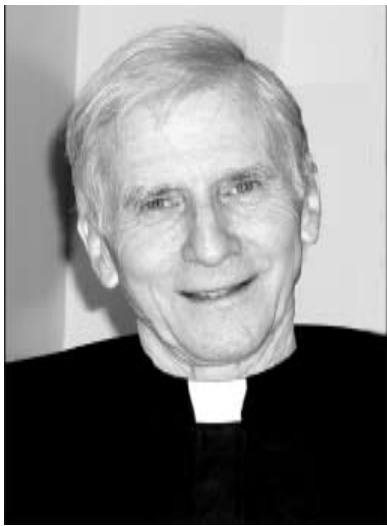
While the Holy Spirit may have led me to a different vocation in later years, I have never quite forgotten the magic of living in a seminary. It is not like the ever somber and solemn environment that is popularly portrayed in pictures and movies. There is, of course, a time for silence, prayer, apostolic work and serious study. But there are also fun stuff like basketball, soccer, gym, swimming, music and arts, wholesome food, ample time for sleep, and lots of laughter. There is a lifetime of camaraderie developed there that surpasses those of soldiers in the battlefield. There are also hardships, sometimes seemingly insurmountable, but they are all happily taken on because they are but opportunities to show greater love to Our Lord. There is an underlying feeling of happiness and contentment in all you do because you know that you're doing it all for God.

I am deeply inspired to see a newly-ordained priest beginning his ministry, like Father Patrick Longalong of Our Lady of the Snows Church in Floral Park. He is a local kid that went to a local Queens High School not too long ago. Now he is the Parochial Vicar of the parish. I pray that God may grant us more vocations like him. The secret really is in the parents of these young people who initially planted the seed of vocation. It is therefore to you Catholic parents that I now make the call. Sending your children to the seminary has more benefits than meet the eye. First, if they persevere there would be bountiful blessings for them, for you, and for the entire community. The choice of who succeeds to the priesthood is God's alone, but our prayers will certainly help in that area. Secondly, if God has other plans for them they are already poised for success in those other fields. Their stay in the seminary would have ingrained in them good study and work habits, discipline, good character, leadership and communication skills.

It is difficult for us parents to broach the topic of vocation to our sons or daughters if we think we're sending them to a harsh and demanding life. But life in the seminary or convent is anything but. It is fun. It is intellectually and spiritually stimulating. It's even safer than sending them to regular schools or colleges in many angles. This Holy Week and the coming Easter Season, let's pray to the Holy Spirit for guidance in talking vocation to our children. Then let's ask them just one time if they ever thought of being a priest or nun. That's it; let it sit. The Holy Spirit will do the rest. We on the other hand have done our part in promoting vocation, and God will certainly reward us for this act of sacrifice. Let's also ask Our Lady, the parent of the Greatest Vocation ever, to intercede for more vocations. She has given up her only child in the most painful circumstances, but that which led to the opening of Heaven's Gate to all mankind.



by Rene Tubilleja



by Rev. Alfred R. Guthrie

At times the cross may seem to be too heavy to carry, but God is faithful, and to those who are faithful to his Love. He will be faithful to his promise! If we are faithful to the end, we have the eternal love of our own resurrection into glory to look forward to.

TO ALL: A HAPPY CELEBRATION OF THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS!

AS PROMISED LAST MONTH we will summarize just how far modern atheism has come in our present world.

THE FACT: A MUCH NEEDED REPETITION

We have to begin by repeating the sad reality that we can begin to become so accustomed to the atmosphere of atheism and immorality in which we are immersed that we can lose our internal revulsion at its horror.

To repeat a constant but badly needed repetition of the truth, the on-going “legalized” killing for any reason of the child in the womb, an act of brutal violence, is a horrible return to raw, uncivilized barbarism.

By any other name, the killing of the unborn child remains ruthlessly barbaric.

Also, the violent assault against the physical and emotional health of the mother is anything but sound medicine. Rather, it is a “sophisticated” return to deliberate primitive “medicine”.

NO WOMAN HAS EVER NOR CAN EVER HAVE THE “RIGHT” TO KILL HER CHILD, BORN OR UNBORN.

No amount of fancy language can change this atheistic assault against humanity and civilization.

MAJOR LANGUAGE SHIFT?

Perhaps to further overcome the unavoidable reality of the above fact, the pro-death culture has apparently adopted a major change in their use of words regarding pregnancy. Previously, it was “politically incorrect” to even hint that the fetus in the womb was human, much less a human child.

Now, it appears that those who support the “legality” of killing the child in the womb have decided to face the undeniable scientific reality that the product of human conception is, in fact, a human being. They are actually admitting that the unborn human being is actually and amazingly a human child!!!

It also appears that the supporters of the “legality” of killing the child in the womb are attempting to establish as an impregnable “legal” position that the pregnant woman has an “inalienable” and “constitutional right” to kill the child in the womb – a “right”, which is, in fact, as mentioned above, a false “right” which can never be “legal” or “legalized” in any culture that dares to call itself civilized.

And those guilty of promoting this diabolical evil against humanity are, as were the Nazi’s, self-deceived criminals.

Period.

(But you would never know this in the face of the fancy and dressed up propaganda promoting this “right”.)

LET’S LOOK AT WHAT IS HAPPENING RIGHT NOW AROUND THE WORLD AND IN OUR OWN COUNTRY:

UNITED NATIONS:

The Obama administration is pushing in the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) - which met in early March of this year - for “comprehensive sexual and reproductive health and rights”. This language is deliberately intended to cover the “right” to kill the unborn child, and the “right” to enforce the acceptance of the homosexual lifestyle. Up to now, the United States delegation has helped block the acceptance of this pro-death language. Now we are promoting it.

Ellen Chesler, who spoke at a briefing by the United States’ new delegation to the UN, “also included ‘comprehensive sexual education, rights and services,’ promotion of a new UN gender office, as well as US commitment to ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)” [an extremely dangerous pro-death plan] as priority issues for the Obama administration at this CSW.”

Ellen Chesler has shown herself to be no friend of human life. She wrote a book praising the work of Margaret Sanger, founder of Planned Parenthood, America’s biggest promoter of the killing of unborn children.

An objection to our country’s new support of abortion based on the clear results of well-documented evidence of the physical and psychological harm it does to women (not to mention the death of the child) was dismissed by Ellen Chesler because she claimed that it had “ideological elements”, i.e.

THE TRUTH -

As if the agenda of the promoters of the culture of death were not totally dedicated to their own dishonest, atheistic and barbaric ideology.

EUROPE:

The European People’s Party (EPP), the European Parliament’s largest umbrella group is backing away from its previously strong pro-life and pro-family positions.

This shift does not give much hope that Europe might emerge from her “demographic winter” (a predominantly graying population) anytime soon.

ENGLAND:

Sir Richard Gardener an Oxford scientist wants parts of aborted babies to sell as usable organs. A horrified bioethics watchdog, Wesley Smith, said that this means that we can have women gestate fetuses to “order”. The barbarity goes on.

AND IN THE UNITED STATES:

IN BOSTON:

The Caritas Catholic health care system, a part of the Catholic Church in Boston, has accepted government-subsidized health insurance that would include making referrals for abortions.

It is interesting what the promise of government money can do to erode adherence to such a crucial issue regarding human life.

IN WASHINGTON STATE:

Community Colleges of Spokane and Spokane Falls Community College squashed a pro-life demonstration against the Supreme Court Roe vs Wade decision. Open hostility to pro-life student initiatives on US campuses are all too commonplace.

The Culture of Death which has taken over our country does not allow free speech.

IN MISSESOTA:

Mr. Michael Campion, who was rated by a psychological testing company as “performing beyond expectation” and as being “clearly an expert in this line of work”, was fired when it was discovered that he was affiliated with a pro-life family group in Illinois.

This evidence of growing hostility to anyone who recognizes the humanity and rights of the unborn child and other helpless human beings is, to put it simply, the evidence of an ever expanding evil dictatorship.

KENTUCKY:

The Kentucky legislature killed a bill that would have allowed women to see an ultrasound of their unborn baby before deciding to kill it. This means that, in states that refuse to allow the pregnant, distraught woman who is asking about abortion to see her unborn child, she can be refused adequate informed consent. Informed consent is generally required by law for all serious surgical procedures. But now, no matter how reasonable and needed a law may be for the practice of healthy medicine, it doesn’t apply if it “interferes” with the violent killing a child and its medically disruptive assault on the woman’s body.

It’s amazing what the requirement for evil “political correctness” can do to trample on absolutely all of the most basic civilized laws and values.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT:

President Obama now requires American taxpayers to fund the killing of human beings in the embryonic stage of development.

This poses a serious conscience problem regarding paying the income tax.

INFANTICIDE:

Planned Parenthood, which is supported by our federal government, has been shown to support the killing of babies who survive abortion. This and other evil assaults against the helpless are being gradually orchestrated into producing acceptance by an easily manipulated American public.

OBAMA: IS HE REALLY PRO-CHOICE?

In moving to try to force doctors to go against their conscience and do abortions, President Obama has shown himself to be “pro-choice” as long as it includes the support of the killing of children. Apparently no other freedom of choice is allowed. The fact that babies do not choose to die is not even allowed to be considered.

The Culture of Death is gradually destroying not only religious liberty but the rest of our liberties as well.

IN THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT:

- David Ogden, who denies, in spite of overwhelming evidence establishing physical and psychological damage, that abortion hurts women, was made Deputy Attorney General. Thomas Perrelli, who won the killing of Terri Schiavo as her husband’s lawyer, was appointed Associate Attorney General.
- The president established a new office called the “White House Council on Women and Girls” with the mandated “goal to make sure that all federal laws and federal agencies examine how their policies and actions affect women.” Its newly appointed executive director, Tina Tchen, is in favor of abortion as “good” for women.

AND IN FUTURE ELECTIONS:

The more effective pro-life members of Federal and State governments are in defending innocent and helpless human life, the more they can be sure they will be targeted by deep-pocketed and relentless drives by the Democratic party to get them out of office.

Our entire government is gradually falling into the hands of those who are in favor of the on-going mass destruction of helpless human beings – like those who promoted the genocide and other crimes against humanity in Germany – and who, by the way, are now recognized as criminals.

(turn to page 7)



DNR

by Fr. James Reuter, S.J.

Several years ago, I attended a meeting of doctors. They have sessions like this frequently. It is on-going formation for physicians. They come together to be updated on new developments in medicine, and to share their experience with each other.

I was really impressed by the way the meeting was run. There were more than a hundred doctors. The little auditorium on the ninth floor of the hospital was full. They

started on time. There were five professional inputs. They did not waste a moment. They did not waste a word.

The subject was: DNR.

This is a note that the doctor writes into the medical record of the patient: Do Not Resuscitate. The doctor does this when the patient is terminal, when everything has been done for this patient that could be done, when prolonging life would only mean prolonging the agony and pain of the patient, and prolonging the anxiety and suffering of the family.

A case was presented by a young *doctora*. She was terrified, because she was facing all the wise old doctors who had taught her. But the presentation was sharp and clear, business-like. An old patient, over 80, terminal. The doctor has done all that can be done. The patient will never get back to normal living. But it is physically possible to keep this patient alive, for some time. It is expensive. It requires a great amount of medical equipment. And it requires a tremendous amount of manpower. Should the doctor write into the chart: DNR?

The doctora presented this case in accurate medical language: the exact diagnosis of the patient; the precise treatment that had been given; a description of the vital signs of the patient — blood pressure, heart beat, respiration; and the final note that the patient was in pain, and there was no hope of recovery.

It was there because the doctors wanted to be sure of what the Catholic Church teaches on this. But they really did not need me. They knew exactly what was right and wrong, what was moral, and what was immoral.

In the briefest terms, you can never kill anybody. . . . You can not execute a patient, to get him out of his pain. . . . But you are never obliged to use extraordinary means to preserve life. . . . You are not obliged to keep this patient alive by the use of machines. It is alright to remove all the machines, and write into the chart: DNR.

I expected the doctors to say: "Keep the patient alive for as long as you can!" But they did not say that. The doctors who spoke wanted to use DNR. Their problem was that the families of the patients, very often, would not accept this. Some families threatened to sue the doctors, if the doctor gave up, believing that nothing more could be done.

Their real concern was this: we care expending so much time, so much energy; we are using so much equipment, so much medicine; to prolong the life of a person for days, weeks, months — and this extension of life is of no value to the patient, or to the family, or to anyone else! . . . While we have hundreds of people who need medical attention, and who are capable of living long, productive lives after they recover! . . . Should we not be helping the poor to live, rather than staving off the inevitable moment of death for the rich?

Every person is interested in this subject, because death must come, some day, to all of us. The Jesuit Provincial in the Philippines that time, waited for two years before releasing a letter that was suggested by his staff. The letter was worded very gently, but the burden of it was: "If you are terminal, and there is no hope that you will ever return to normal living, but we can prolong your life artificially, by the use of machines — should we do it?"

The provincial blushed to send this letter, thinking that it might be offensive to the men, but every Jesuit that I know, who received the letter, wrote back: "Do not use the machines! . . . Please! . . . When it is time for me to go, just let me go home to God!"

When I was a very young priest, serving as chaplain in Georgetown University Hospital, I was startled when an old woman whispered to me: "Father. . . please pray. . . that God will take me. . . soon!" She had cancer of the throat. She opened her eyes, each day, to pain. She wanted to go home.

It is true that sometimes a person seems to be dead, and then recovers . . . This is what gives everyone the urge to do all that is possible to preserve life.

My brother, Kenny, had a 17 year old son, whom we called: "Little Kenny". He climbed out of the swimming pool one morning, put his hand to his head, and said: "Boy! Do I have a headache!" Then he collapsed. . . . They took him to the hospital. . . . He was in the ICU, with all the machines on him. . . . But his cheeks were rosy. He looked as if he would wake up any moment. This went on for 11 days. He never even flickered an eyelid.

Finally two of my sisters went to the doctor and asked: "Is there any hope that he will wake up?" The doctor said: "Oh! I thought you knew that! . . . No. . . . He is

JUST SHARING



An Unlikely Hero

He was Albert Einstein's namesake. No less a hero but no celebrity was he. I would have been deeply honored to meet him. But when I did meet him it was too late. He was already in a coffin, waiting to be buried.

It all started when I came home to the rectory from two Sunday Masses and two sick calls. I just wanted to take a nap and forget the world for a while. But I heard some gentle knocking on my door. I wanted to say, "Please leave me alone for a while. I have to get some rest." But I soon noticed I was dragging myself to the door. It was then that I saw this lady who behaved rather strangely.

by Rev. Eutiquio 'Euly' B. Belizar, Jr., SThD

She left her slippers on the rectory stairs. I realized it was a gesture of courtesy. Simple barrio courtesy. "It's just about Albert, Padre," she said. "Please allow us to bury him today. We couldn't afford to have him

embalmed for the nine-day wake (as is the local custom). Neighbors contributed pieces of wood and slab for his coffin. Please, Padre. We only have two hundred pesos. May we have a Mass for him, please?"

"Of course," I said. Actually I just wanted to get rid of her and get my much needed rest. "Bring him at two o'clock this afternoon." Then she haltingly started to tell a story that woke me up the rest of the day.

Albert was her fourteen-year-old nephew from Barangay San Mateo. He was the eldest of five children. His father, a rice farmer, didn't come up with much in this year's harvest. And while his mother also does other jobs, such as washing laundry and selling vegetables, the family income was not enough. So he did what he thought best. He stopped schooling and got himself a job in a local bakery. He ended up mostly by the firewood-fed oven. It was tough and the heat could sometimes be unbearable. But he couldn't and wouldn't complain. He was glad he could work and help the family. But his body was not Superman's. Recently he ran a fever and felt weak. He asked to be excused. But his employer threatened to dismiss him if he missed work, especially that it was two or three days before the month's end. Albert naturally didn't want to lose his job and decided to go on working. He made it to payday. He took all his money home and having given it to his mother, said: "Now I just want to rest and sleep..."

Albert never woke up again.

As I presided over his funeral I was both angry and depressed. "How could any human being threaten someone not even qualified yet to work to fire him just because he was sick?" But other deeper questions were raging in my mind. How could a young man with such obvious love for his family, a young man with such promise fall into a fate as cruel as Albert's? How could his parents be powerless to even consider seeking for justice? I searched the faces of Albert's mother and father. I saw in them anything but protest. Both have now accepted Albert's fate as inevitable. Both now eyed me with profound gratitude for giving him a sung funeral Mass for two hundred pesos. Never have I felt so depressed over a funeral.

But I found myself continuing my homily. "Albert expresses, oh yes, Albert continues the sacrifice of Jesus on Calvary. And we are all witnesses to this. The world, much less his country, has no idea what he did. But we do. But God does. And it's all that matters. Albert has made it clearer to us what the sacrifice we celebrate during Lent is all about. May his sacrifice give his family more life the way the sacrifice of Jesus brought us a sharing in the life of God."

I glanced at the faces of Albert's brothers and sisters. They seemed calm. But one thing bothered me. They seemed to say to me: "Father, we know Lent. When do we know Easter?"

Fr. Euly writes from the Cathedral Parish of the Nativity of Our Lady in Borongon, Samar, Philippines where he is assigned as pastor and rector. He is the Founding Director of the Diocesan Lay Formation Institute there.

clinically dead. . . . My sister asked: "Well. . . why are you keeping the machines on him?" The doctor said: "We can not remove the machines unless his father says so."

What father is going to say: . . . "Remove the machines", when the boy looks like he will wake up at any moment? Eventually they declared little Kenny dead. The shock to my brother was so strong that he did not talk to God for three years.

I was impressed by the deep human concern of the doctors. At no time did I sense that any one of them was in the medical profession in order to make money. They were thinking about the good of their patients.

A doctor serves God by being a good doctor, by serving the sick who come to him. When the doctor dies, and stands before God to be judged, Our Lord will say to him: "So long as you have done it to the least of these, my little ones, you have done it to Me!"

Fr. James B. Reuter, S.J. writes from the Philippines. The article above which appeared in the Philippine Star on March 21, 2009 is reprinted with permission.

The Chapel of San Lorenzo: The First Three Years

(Note: The article below is Chapter Two of the book in the making with the above-mentioned title)

Chen Mu Chai and William: The Chapel's Chinese Devotees

On my very last Mass on January 30, 2009 in the Chapel of San Lorenzo, Chen Mu Chai, Zeny, Med, Lucring, and Marte were there – a rag tag group of die-hard Chapel habitués. Chen Mu Chai is sixty-ish Chinese grandmother who would attend the 12:10 Mass everyday from Monday to Friday. She had been coming to Mass since the Chapel opened its doors in 2005. Although she doesn't speak a word of English, she knew how to follow the Mass and she could be heard mumbling some Chinese words at certain parts of the Mass. One would not fail to notice her deeply and genuinely devout ways as when she raises her hands during the 'Our Father' and during the part when the congregation says 'For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever.'

Chen Mu Chai always has an easy smile on her face that has endeared her to the Chapel regular weekly congregants, particularly our Chapel staff. Her friendly manner, even if she would keep to herself or while she minded her infant grandson-then-turned-toddler-then-turned-terrible two, was a picture of solemn devotion and polite decorum.

Speaking about Chen Mu Chai's grandson whose name I only found out very much late after Chen Mu Chai handed me her cell phone to speak to her son Leo when she called him to interpret something for her. It was my chance to ask Leo, who speaks good English being a successful businessman in Brooklyn, the name of the boy. The boy's name is William, Leo told me. How wonderful it was to me and to my Chapel staff to know the name behind that adorable face! William, not only has an angelic face and a cute squint in his eyes when he smiles – and he smiles a lot – but also he is fond of imitating the prayerful gestures of his grandmother like raising his hands during the 'Our Father,' or genuflecting before the altar or going from pew to pew to shake the hand of other congregants during the 'Sign of Peace,' or joining the Communion line along with his grandmother. And then, finally, the kid's loud shout 'BYE' after my customary 'Have a nice day!' at the end of the Mass. I must confess William's boyish antics always made my day! There was not a time when I would not pause to reflect about the beautiful future of this young Chinese boy and about the wonderful influence and upbringing he is getting from his grandmother Chen Mu Chai. Could William, a Chinese boy, have been brought to the Chapel of San Lorenzo, himself a Chinese mestizo? I sometime relish a wild thought that William would become a priest or a bishop some day.

Why the daily Mass in the Chapel of San Lorenzo for Chen Mu Chai? Why has

Chen Mu Chai been bringing other Chinese friends to the chapel? To my great interest I've observed how she has been bringing a steady stream of Chinese people to the Broome Street chapel. For example, there was this teen-age boy who would pop in now and then to the Mass. Also, there's this couple of young women, apparently college types. And then, there's this other grandmother who, like Chen Mu Chai, would come with her infant grandson-turned-toddler-turned-terrible-two, whose name is Owen who's almost the surrogate of William, especially when too would go around to shake the hands of other people during the 'Sign of Peace.' Could Owen and William be San Lorenzo's great, great, great, great 'grandsons'? Zeny and Alan sometimes would wonder. Could Chen Mu Chai be a long-lost cousin of many moons of Lorenzo Ruiz whose father was also Chinese?

After that last Mass of mine in the chapel, Chen Mu Chai hugged me and cried. She said something. It was in Chinese which I did not understand. It did not matter. It was a beautiful good bye – under the watchful eyes of San Lorenzo.

POEA Enthronement. On April 7, a statue of San Lorenzo, patron of Filipino migrants, will be enshrined at the POEA building along EDSA following a noon Mass to be officiated by yours truly and attended by the San Lorenzo global ministry group of Manila, POEA Administrator Atty. Jennifer Manalili and staff. POEA is where the OFW's papers are processed. Some 3,000 OFW's visit the POEA daily. The statue was donated by Mr. Jose Ramos. **TV Maria Interview and San Lorenzo Global Hour:** Last March 25th, Fr. J. Isberto of TV Maria interviewed me about the 9-28-2009 San Lorenzo feast day Mass in St. Patrick's Cathedral that will be aired on TV Maria on May 10, 2009. The theme of that Mass was: *Celebrating Filipino Migrants around the World.*



Fr. Erno Diaz

REFLECTIONS

Easter People



by Rev. Basil C. Colasito

In one of his sermons at his cathedral in North Africa, St. Augustine told his people:

"You are an Easter People, and Alleluia is your song."

What does it mean to be an Alleluia person? Alleluia means, "Praise God." Or in the ancient Hebrew verse, it means, "Thanks be to God." To be an Easter person, therefore, is to be a person filled with praise and thanksgiving for God's blessings. It means to possess an attitude of thanksgiving for everything: for creatures, for persons, events, thoughts, words, deeds in life. To be a person that looks at another person and in the spirit of God,

says, "You are good and I thank God for you."

I may not say it aloud to the person, but if I even just "think it", my whole being would light up and in turn brighten the one I come in contact with.

Sometimes I think of myself as a light bulb with the power to illumine people, with the power to en-lighten myself and people that I meet, with varying intensity and on different occasions. When I wake up in the morning, I am a "15 watts illumination." After I take a shower, have a cup of coffee, I brighten up to be a 100 watts, and when I experience love from God, family members and friends, I brighten up even more.

Like a light bulb, I have at least two switches. I have the option to walk about with my "lights on" and brighten the world, or I can turn the dimmer counter clockwise and inflict

darkness and gloom around me.

For me, to be an Easter person is to be a light-giver; to be a life-giving illumination amidst the darkness of this world, and in the dark corners of peoples' hearts.

By being a loving person, joyful, peaceful, patient, generous, faithful, gentle, kind and self-controlled (*Fruits of the Holy Spirit. Gal. 5, 122-23*) I am shouting and singing to the world: "Alleluia! The Lord is Risen, indeed! He has kept His promise to abide in my heart! He has poured the gifts of the Holy Spirit into my heart. Look! I am like a tree heavy-laden with the Fruits of the Holy Spirit!"

The mystery of our faith does not allow me to wallow in the darkness of Good Friday with the gloomy memory of pains and sadness, but lifts me up into the brightness of the Risen Son of God. Joy is the clearest sign of the presence of God. It is an astounding testimony to the world that Jesus is risen, indeed, and He continues to energize my life with joy.

Someone wrote, "If you are a Christian, where is your joy?" I could say, "Because I am a Christian, I am an Easter person, and I say to suffering, "Thank You, Lord," and I say to broken dreams, "Thank You, Lord," and I say to the world with its hopes and hopelessness, its love and lovelessness, its faith and faithlessness, its peace and turmoil, its selfishness and generosity, its violence and gentleness, its meanness and its kindness, its control and its spinning out of control, its fruits and fruitlessness...for all these, "Thank You, Lord! Alleluia!"

Not too long ago, winter swooped the land, bringing death, bare trees, the cold darkness which crept in early and tiptoed out late. But today, the sun's visit lingers longer. Lilies are budding. Buddies are celebrating the swallow's homecoming to Capistrano. Once again, the hills are alive with the sound of music.

And to you and to the whole world, I shout, "Happy Easter! Alleluia!"



Game Over

by Fr. Peter James R. Alindogan

Just before a boy enters the barbershop, the barber tells his customer, "This is the dumbest kid in the world. I had been playing this game with him for several months now. Watch." The barber puts a dollar in one open palm and two quarters in the other and asks the kid, "Which do you want?" The boy takes the quarters and leaves. "See?" says the barber, laughing. Later, the customer passes the boy, who is standing outside a candy store. "Why'd you take the quarters and not the dollar?" he asks. "Because," says the boy, "the day I take the dollar, the game's over."

Most of our children, who play video games, know what the words 'Game Over' means. It is a traditional message which usually signals the game has ended with a negative outcome, and that the player has failed to complete the game.

The day the Pharisees see Nicodemus in the company of Jesus, the game is over. He was a leading member of the Sanhedrin, the Supreme Court of ancient Israel. So he had to see him in the darkness of the night. This is the episode we would call Nic at Night.

Nicodemus was a Pharisee and Pharisees measure and judge things in the externals. To a Pharisee, faith is best seen from the outside: the clothes they wore, the titles they carried, the prayers they said and the gifts they brought. To every Pharisee, conformity is the norm. For as long as they follow what the law says, for as long as they observe what the commandment teaches, for as long as they conform to the acts and behaviors of their fellow Pharisees, things would be alright.

Most of us can relate with Nicodemus. Some of us are afraid to see Jesus in the light for fear that his brilliance will expose our weaknesses. Some of us are not willing to see Jesus in the light lest he challenges us to do something more, lest he calls us to being more than who we are.

To conform to the crowd, to be politically correct, to be the average Joe or Mary is one of the pitfalls that could pin us down in today's world. Horrible things in history have

happened because of conformity. Terrible things have happened to humanity because of conformity. The words "Crucify Him" that brought Jesus down on Good Friday came from the same people and crowd that shouted "Hosannas" to him five days earlier. They praised him first and then they condemned him. His fellow Jews and the forces of Rome, Pontius Pilate, Annas and Caiaphas, Herod the Great: they all ganged up on him and brought Jesus to a death that was so unjust.

Where was the multitude of people who followed Jesus from town to town? Where were those who left their families and possessions to be with Jesus during his years of ministry? Where were those whom he cured, healed, forgiven, blessed and given strength?

They were hiding in the dark. They had fear in their eyes. They were afraid to speak up to what they believed and who they loved. Albert Einstein said that the world is a dangerous place to live, not because of the people who are evil, but because of the people who do not do anything about it. During the Second World War, a German Protestant named Martin Niemoeller (1892-1984) wrote something like this: "In Germany they came first for the Communists, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Communist. Then they came for the Jews, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Jew. Then they came for the Catholics, and I didn't speak up because I was a Protestant. Then they came for me, and by that time no one was left to speak up."

Helen Keller was right when she wrote that science may have found a cure for most evils, but it has found no remedy for the worst of them all: the apathy of human beings.

However, the mission of Jesus is essentially that: to show to each one and all that the good Lord, His Father, is not yet disappointed with the people he created. There will always be people of the light who will shun the darkness. There will always be men and women who will reflect in their lives the good, the true and the holy.

During the time of Jesus, there was one extraordinary person who did that. His name was Nicodemus. He knew in his heart that something was missing in what he believed. And he heard what he wanted from Jesus Himself: For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life.

For as long as we believe in Jesus, for as long as we follow what he commanded, for as long as we seek the light, the love of God will prevail. With that promise, it will be our constant hope, struggle and prayer that never will it be said to us that the Game is Over.

Homily delivered by Rev. PJ Alindogan on March 22, 2009 at St. Charles Borromeo Church in Cinnaminson, NJ.

Fr. Guthrie

from page 4

In the face of all of this there is never an excuse for cowardice. Rather our present horrible situation is a vigorous incentive to learn from the story of the unique display of courage that stood out during the worst days of the Nazi holocaust which precipitated World War II. It is the story of the courageous stand by the bishop of Munster, Germany.

His story is a lesson in the perennial question asked in times of great danger:

WHY SPEAK OUT???

In any case, the danger involved with facing and speaking the truth about a grave public evil cannot even be compared with the danger involved with facing, tomorrow, the consequences, both temporal and eternal of having remained silent.

This remarkable and wonderful example of the urgent need and moral obligation to speak openly and honestly about a grave public evil is that of

Count Clement August von Galen, bishop of Munster of Westphalia and the Lower Rhine in Northwest Germany, during the Second World War. "He took a consistently courageous stand against the policies [and crimes] of Hitler and the Gestapo, and was unrelenting in his criticism of them." Hitler wanted very much to kill him, but Hitler's fear of the reaction of the people stopped him. Bishop Von Galen's "immense prestige at home and abroad was what ultimately saved him from the extermination that many of his own priests [and priests from other parts of Germany] suffered."

On Thursday, February 21, 1946, after the horrors of WWII had ended, Bishop Von Galen, especially in recognition of his courage, was awarded the "red hat" as cardinal from Pope Pius XII in Rome. There he received a powerful storm of applause from the other cardinals and from the huge congregation, as the one man who openly and directly defied Hitler before the eyes and in the hearing of all of Germany - and survived.. "The crowd in St. Peter's that morning were conscious they were witnessing a unique event, the recognition of moral courage on a par with that of the Roman martyrs of the ... [early] Church."

Cardinal Van Galen received a similar enthusiastic welcome from his people when he returned to Munster.

Telling the truth about a grave moral evil may or may not bring earthly applause but it is the only way to be faithful to Jesus and our call to discipleship. Cowardly silence is not an option. And past silence is legitimately called reprehensible by any of us who have been guilty of it.

(quotes cited above are taken from an article "Faith and Fatherland" by Fr. Thomas McGovern who is listed as part of Christendom College)

In summary, we are in a second holocaust which is far worse than that of Nazi Germany, the genocide of the Arameans, the genocide of the Ukraneans, the ongoing genocide of the people of Dafur, the genocide of the Tutsi tribe in Rwanda, and the genocide of the Bosnians - combined.

The facts are well documented and are largely ignored - while the bloodbath continues. Once, when a letter comparing the murder of our children with the Holocaust was printed in the New York Times, someone wrote challenging that comparison of abortion with the

holocaust as completely out of order. In a sense, that writer was correct.

As shown above, the fact is that the abortion holocaust is far, far worse than the murder of "only" 7 or 8 million innocent people by Nazi Germany.

As it took the bloody World War II to stop the Nazi madness, it appears that it will have to take a catastrophic destruction of unimaginable proportions and horror to end and cleans us of this present national and world insanity.

A NEW WRINKLE:

No only is the amount of those who have been executed staggering in their numbers, but 64% of those who killed their children have been found by one survey to have been forced, and 80% related that they were inadequately counseled or not counseled at all. (from a survey by the Elliot Institute, as reported by a writer named Amy Solby). In other words, if these facts are correct - and the conductors of the survey have reliable credentials - a significant number of these executions of the innocent could have and should have been avoided.

FATIMA! OUR URGENT MESSAGE -

Our Lady's pleas at Fatima are God's plan for our culture's conversion. Her urgent requests are God's prophetic gift for our personal conversion and the conversion and salvation of many, many souls.

As demonstrated by the tragic example of the ignoring of Our Lady's pleas in Rwanda, Africa, documented in last month's Newsletter, without our faithful fulfillment of her urgent call for prayer and penance, especially the rosary and the faithful fulfillment and carrying the cross of the responsibilities of our state in life, nothing else, such as negotiations, high level diplomacy, arms reduction (as if anyone would really cooperate), important as such other efforts might also be, will succeed.

Nor would any kind of a "Valkyrie" (as in an attempt at an assassination exemplified by the last attempt on Hitler's life popularized by the movie of the same name) or any other form of violence, be in any way justified - or would accomplish anything.

All of the above brings us - again - to the urgent pleas of our Blessed Mother at Fatima to each of us to pray, especially the rosary; and to have deep reverence for the Most Blessed Sacrament; and to practice self-denial, especially (to repeat) but not only, by the faithful fulfillment of the carrying of the cross of the duties of our state in life.

MORE ON THE "HOLOCAUST" OF THE DESTRUCTION OF THE SOULS OF OUR YOUTH

Will be discussed again in a future Newsletter.

Next month: the establishment of the devotion of the PILGRIM VIRGIN in every parish.

Next Meeting: Realizing that we should do more about Our Lady's urgent need for prayers, active members of the World Apostolate of Our Lady of Fatima are meeting on the last Saturday of each month in a private home at 11 am, followed by a light lunch. If you want to join us please call Father Guthrie for more information at 718-445-6164.

In the meantime, our local parish cell at St. Fidelis will be having, every Saturday night, a brief meeting following the rosary for the work and success of the World Apostolate both in our parish and in Brooklyn and Queens.

Happenings



by AA Medrano

PABASA NG PASYON – San Lorenzo Ruiz Scalabrini Center

We are grateful to all the devotees of the Poon Hesus Nazareno who participated in the annual *Pabasa ng Pasyon sa Village* sponsored by Filipino Pastoral Ministry of Our Lady of Pompei held at the San Lorenzo Ruiz Scalabrini Center in Jamaica, Queens. Many came to participate on different hours thus the timing and taking turns to sing while others could rest for a while helped finish the book in record time. Msgr. Romy Montero celebrated the anticipated Palm Sunday Mass after the Pabasa was finished.

The Pabasa started at 9:00 P.M. on Friday April 3 and continued through the next day Saturday April

4. Since it was First Friday, there was a Novena Mass at 7:30 P.M. officiated by Msgr. Oscar Aquino. The Rosary, the Stations of the Cross and the Novena to the Poon Hesus Nazareno were recited before the Mass.

Congratulations to the Hermano and Hermana Mayores of the *Poon Hesus Nazareno sa Village*, Jun and Amelia Makinano and their family for the successful and very meaningful *Pabasa ng Pasyon*. We are also grateful to Fr. Romy Montero and Fr. Mike Lagrimas and to all the volunteers and staff of the Filipino Pastoral Ministry for the continued support of this Lenten Filipino tradition.

The in-house daily *Pabasa ng Pasyon* at the **San Lorenzo Ruiz Scalabrini Center** hosted by the San Lorenzo Ruiz Devotional Group will start on April 6 – 8 at 7:00 P.M. to Midnight and on April 9 –10 at 9:00 A.M to 1:00 P.M. There are different sponsors on each day of the Pabasa.

Novena Mass to Santo Nino

It is once again time for the Filipino Pastoral Ministry of Our Lady of Pompei Church to welcome the family members of the Santo Nino Prayer Groups of New York (SPG/NY) for the annual nine-day Novena Mass in preparation for the feast day in honor of Santo Nino. Starting on April 19, the member and sponsor families of each chapter of the SPGNY will come together every Sunday to attend the Novena Mass. The weekly transfer of the Santo Nino images between the sponsor families will be done in the church.

The Santo Nino Prayer Groups of New York, now on its 26th year anniversary propagating the devotion to Santo Nino, continues to be the link to our *kababayans* that the Filipino Pastoral Ministry serves. Its members have a vital role in promoting the programs and activities of the ministry.

The SPGNY Brooklyn Chapter is the host for this year's celebration. Norma de Jesus, coordinator and Corazon del Mar, the hermana mayor will coordinate the weekly novena and the preparation of the Santo Nino Fiesta celebration on June 21.

If you would like to be one of the sponsors during each week, or if you have petitions and thanksgiving prayer to Santo Nino, please contact the Filipino Pastoral Ministry c/o Fr. Romy Montero (212) 727 0214 or the Chapter Coordinators of the Santo Nino Prayer Groups of New York: Norma de Jesus -Brooklyn, Josie Bueno - Manhattan, Noemi Alfaro - Queens and Alma Cruz - Bronx.

Feast of the Annunciation

The Feast of Annunciation was celebrated at Our Lady of Pompei church on Wednesday, March 25 with the Mass officiated by Msgr. Romy Montero and Fr. Fritz Penaranda, a visiting priest from the Philippines delivered the homily. The Mass was attended by the devotees of Our Lady of Perpetual Help and many parishioners of Our Lady of Pompei church.

A visiting choir from Algona Iowa, the Bishop Garrigan High School Choir sang in the Mass. We were happy to welcome them at Our Lady of Pompei and grateful for sharing their beautiful music. The choir was composed of 46 students representing all grade levels. Most of its members have earned recognitions as a solo and as a group and to have been selected for the Iowa All State Chorus. Mrs. Linda Ferjak was the choir director. Taking advantage of the spring break, the choir together with their teachers and chaperones traveled by bus from Iowa for a tour of New York.

Baclaran sa Village - Feast of Mother of Perpetual Help

Save the Date: April 22, 2009 is the start of the nine Wednesdays perpetual Novena Mass in preparation for the 21st Feast Day of Our Mother of Perpetual Help at Our Lady of Pompei Church on June 24. The Exposition of the Holy Eucharist, Rosary and Novena will start at 6:00 P.M followed by the Mass at 6:30 P.M.

The Filipino Pastoral Ministry (FPM) continues to welcome devotees every Wednesday at Pompei for the Novena Mass in honor of Our Mother of Perpetual Help. The Baclaran sa Village now on its 21st year gained momentum among the Filipinos that other churches with many Filipino parishioners followed the lead of the FPM.

19th Sayawan sa Village

Please come and join us to the **19th Annual Sayawan sa Village** sponsored by the Santo Nino Prayer Groups of New York and the Filipino Pastoral Ministry of Our Lady of Pompei in Manhattan. It will be held on April 18, 2009 Saturday 7:00 P.M. to midnight. The donation is \$ 20. Aside from dancing (disco, ballroom and line dance) there will be raffle prizes and good food. Tell your friends and family to come and enjoy the evening.

The proceeds of the *Sawayan sa Village* will be used to support the programs and activities of the Filipino Pastoral Ministry and to help defray the expenses for the **19th Annual Flores De Mayo and Santakrusan sa Village**, and the **26th Annual Santo Nino Fiesta**.

Tickets will also be available at the entrance door. For more information please call: FPM office c/o Fr. Romy 212 727 0214, Nancy – 917 294 4203, Malou –917 515 4764, Nelia C. 718 844 2829, Maxie – 914 874 7762.

Good Friday Way of the Cross over the Brooklyn Bridge to Ground Zero

The Annual Brooklyn Bridge Way of the Cross has become part of the Good Friday activity for the volunteers and staff of the Filipino Pastoral Ministry (FPM) of Our Lady of Pompei Church. Fr. Romy Montero will lead the members of the FPM and the devotees of the Poon Hesus Nazareno of Pompei in the Good Friday Annual Way of the Cross. The procession will start from St. James Cathedral at 250 Cathedral Place in Brooklyn, stopping at City Hall Park, Ground Zero and end at St Peter's Church in Lower Manhattan.



The participants in the first Lenten Recollection held at the Chapel of San Lorenzo Ruiz last March 7 and officiated by Fr. Mike Lagrimas.

Salamat Po!



The Makinano family extends its heartfelt thanks all those who participated in the Annual Pabasa ng Pasyon held at the San Lorenzo Scalabrini Center in Jamaica, Queens. Photo shows from left, front row: Tess Makinano Vazquez, Xana Makinano, Marie El-Al Makinano. Back row: Leo Makinano, Juan Makinano Durado, Jun Makinano and Amelia Makinano (this year's Hermano and Hermana mayores of the Poon Hesus Nazareno sa Village).

At each stop, there will be readings from the Passion, meditation, reflection and songs by the choir.

There have been an overwhelming number of participants every year including the devotees of the Poon Hesus Nazareno. If you would like to join the group from Pompei for the procession, the meeting time is at 9:00A.M. The Pompei group will travel together by subway to the assembly place at St. James Cathedral. For more information, please call the FPM office c/o Fr. Romy Montero 212 727 0214.

Easter Sunday Celebration

In addition to the usual fellowship after the 3:00 P.M. Tagalog Mass, there will be an Easter Sunday treat for the Kids. The kids ages 1 to 12 will take center stage in the annual Easter Sunday celebration hosted by the Filipino Pastoral Ministry of Pompei. It will be a fun-filled event for the kids. Egg hunting, egg painting and games. Prizes will be awarded to the winners of the best painted egg, best egg hunter and other fun games. All the kids will receive Easter party gifts from Ashley and Katherine Laurencio family, the host of the Annual Children's Easter Sunday celebration. Bring your kids and friends to enjoy the fun on April 12.

Save the Date: May 31, 2009 – 19th Annual Flores de Mayo and Santakrusan sa Village.

The Filipino Pastoral Ministry of Our Lady of Pompei is now accepting Sagalas or applicants for the 19th Annual Flores de Mayo and Santakrusan sa Village. If you would like your sons and daughters to participate in this yearly event in the village, please contact Nelia Cloma, the Santakrusan sa Village Hermana Mayor and Aida Valdeviezo, Assistant Hermana Mayor.

For the Flores de Mayo, we welcome the children ages 2 to 12 to participate in the weekly flower offering to the Virgin Mary starting on May 3 after the 3:00 P.M. Misang Pilipino. Please contact Aida Valdeviezo, the coordinator for the Flores de Mayo or call the FPM office 212 727 0214.

March Birthday Celebrators at Pompei

Celebrating birthdays has become part of the weekly fellowship at Our Lady of Pompei Church after the 3:00 P.M. Filipino Mass every Sunday. Every week birthday celebrators join the Mass and celebrate their birthdays at Pompei. At times, the celebrators become the sponsors for the week that provide the food. Every last Sunday of the month, all the birthday celebrants are invited for the special birthday blessing as well as for the big birthday party.

Happy Birthday to all the Birthday Celebrators for the month of March are as follows: Chit & Katherine Laurencio, Crisanto Gutierrez, Glenda Gutierrez, Ed Pascual, Gigi Gonzales, Ernie Bugarin, Norma de Jesus, Nelia Cloma, Nestor Nepomuceno, Alexandra & Daisy Penaredondo-Armas, Vanina Cruz, Del Chavez, Ronnie Chavez, Lydia Duran, Lea Arce, Mila Javier, Myrna Miguel, Sylvia Peny, Annaliza Gutierrez, Gloria Rose Gutierrez, Emily Crisologo, Mel Cortes, Robert Tan, Mylene Valenzuela, Abel Baylon, Vince Cueva, Divina Macaraig, Lolita Palma, Jae Tamale, Robert Tagle, Archie Reyes, Girlie Suarez, Victor Sagucio, Reynaldo Ingco Jr., Jason Felix Reyes, Priscilla Margaret Alimario, Paulo Martin Alimario, Arlene Padilla.

(turn to page 26)

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

APRIL 2009 EVENTS

April 12, 2009 (Easter Sunday)

2:00 PM - **Filipino Mass**
St. Rose of Lima Church
269 Parkville Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11230.
(Every 2nd Sunday of the Month)

2:00 PM - **Filipino Mass**
Church of Holy Child Jesus
111-11 86th Avenue
Richmond Hill, NY 11418
(Every 2nd Sunday of the Month)

April 19, 2009 (Divine Mercy Sunday)

1:30 PM - **Filipino Mass**
St. Joan of Arc Church
82-00 35th Ave. Jackson Heights, NY 11372
(Every 3rd Sunday of the Month)

1:30 PM - **Filipino Mass**
Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church
101-41 91st Street, Ozone Park, NY 11416
(Every 3rd Sunday of the Month)

2:30 PM - **Filipino Mass**
Guardian Angel Church
2978 Ocean Parkway, Brooklyn, NY, 11235
(Every 3rd Sunday of the Month)

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

April 25, 2009

6:30 PM - **Filipino Mass**
Our Lady of Mercy Church
70-01 Kessel Street, Forest Hills, NY 11375
(Every 4th Saturday of the Month)

April 26, 2009

2:00 PM - **Filipino Mass**
Corpus Christi Church
31-30 61st Street, Woodside, NY 11377
(Every 4th Sunday of the Month)

5:00 PM - **Filipino Mass**
Most Precious Blood Church (Basement)
32-23 36st Street, Long Island City, NY

MAY 2009 EVENTS

May 1, 2009

7:30 PM - **Filipino Mass – First Friday**
Sponsored by FDA and Apostleship of Prayer
St. Jude Church
1677 Canarsie Road, Brooklyn, NY 11236
(Every 1st Friday of the Month)

May 2, 2009

6:15 PM - **Filipino Mass**
St. Brigid Church,
409 Linden Street, Brooklyn, NY 11227
(Every 1st Saturday of the Month)

7:00 PM - **Filipino Mass**
Presentation Church,
88-19 Parsons Blvd., Jamaica, NY 11432
(Every 1st Saturday of the Month)

May 3, 2009

12:15 PM - **Filipino Mass**
St. Patrick Church,
39-38 29th Street, LIC, NY 11101
(Every 1st Sunday of the Month)

2:00 PM - **Filipino Mass**

Our Lady Help of Christians Church,
1315 E. 28th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11210
(Every 1st Sunday of the Month)
1:30 PM - **Feast of Our Lady of Manaoag**
Our Lady of the Island
Eastport, Long Island
Long Island Expressway, Exit 70
(Filipino Mass every 1st Sunday of the Month)

May 3, 2009

3:00 PM - **Feast of Our Lady of Manaoag**
Immaculate Conception Church
86-45 Edgerton Blvd.
Jamaica, New York 11432

May 10, 2009

2:00 PM - **Filipino Mass**
Incarnation Church
89-43 Francis Lewis Blvd.,
Queens Village, NY 11427
(Every 2nd Sunday of the Month)

2:00 PM - **Filipino Mass**
St. Rose of Lima Church
269 Parkville Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11230.
(Every 2nd Sunday of the Month)

2:00 PM - **Filipino Mass**
Church of Holy Child Jesus
111-11 86th Avenue
Richmond Hill, NY 11418
(Every 2nd Sunday of the Month)

5:00 PM - **Filipino Mass**
Mary's Nativity Church
4602 Parsons Blvd., Flushing, NY 11355.
(Every 2nd Sunday of the Month)

May 16, 2009

Diocesan Feast of Our Lay of Peace and Good Voyage (Antipolo)

3:00 PM Procession and Rosary
5:00 PM Filipino Mass
St. Robert Bellarmine Church
56-12 213 Street, Bayside, NY 11364

May 17, 2009

1:30 PM - **Filipino Mass**
St. Joan of Arc Church
82-00 35th Ave. Jackson Heights, NY 11372
(Every 2nd Sunday of the Month)

2:00 PM - **Filipino Mass**
Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church,
101-41 91st Street, Ozone Park, NY 11416
(Every 3rd Sunday of the Month)

2:30 PM - **Filipino Mass**
Guardian Angel Church
2978 Ocean Parkway, Brooklyn, NY, 11235
(Every 3rd Sunday of the Month)

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

(turn to page 26)

Syanga Naman!



Msgr. Ruben M. Dimaculangan

Acknowledgment: Salamat sa mga *Books of Text Messages* at iba pang libro ng *jokes*. Pinili ko ang mga patawang may leksyon na makukuha. Ito ay patunay lang na pwede rin naman tayong magpatawa na hindi lagi tungkol sa berdeng *joke*, kabaklaan o pamumula sa *English grammar* o pagbigkas ng iba. Medyo kakaiba ang katatawanan ng mga pinoy kung ihahambing sa *jokes* ng mga Puti. Ang sa atin ay less *political* o *cultural*. Pero pare-pareho lang tayong may “sick jokes”, i.e., *jokes done in bad taste*. Ang pagiging *bad taste* nito ay hindi lang dahil sa *content* kundi sa *forum* kung

saan ito ginamit at sa motibo kung bakit ito sinabi. Bagama’t ang mga *jokes* na ito ay halaw lahat sa mga libro ng mga patawa, ang mga “lessons” naman ay alay ko sa pagpapayaman ng kahulugan at aplikasyon nito sa ating buhay.

Muntik nang Maging *Number One!*

Boy: Nay! Muntik na ako maging *top one* sa klase!
Nanay: Ba’t mo naman nasabi? Nakakatuwa ka talaga, Anak. Manang-mana ka sa akin.
Boy: Ini-announce kasi kanina ung *top 1* sa klase. Ang tinuro ni ma’am ung katabi ko. Muntik na ako.

Lesson: Ang pagiging tunay na *number one* ay pinagsisikapin. Hindi ito basta-basta makakamtan gaya ng pananal sa lotto o makukuha sa pamamagitan ng lagay o ng pagiging matalinaw. Pwedeng makapasa ang isang doctor sa board sa pamamagitan ng lagay at leakage. Pero ang tropeong binili ay walang kasaysayang ipagmalaki. Syanga naman.

Batang Negosyante

Anak: Daddy, how much money am I worth?
Ama: Priceless ka, anak, sa amin.
Anak: Sa tingin nyo ba, I’m worth a thousand pesos?
Ama: Mas malaking higit pa dyan, anak!
Anak: A million pesos?
Ama: Mas higit pa riyan, anak.
Anak: Eh, di pwede ko na kayong singilin, Daddy?

Lesson: Ganyan kahalaga ng isang anak. Higit pa sa isang milyong piso, lalo na sa tingin ng kanyang mga magulang. Kaya nga naging madali para kay Haring Solomon na makita kung sino talaga ang tunay ng ina ng batang pinag-aagawan ng dalawang ina. Yaong ina na pumayag na hatiin ang katawan ng bata sa dalawa ay ang siyang sinabi ni Solomon na huwad na ina. Ang tunay na ina ay yaong ayaw ipapatay ang bata para paghatian ng dalawang nagpapangagaw na ina. Sa kabilang dako, tungkol sa mga anak: Merong mga anak na walang utang-na-loob. Katulad sila ng alibughang anak na gusto kaagad masingil upang malustay kaagad ang kanilang kabahaging mana, kahit buhay pa ang kanilang mga magulang. Syanga naman.

Hold-Up Ito: *Wallet* o *Sabog Utak?*

Holduper: Pili ka, *wallet* mo o pasabugin utak mo?
Biktima: Ikaw na bahala . . . basta pareho po yan walang laman!

Lesson: Sa totoo lang, mas pababayaang natin sigurong makuha ng holdaper ang *wallet* natin kaysa pasabugin ang ating utak. Kasi, “pera lang yan!” Mababawi din yan. Pero ano ang magagawa natin kung mas *trip* ng iba na pasabugin ng holdaper ang ating utak kaysa samsamin ang ating *wallet*. Siguro, hindi sapagkat libu-libo ang laman ng *wallet* natin kundi naroon ang picture ng ating gf/bf o paboritong artista, singer o kura paroko. Ha ha ha ha. Syanga naman.

Use “*Fuera*” in a Sentence

Spanish teacher: Class, use “*fuera*” in a sentence.
Student: Mis maestras son bonitas (*my teachers are beautiful*).
Teacher: Oh, that’s very flattering but where’s the word *fuera* in your sentence?
Student: *Fuera ka!*

Lesson: Dakilain natin ang mga *teachers*. Napansin nyo marahil na napakaraming *teacher* ang binibiro nating “Miss Tapia” dahil marami sa kanila ay matandang dalaga. Hwag nating hamakin ang kanilang pagiging matandang dalaga. Hwag natin sila i-*echa fuera!* Hwag nating kalimutan na sila ay tumandang dalaga dahil sobra silang nagmahal – ng kanilang propesyon at ng mga anak ng ating bayan. Syanga naman.

HOLY WEEK LITANY

Santa Maria Ipanalangin mo kami
 San Isidro Bigyan nyo kami ng ulan.
 Santa Lucia Palinawin nyo ang aking mga mata.
 San Roque Nakagat po ako ng aso.
 San Antonio Nawawala ang cell phone ko.
 Santa Clara Tama na po. Marami na po akong anak.

Santo Tomas Ipasa ninyo ako.
 San Pedro Nasa Laguna po ba kami?
 San Lazaro Tumataya po ako.
 Santa Ana Tumataya din po ako.
 San Miguel Sarap maging barkada!
 Sta Mesa Para na po sa kanto!

Lesson: Sa bawat pangangailangan, meron tayong santong tinatakbuhan. May kanyang specialty ang mga santong milagroso. Pero alam nyo, hindi lang mga santo ang gumagawa ng milagro. Kayang-kaya din itong gawin ng mga taong *corrupt*. Hanggang ngayon sa Simbahang Katolika, para ma-*canonize* ang santo, kinakailangang mapatunayan na genuine ang kaniyang milagro. Kakaiba ito ng mga milagroso sa politika. Patay ka sa kanila kapag pinatunayan mo sa Kongreso o sa Senado na *authentic* ang ebidensya ng kanilang mga milagro. Gusto nila’y mga taong “no see”; “no hear” at “no speak”. Syanga naman.

Takot sa Multo

Nanay: Anak, bili ka nga ng asin.
Bitoy: Ayoko po, madilim na.
Nanay: Hwag kang matakot, kasama mo naman si Jesus, eh.
Bitoy: Eh di si Jesus na lang ang utusan po ninyo.

Lesson: Okey lang kay Jesus na ipasa natin sa kanya ang hindi natin kaya. Siya ang tunay na barkada. Siya ang talagang asin ng sanlibutan. Siya din ang ilaw. Ang mahalaga, bago natin siya hingan ng pabor, gawin rin natin muna ang ating makakaya. *Act as though everything depends upon you and pray as though everything depends upon God*. Syanga naman.

Pulubing Umasenso

Lola: Palimos po!
Girl: Uhm, Lola, bakit dalawa po ang lata nyo?
Lola: Ineng, umaasenso din naman tayo... Eto, awa ng Diyos, nakapagbukas na ako ng bagong branch.

Lesson: Grabe na talaga ang panahon ngayon ang panahon. Sa halip na magsara ng business ang mga pulubi, napipilitan sila ngayong magbukas pa ng bagong branches. Gaya ni Lola, dalawa na ang kanyang lata. Minsan nga may mas malma pa sa ganitong scenario: pati mga pulubi ay pinagnanakawan na rin. Syanga naman.

Sulat ng Pagsisisi

Dear Jay,
 Pinagsisisihan ko talaga ang pagbasted sa iyo. Tine-testing ko lang ang pasensya mo noong sabihin kong sobrang pangit mo, wala kang kwenta at isinumpa kang nilalang.

Alam mo ba na bawat segundo, ikaw ang nasa isip ko. Kahit panaginip, andoon ka pa rin. Tanggap na tanggap ka ng mga magulang ko at mahilig lang talaga silang magbiro noong hinabol ka ng itak ng tatay ko at sinabuyan ka ng ihi ng nanay ko.

Jay, hindi talaga ako mabubuhay nang wala ka sa akin.

Nagmamahal,
 Stephanie

PS: *Congrats* sa pagkapanalo mo sa lotto. Bagay na bagay sa iyo ang nabili mong *silver edition* ng Toyota. Pagka-pogi pogi mo, *promise!*

Lesson: Nang panahong hindi pa gaanong marami ang kotse, ang sasakyan, kahit ng Tatay mo, ay malaking kontribusyon sa pagpapa-pogi. Nang panahon ko, sa *Fernando Air Base*, kapag anak ka ng General, ang trato ng maraming tao sa iyo ay para ka na ring General. Para bang mas lalo kang gumaganda at mas lalo kang tao sa tingin nila. Kapag may mataas kang posisyon, natutuklasan mong marami ka palang kamag-anak. Dumarami din ang iyong mga inaanak sa Binyag, Kumpil at Kasal. Mabuti na lang at walang Ninong sa patay! Syanga naman.

Ten Commandments

Junior: Mommy, ano po yung 10 Commandments?
Mommy: Yun ang sampung utos ng Diyos, Anak.
Junior: Mas mataas po pala kayo kaysa Diyos, Mommy.
Mommy: Ha? Bakit?
Junior: Eh, kasi, mas marami po kayong utos.

Lesson: Pero sa totoo lang, kapag nawala na ang mga mother ninyong mabunganga, mami-miss ninyo talaga sila. Kapag mature ang puso, hindi nito kinukwestyon ang batas. Sapagkat ang tunay na nagmamahal sa mga magulang ay hindi na dependent sa batas o paala-ala ng mga magulang. Ganon din sa Diyos. Maraming kumukontra daw sa Simbahan dahil marami itong mga batas at mga ipinagbabawal. Pero ang may mature na puso, para sa kanya ay hindi sagabal ang batas. Mas nakakatulong pa nga ito sa mga mahihina para maturuan ang kanilang budhi. Parang sa seminaryo: kapag high school pa ay kailangan ang kampanilya para sa bawat activities. Sa high school seminaryo, ang kampanilya ay boses ng Diyos. Kapag theologian na ang seminarista at matured na ang budhi, kaya na niyang mag-regulate ng kanyang activities kahit walang kampanilya. Ang regulasyon ay mga paala-ala na lang sa mga taong nakakalimot. Hindi balakid ang batas. Syanga naman.

KALAMAY

Peter James R. Alindogan

Gamit niya ang boses tuwing umaga sa bawat umagang alay ng Panginoon. Nangangalampag, nangigising, nagpapagunita sa pagyakap ng bagong araw. Dala niya ang bilaong matagal nang kaanib, katunggali at kapiling. Angkin nito ang pagkaing iniaalok at pinagbibili: kalamay.

Sa panahong tapos na ang paghulma, paghanda at pagsariwa ng kalamay na sa kanya'y nagbibigay buhay, gamit niya ang parehong boses sa Plaza Trece Martires sa lunsod ng Naga tuwing dapithapon. Nangingising ng tulog na pananampalataya, nangangalampag ng tamad na pag-asa, nagpapagunita ng pagmamahal sa Diyos ng ligaya.

Dala niya kung minsan ang bibliyang luma't gasgas na. Angkin nito ang salitang kalasag sa lahat ng kahinaan. Isang boses ang kung minsan'y nagtatalumpati't nangingibabaw: boses ni Kalamay.

Kalamay ang naging bansag sa kanya dahil kalamay ang tinda niya. Sa apat na taong nag-aral ako sa Naga, nalaman ko't nabadya ang siklab ng kanyang damdamin sa pagtuligsa ng kamalian at pagtanggol ng tama. Talo ang lahat na kumalaban sa kanya, Iglesya man o Sabadista, Protestante man o Katolikong kulang sa kaalaman.

Kung tutuusin, kulang ang kanyang pinag-aralan. Kung tutuusin, siya'y isang pangkaraniwang paham. Kung tutuusin, kung mga pilosopo ang mag-uusapan, pilosopo rin siyang makikipagtagisan.

Hindi ko alam ang tunay niyang pangalan. Ngunit alam ko nang siya'y pumanaw. Sa itim na telang sagisag ay katapusan ng buhay na sa punerarya ay nagwagayway, alam ng lahat kung sino ang namatay: si Kalamay.

Wala ng pagtitipong ukol sa pananampalataya sa Plaza Trece Martires tulad ng panahon ni Kalamay. Wala na ang mga debateng nagbigay sigla at liwanag sa isipang kulang at nauuhaw. Wala na ang mga tulad ni Kalamay na nagtatanggol, nagpapaliwanag, nag-uulat, at nagsasaysay.

Tulad ng mga panahon ngayon na kalong natin. Nangingibabaw ang takot at pangamba ng ilan sa bawat Sabadistang kumakatok at naghahanap ng kahuntahan. Nag-aalangan ang karamihan sa pagtanggol ng pananampalatayang dapat ay alagaan.

Ilan na lamang ang mga taong bihasa sa Banal na Salita. Ilan na lamang ang mga taong nagbabasa ng Banal na Wika. Ilan na lamang ang tagapagtanggol ng Banal na Utos at Buhay. Ilan na lamang ang mga taong panatag sa Diyos na Banal at Simbahang tunay.

Ang mabuting balita'y madaling tandaan. Si Kristo ay namatay. Si Kristo ay nabuhay. Si Kristo'y babalik sa wakas ng panahon.

Ito ang palagiang pinagpupunyagi ni Kalamay. Kailangang may kamatayan sa buhay. Hindi maaaring mabuhay na muli kung walang hanggan at katapusan. Kinakailangang maarok ng Diyos na si Hesus ang lungkot at kadiliman nang sa gayon ay mawala ang baho at sama ng kasalanan.

Dulot ng kasalanan ang kamatayan. Sa krus na sa hininga niya'y kumitil at lumagot, nabigyang saysay ang katanungang sumagot. Lahat ng pagbabadya, pag-aalala, at pagbabakasakali ay humantong sa libingang hiram. At lahat ng pagpapasalamat, papuri at pagsamba ay biglang nanariwa nang si Kristo'y muling nabuhay.

Sa wakas ng panahon, ang Panginoon nati'y babalik na muli. Kasama niya marahil ang isang boses na minsan ay kanyang naging karamay. Boses na nag-aalok, nagpapaliwanag, nagtatanggol, nagtuturo't nagpapagunita: ang boses ni Kalamay.

Batang Dahuyhuyin

Rambo: Tatay, hu hu hu hu hu. Kinagat po ako ng laywan. Ang sakit po, Tatay, hu hu hu.

Tatay: Ikaw talaga, napaka-dahuyhuyin mo. Konting kagat lang ng lewan, masyado ka na kung makadaing. Magpakalalaki ka. Rambo pa naman ang ipinangalan ko sa iyo.

Rambo: Ha ha ha ha. Daddy, napakasakit talaga nitong kagat ng lewan sa aking labi. Pikluy-na pikloy na. Ha ha ha ha ha. Ang sakit, ha ha ha ha.

Lesson: Hindi porke umiiyak ang batang lalaki dahil sa talaga namang masakit na sugat ay isa nang kabaklaan. Ganoon din, hindi lahat ng lalaki ay dapat maging ala-Rambo. Ang mahalaga ay ituro sa batang lalaki ang "huwag matakot sa liwanag". Minsan, ang masakakatakot ay kung ang isang tao ay mas-gusto ang dilim kaysa liwanag. Dapat turuan siya na maging kakaiba kahit nag-iisa. Dapat makilala niya kung sino at ano ang dapat paniwalaan. Kapag malinaw ito sa kanya, hindi siya matatakot o magsasawa na mangarap. Bilang "kabilang din sa lipi ni Abraham" nagtitiwala siya, gaya ni Abraham, na tapat ang Diyos sa kanyang pangako. Syanga naman.

The Infant Jesus
Prayer Group of Nassau
cordially invites you to its

28th Anniversary & FIESTA in honor of the Santo Niño



Sunday, June 14, 2009

St. Ladislaus Church

18 Richardson Pl, Hempstead, NY

Tel. (516) 489-0368

1:30 pm - Novena and Procession

2:30 pm - Concelebrated Mass

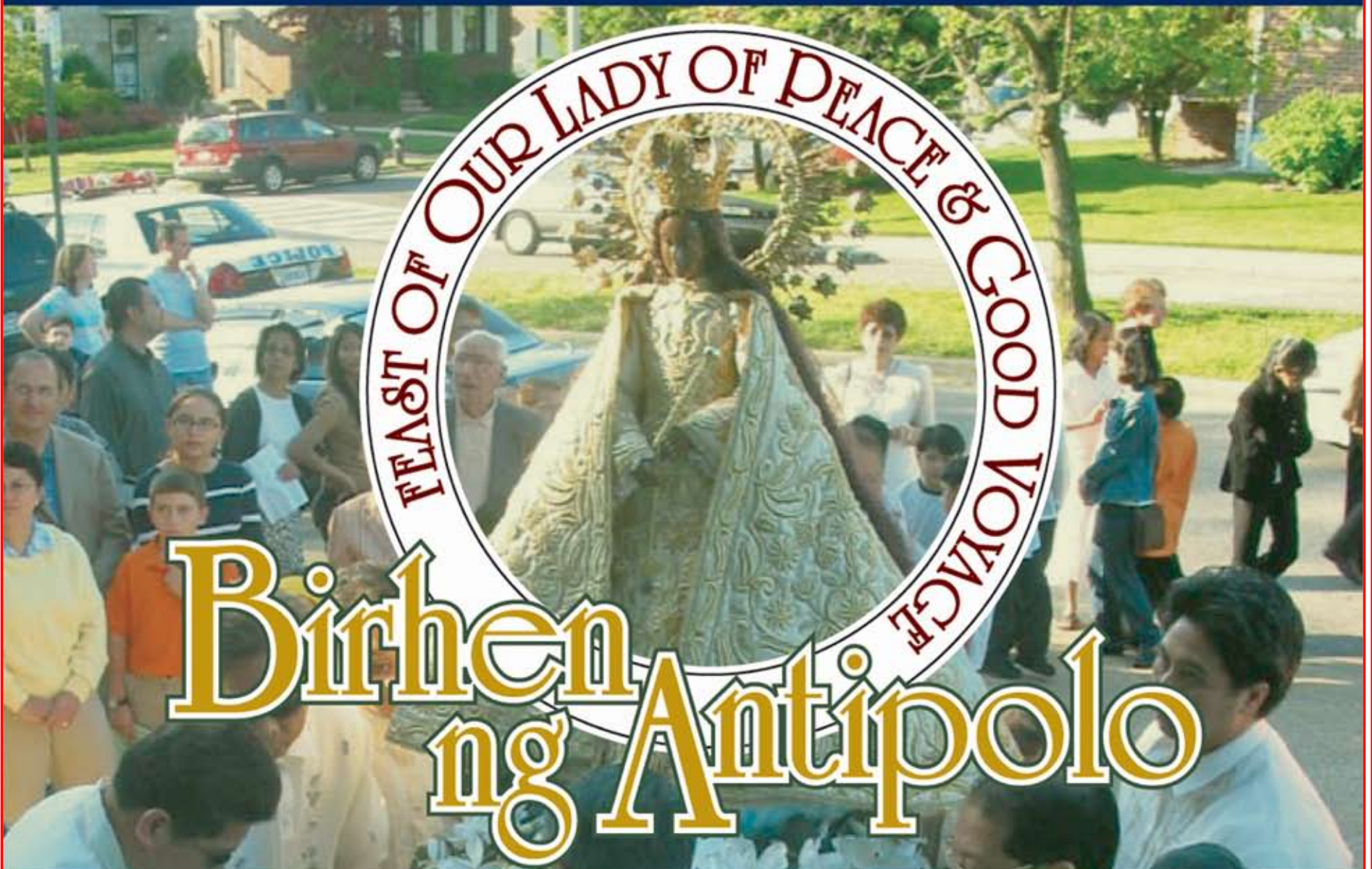
**DEVOTIONAL PRAYERS
BLESSING OF SANTO NIÑO IMAGES**
(Pot Luck Reception follows at school auditorium)

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL

Sol & Tony Sahagun - (516) 486-4009
Mario & Edna Sarmiento - (516) 214-4910
Gil & Elsa Vergara - (516) 286-1970
Toots & Zeny Berroya - (516) 869-8202
Cris & Nita Vasquez - (516) 931-5229
Rita Stadmeier - (516) 851-5107
Jun & Eden Gaceta - (516) 942-0203
Rodel & Marites Revilla - (516) 644-2409
Tony & Edna Lobacz - (516) 481-0158
Manny & Norma Pascual - (516) 292-1445
Fr. James Dineros - (631) 645-3255

**Music by
The Rosedale Santo Niño Prayer Group**

Filipino-American Community of St. Robert Bellarmine
 & Devotional Groups Of Brooklyn & Queens
 Invite You To Join Our
5th Diocesan Celebration



Concelebrated Mass at 5:00 P.M.
on Saturday May 16, 2009
at St. Robert Bellarmine Church
 56-15 213 St. Bayside New York 11364

Rosary Prayer starts at 3:00 P.M., followed by Street Procession.
 Fellowship and Entertainment after the Eucharistic Celebration.

MAIN CELEBRANT
Rev. Msgr. Ronald T. Marino, V.E.
 VICAR FOR MIGRANT & ETHNIC APOSTOLATES
 DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL: LYDIA...718-361 5310 CHING...718-225 4219 JOSIE...718-781 0953 CERES...718-224 9205

FOR DIRECTION

FROM GWB: Take Cross Bronx Exprwy. to Clearview Exprwy. then to Long Island Exprwy. East get off Exit 29 (Springfield Blvd.) left on traffic light then left on the third traffic light which is 58th Ave., drive straight ahead until you reach 213th St., church is on your right.
FROM NY, BROOKLYN, STATEN ISLAND & NJ: Take Mid-Town Tunnel or any of the bridges or BQE to Long Island Exprwy. east to Exit 29 (Springfield Blvd.) left on the first traffic light, then another left on the third traffic light which is 58th Ave. drive straight ahead until you reach 213th St. church is on your right.
FROM LONG ISLAND: Take Long Island Exprwy. west to Exit 29 (Springfield Blvd.) stay on the service road, pass two traffic lights, right on 213th St. drive one block down, church is on your right.

DIRECTION BY SUBWAY

- 7** TRAIN TO MAIN STREET TRANSFER TO Q27, (INFRONT OF BURGER KING & MODELLS) GET OFF AT SPRINGFIELD BLVD. & HORACE HARDING, WALK WEST TO 213 ST. TURN RIGHT TO 58 AVE.
- F** TRAIN TO 169 STREET TRANSFER TO Q30 GET OFF AT BELL BLVD. AND HORACE HARDING, WALK NORTH TO 58 AVE., LEFT TO 213 ST.

The Filipino - American Community Our Lady of the Snows Church

258-17 80th Avenue, Floral Park, NY 11004

Invites you to join in the celebration of

Flores de Mayo 2009

In Honor of
Philippine Virgin of Antipolo
Our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage



Sunday, May 17, 2009

Novena at 3:30 pm followed by procession.
Eucharistic celebration starts at 5:00 pm

Main Celebrant

Rev. Patrick Longalong

Parochial Vicar, Our Lady of the Snows

For further information, call

Liz M. Yao (718) 347-1013 • Rosebelle Cadelina (347) 548-4673
Al Tan (718) 347-4596 • Ely Noblesala (718) 347-6338

REMAINING NOVENA DAYS AT 2:30 pm

Sunday, April 12 in the Church

Sunday April 19 in the Green Room

Sunday, April 26 in the Green Room

Sunday, May 3 in the Church • Sunday May 10 in the Church

Sunday, May 17 9th and last day in the Church

*** FLORES DE MAYO ***

Directions:

By car: From Manhattan, Brooklyn, Staten Island—Take any roadway to the Grand Central Pkwy. East. Get off at Exit 22 Union Tpke. Make a right at Union Tpke up to 258 St. Parking lot is at the corner.

From Bronx: Take Throgs Neck Bridge to Clearview Expwy. to Hillside Ave., take Grand Central Pkwy. East exit, stay on right lane. Next exit is Union Tpke. Follow above directions to church.

By bus/train: Take F train to 179 St. Jamaica. Get off at Union Tpke. station. Take Q46 bus to Glen Oaks or LIJ Hospital. Get off on 258 St.

Sixth annual Flores de Mayo at Our Lady of Snows Parish

by Lily Ulep

Preparations are now underway for the sixth annual Flores de Mayo at Our Lady of the Snows parish on North Floral Park, Queens, New York. Flores de Mayo 2009 is set for Sunday, May 17 at 3:30 in the afternoon.

This time honored Philippine tradition in May honors Mary as Queen of Flowers. Here at Our Lady of the Snows she is invoked under her title of Nuestra Senora de la Paz y Buen Viaje or Virgin of Antipolo. The feast, sponsored by Our Lady of the Snows Filipino-American Community includes community rosary and last day of the novena to Our Lady of Antipolo, street procession, Holy Mass, followed by fellowship and entertainment. Ave Maria girls and sagalas will walk in procession with the Reina de las Flores.

Main celebrant is Rev. Patrick Longalong, Parochial Vicar, Our Lady of the Snows.

The concelebrated Mass will start at 5:00 O'clock. This is the first Flores de Mayo Mass to be held in the new church inaugurated in August 2008. Pastor of Our Lady of the Snows Parish is the Rev. Msgr. Raymond F. Chappetto. Rev. Patrick Longalong. Like in previous years, proceeds from the Flores de Mayo will benefit the new church. Come join us in the celebration including the 9 days of novena to Our Lady of Antipolo. For further details including novena days schedule, please refer to the ad in this issue of The Filipino Catholic newspaper.

REAL ESTATE



Opportunity Knocks – Take Advantage

by Robert Fernandez

The Past

Some years ago you may have wanted to buy your first home, but high prices prevented you from achieving it. Your income may have been inadequate to get the home that suits your needs and wants – say, four bedrooms, at least two baths, good size lot, large kitchen in a desirable school district. Savings may be too low and you want to pay a smaller amortization. Credit scores may be on the lower side and you don't want to pay for a high mortgage interest rate.

The Present

For homebuyers things have changed for the better. You have a steady higher paying job, have an automatic savings plan pumping up your savings, have been paying bills on time and paying them fully jacking up your FICO credit scores. Your conservative spending finally is paying off. With these successes now is the time to make your dream come true. Home prices have gone down considerably. Mortgage interest rates are among the lowest in decades. Sure, lending guidelines are tighter – borrowers must have own available funds for down payment and closing, higher qualifying credit scores, must have supportable income, etc. However, for those qualified homebuyers like you there is always money available from lenders. Add to these Uncle Sam's benevolence of an \$8,000 tax credit if you close on a home you're buying before December 1, 2009 as a first time homebuyer (has not owned a home for the past three years).

Your situation may be considerably different from many people. The point I am driving at is this – take advantage of the lower home prices, lower mortgage interest rates, and the additional income tax break (on top of the usual property tax and mortgage interest deductibility for federal and state income tax purposes). There are many available and move-in condition homes that are attractively priced waiting to be snatched by people like you. Add to the mix the discounted prices (off 10-20% or more depending upon the community) of short sales and bank owned properties. One caveat on these bargain properties – they are almost always sold in "as-is" condition and many of them are classified as fixer uppers thus requiring work before you move in. There are exceptions, however, a few gems – updated homes that just so happen owned or used to be owned by people who happen to be out of luck. A knowledgeable Realtor® can help find these gems for you. One advice – make sure to use the services of a home inspection professional to know what you're getting. No house is perfect, but make sure that any problem is fixable within a reasonable amount. No matter what, opportunity is knocking. Talk to real estate, mortgage and tax professionals who can guide you, and make your move to fulfill your dream.

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

APARTMENT RENTAL IN QUEENS VILLAGE

Beautiful 3 bedroom apartment for rent. Two flats in a private house in QV. One flat can be used for storage. Available on May 1 or June 1.

Call owner at

(631) 875-3711



by Ate Norma

FACES & PLACES



Above: Friends and members of the Suffolk Santo Niño Prayer Group gathered at the home of Tess and Primo Carlos in Manorville to host the novena to the Infant Jesus and to celebrate Primo's birthday as well. Fr. James Dineros, Spiritual Adviser of the group, was also on hand during the celebration. Right: Tess and Primo also coordinate the Filipino Mass celebrated every first Sunday of the month at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Island in Eastport, Long Island.



VISIT FROM AN OLD FRIEND. Fr. Mike Semana (right) came to Long Island recently to visit friends in the religious community there. Fr. Mike, who is stationed in Ohio, is the Chairman of the International Board of the World of Hope Foundation, Inc. He is shown here with Msgr. Romualdo Sosing and Norma Pascual of the Infant Jesus Prayer Group of Nassau.



Above: On the 40th day after the passing of Lizelle Aguilar Vibar, a mass was held at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Queens Village followed by a luncheon at a local restaurant. Lizelle died last February 3. Photo shows a few of those who attended including Lizelle's mother Leonor (standing third from left). Not shown is her father, Hospicio Vibar.

Fun in Mexico



Caleb, Quin and Scarlett enjoyed bright, breezy days at the beach in Mexico. The youngsters were on a Mexican vacation recently with their parents Mark and Laurie.



Allison and Ethan



*"I have no greater joy than to hear my children walk in truth."
-- 3 John 4*

Trinity is Four



Above: Children gather around the birthday cake.

Left: Q Trinity (right) and friend Allison enjoy the magic show.

Q Trinity Concepcion celebrated her fourth birthday with a mass, party and a magic show with friends and relatives last March 28. Mass was held at Queen of Peace Residence in Queens Village, party and magic show at the International Buffet Restaurant in Garden City. She is the daughter of JL and Nicole Concepcion. Her grandmother is Mel Galang, known in the religious community as Tita Mel.

ALL SET FOR A GOLDEN EVENT

Fr. Basil Colasito, a regular columnist for the Filipino Catholic, will be celebrating his Golden Anniversary as a priest on April 20th in Tolosa, Leyte. Main celebrant at the event will be His Excellency, Most Rev. Bishop Jose Palma, Archbishop of Palo. Most Rev. Tarcisio Narciso, OSB, Abbot of Our Lady of Montserrat Abbey will be the homilist. Fr. Basil was ordained in the Abbey of Montserrat or San Beda College in 1959. Photo shows Fr. Basil at a recent luncheon with former Philippine First Lady Imelda Marcos. Others in photo are Rosario, Bernadette and Patrick Chua.



Our Lady of Manaoag

comes to the Shrine in Eastport, Long Island

Join our
celebration of the
Feast of Our Lady
of Manaoag
Sunday
May 3, 2009
with a Mass
at **1:30 p.m.**
followed by
a Procession
at the **Shrine**
of Our Lady of the
Island
in Eastport
Long Island.

Main celebrant:
Fr. Joe Cadusale

There will also be a
Philippine-style salo-
salo at the picnic area.

For information:
Dr. Fely Malanum Santos
(516) 569-6504

Michael Calicdan
(516) 859-7366

Nida Cortez
718-393-0348

Lett Dayao
(516) 385-8238



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.

MISANG PINOY

(In Filipino/Tagalog Language)

When: Every 3rd Sunday of the Month
 Time/Place: 1:30 pm / Lower Church
 Church: St Joan of Arc Parish
 Address: 82-00 35th Ave, Jackson Heights, NY 11372
 Mass Transit: 7 train (82nd St. Station), Q49, Q33, Q32

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**Call: Jane 718-507-0608 or
 Ann 917- 705- 9538**

The Filipino Pastoral Ministry of Our Lady of Pompei Church
 and The Santo Nino Prayer Groups of New York
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 Invite you to the

19th Annual

Sayawan sa Village

April 18, 2009 * Saturday 6:00 PM to Midnight

OLP Father Demo Hall * 25 Carmine Street * New York, NY 10014

DJ Music: BCV

Donation: \$20.00

CONTACT :

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Ernie Bugarin	917 - 515 - 4764
Nancy Hombrebueno	917 - 294 - 4203
Nelia Cloma	718 - 844 - 2829
Marilyn Castillo	718 - 608 - 4212
Bobby Villanueva	718 - 219 - 8000
Araceli Medrano	917 - 502 - 5907
Maxi Chavez	917 - 874 - 7762

Direction to Our Lady of Pompei Church:

By Subway: Take A, B, C, D, E, F or V Trains to West4 (Washington Square Station). Exit at Sixth Ave. (Avenue of The America) go against the traffic the right turn to Carmie Street. The Church is at the corner of Bleecker and Carmine St. Trains 1 or 9 to Houston Station, exit at Varick/Seventh Avenue and turn right to Carmine Street.

Day of Prayer

In honor of The Lady of All Nations

Saturday, May 30, 2009

Shrine of The Lady of the Island

Manorville, Long Island NY (run by the Montfort Fathers)

www.ourladyoftheisland.org for direction and schedule

Tentative Schedule

11:00 am-3:00 pm.- Confessions : 11:30 am.Rosary Walk/Meditation

12:00 P.M.--- Angelus/ Lunch

1:00 pm- 1st Conference : Witnessing Mary by a Franciscan Friar

2:00 pm—Second Conference :“ Co-redemptrix, Mediatrix and Advocate

3:00 pm - Divine Mercy (sung)

3:30 pm Concelebrated Mass(possibly with a Bishop). Homilist: Rev.Fr. Angelo

Geiger, FI ;from"Air Maria" " ; "The Triumph of The Immaculata"

4: 30pm- Benediction followed by a rosary procession to the top of the hill shrine followed by the crowning of the Blessed Mother's image

5:30 pm—Consecration based from St. Louis De Montfort or based the consecration of all nations by late Pope John Paul II

Contact Aileen/Lisa at the shrine for parking and pack lunch- 631-3250661or bring lunch Elena-718-6332482; Susan, 6462278582; Betty- 2015920017. Adults from all nations are welcome in their traditional dresses and to offer flowers to the Blessed Mother Children ages 5- 14 are all welcome to offer flowers in white dresses"

From this day all generations shall call me Blessed "

Call Elena 718-6332482 for busses departing from Brooklyn, Manhattan, Staten Island, Queens and NJ. For LI train from the city take LI railroad from Madison Square Garden, 34th St. get off at Speonk , NY , taxis are waiting outside \$ 10.00 fee (you can share with a group).By car go to www.mapquest.com or go to www.ourladyofisland.org. Fee for bus departures: \$ 25.00

BusDepartures: Manhattan:St John the Baptist Church;210West 31st St. NY, NY 1001:8:30am .Connie: 718-4241260, Elena 718-6332482; St. Emeric Church: Susan;6462278582; Brooklyn: Canarsie: Terry : 718763382; Park Slope ;Ana 718-7689266 Bayridge:Emma/ Vangie; 718 4393429;NJ Betty :201-5920017; Staten Island : Thelma: 718- 3703628; Queens:Marilou ;6467044183.Call Elena if you would like to be a bus coordinator. Bus Guardians for children; Call Ann :7188994378. Call Elena to host a film on The Key to the Triumph and World Peace made by Maxcol Institute –and given by famousTheologians.



Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Father, send now your Spirit over the earth. Let the Holy Spirit live in the hearts of all nations that they may be preserved from degeneration, disaster and war. May the Lady of All Nations, the Blessed Virgin Mary be our Advocate. Amen.

Come Holy Spirit, Come.

(Continued from last month)

by Sonia S. Salerni



THE PROFESSION OF FAITH SECTION TWO

Paragraph 2. Jesus Died Crucified I. THE TRIAL OF JESUS

Divisions among the Jewish authorities concerning Jesus

595 Among the religious authorities of Jerusalem, not only were the Pharisee Nicodemus and the prominent Joseph of Arimathea both secret disciples of Jesus, but there was also long-standing dissension about Him, so much so that St. John says of these authorities on the very eve of Christ's Passion, "many... believed in Him", though very imperfectly. This is not surprising, if one recalls that on the day after Pentecost "a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith" and "some believers... belonged to the party of the Pharisees", to the point that St. James could tell St. Paul, "How many thousands there are among the Jews of those who have believed; and they are all zealous for the Law."

596 The religious authorities in Jerusalem were not unanimous about what stance to take towards Jesus. The Pharisees threatened to excommunicate His followers. To those who feared that "everyone will believe in Him, and the Romans will come and destroy both our holy place and our nation", the high priest Caiaphas replied by prophesying: "It is expedient for you that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation should not perish." The Sanhedrin, having declared Jesus deserving of death as a blasphemer but having lost the right to put anyone to death, hands Him over to the Romans, accusing Him of political revolt, a charge that puts Him in the same category as Barabbas who had been accused of sedition. The chief priests also threatened Pilate politically so that He would condemn Jesus to death. Jews are not collectively responsible for Jesus' death

597 The historical complexity of Jesus' trial is apparent in the Gospel accounts. The personal sin of the participants (Judas, the Sanhedrin, Pilate) is known to God alone. Hence we cannot lay responsibility for the trial on the Jews in Jerusalem as a whole, despite the outcry of a manipulated crowd and the global reproaches contained in the apostles' calls to conversion after Pentecost. Jesus himself, in forgiving them on the cross, and Peter in following suit, both accept "the ignorance" of the Jews of Jerusalem and even of their leaders. Still less can we extend responsibility to other Jews of different times and places, based merely on the crowd's cry: "His blood be on us and on our children!", a formula for ratifying a judicial sentence. As the Church declared at the Second Vatican Council: "... neither all Jews indiscriminately at that time, nor Jews today, can be charged with the crimes committed during His Passion. ... the Jews should not be spoken of as rejected or accursed as if this followed from holy Scripture. All sinners were the authors of Christ's Passion

598 In her Magisterial teaching of the faith and in the witness of her saints, the Church has never forgotten that "sinners were the authors and the ministers of all the sufferings that the divine Redeemer endured." Taking into account the fact that our sins affect Christ himself, the Church does not hesitate to impute to Christians the gravest responsibility for the torments inflicted upon Jesus, a responsibility with which they have all too often burdened the Jews alone: We must regard as guilty all those who continue to relapse into their sins. Since our sins made the Lord Christ suffer the torment of the cross, those who plunge themselves into disorders and crimes crucify the Son of God anew in their hearts (for He is in them) and hold Him up to contempt. And it can be seen that our crime in this case is greater in us than in the Jews. As for them, according to the witness of the Apostle, "None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory." We, however, profess to know Him. And when we deny Him by our deeds, we in some way seem to lay violent hands on Him. Nor did demons crucify Him; it is you who have crucified Him and crucify Him still, when you delight in your vices and sins.

II. CHRIST'S REDEMPTIVE DEATH IN GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION

"Jesus handed over according to the definite plan of God"

599 Jesus' violent death was not the result of chance in an unfortunate coincidence of circumstances, but is part of the mystery of God's plan, as St. Peter explains to the Jews of Jerusalem in His first sermon on Pentecost: "This Jesus [was] delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God." This Biblical language does not mean that those who handed Him over were merely passive players in a scenario written in advance by God.

600 To God, all moments of time are present in their immediacy. When therefore He establishes His eternal plan of "predestination", He includes in it each person's free response to His grace: "In this city, in fact, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles

and the peoples of Israel, gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place." For the sake of accomplishing His plan of salvation, God permitted the acts that flowed from their blindness. "He died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures"

601 The Scriptures had foretold this divine plan of salvation through the putting to death of "the righteous one, my Servant" as a mystery of universal redemption, that is, as the ransom that would free men from the slavery of sin. Citing a confession of faith that He himself had "received", St. Paul professes that "Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures." In particular Jesus' redemptive death fulfills Isaiah's prophecy of the suffering Servant. Indeed Jesus himself explained the meaning of His life and death in the light of God's suffering Servant. After His Resurrection He gave this interpretation of the Scriptures to the disciples at Emmaus, and then to the apostles.

"For our sake God made Him to be sin"

602 Consequently, St. Peter can formulate the apostolic faith in the divine plan of salvation in this way: "You were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your fathers... with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. He was destined before the foundation of the world but was made manifest at the end of the times for your sake." Man's sins, following on original sin, are punishable by death. By sending His own Son in the form of a slave, in the form of a fallen humanity, on account of sin, God "made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God."

603 Jesus did not experience reprobation as if He himself had sinned. But in the redeeming love that always united Him to the Father, He assumed us in the state of our waywardness of sin, to the point that He could say in our name from the cross: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Having thus established Him in solidarity with us sinners, God "did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all", so that we might be "reconciled to God by the death of His Son".

God takes the initiative of universal redeeming love

604 By giving up His own Son for our sins, God manifests that His plan for us is one of benevolent love, prior to any merit on our part: "In this is love, not that we loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the expiation for our sins." God "shows His love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us."

605 At the end of the parable of the lost sheep Jesus recalled that God's love excludes no one: "So it is not the will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish." He affirms that He came "to give His life as a ransom for many"; this last term is not restrictive, but contrasts the whole of humanity with the unique person of the redeemer who hands himself over to save us. The Church, following the apostles, teaches that Christ died for all men without exception: "There is not, never has been, and never will be a single human being for whom Christ did not suffer."

III. CHRIST OFFERED HIMSELF TO HIS FATHER FOR OUR SINS

Christ's whole life is an offering to the Father

606 The Son of God, who came down "from heaven, not to do [His] own will, but the will of Him who sent [him]" said on coming into the world, "Lo, I have come to do your will, O God." "And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." From the first moment of His Incarnation the Son embraces the Father's plan of divine salvation in His redemptive mission: "My food is to do the will of Him who sent me, and to accomplish His work." The sacrifice of Jesus "for the sins of the whole world" expresses His loving communion with the Father. "The Father loves Me, because I lay down my life", said the Lord, "[for] I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father."

607 The desire to embrace His Father's plan of redeeming love inspired Jesus' whole life, for His redemptive passion was the very reason for His Incarnation. And so He asked, "And what shall I say? 'Father, save Me from this hour'? No, for this purpose I have come to this hour." And again, "Shall I not drink the cup which the Father has given Me?" From the cross, just before "It is finished", He said, "I thirst."

Source: *The Catechism of the Catholic Church* Book to be continued ...

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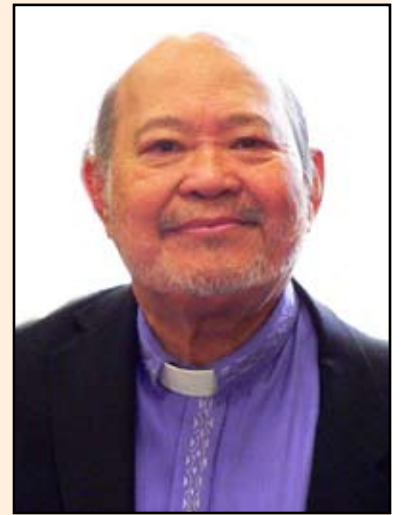
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The Gospel Truth

by **Rev. Joe Cadusale**



One of the great marvels of modern medicine is the practice of CPR, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, in which an individual with special training can keep blood with oxygen flowing to the heart and brain of another individual struggling to regain a heartbeat. How great is the joy and relief when, in the alarm of a sudden trauma, a volunteer steps forward to administer CPR successfully and saves a life. At Easter, we have far more than a spiritual kind of CPR at work. We encounter the Risen Christ and our own resurrection. He told us: "I am with you always" (Matthew 28:20). He is true to his promise in every age. We are on a journey through life. At times, there is joy and hope, while other times, there is sadness and despair. Sometimes the road is smooth; there are times when it is rough. What is important for each of us to remember is that the Lord is with us on the road of life. He is there to give us the strength and courage that we need as we journey on our pilgrimage of life.

There are times, however, when we do not recognize him or choose not to follow him. Why do people seem indifferent that they do not see the connection between the Resurrection of Christ and their own lives? There is a profound connection! Above all else the Resurrection confirms the teaching of Jesus. There are many hard sayings and great promises and our Lord by his resurrection ratified them all. By rising from the dead Jesus strengthened our faith and hope in "the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. St Paul was clear about this when he wrote to the Corinthians: "If there is no resurrection of the dead, Christ himself has not been raised, and if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is void of content and your faith is empty too. You are still in your sins" (1 Cor.15:12-17).

The Scriptures speak of the power of the Resurrection. What is this power? It is the power of the Risen Christ seated at the right hand of the Father. There he can keep the promise he made, "Anything you ask me in my name, I will do it" (John 14:14).

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Most Precious Blood Charismatic Prayer Community
Most Precious Blood Church
32-23 36th Street
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Head Servant: Nenet Barbilla
718 937 5242
2nd 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
4th 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: Patrick de la Paz
718 658 2078
1st Tuesday 7:30 PM

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

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

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

English Community
161 Le Grand St.
Brentwood, NY 11717
Coordinator: Rose Nallie Germain
631 231 8758
1st 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

Militia Immaculatae Marian Kolbe Movement
St. Stanislaus B&M
101 East 7th Street
New York, NY 10009
(917) 753-7233
1st Saturday 5:00 P.M.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Home Bound Bible Study
St. Rose of Lima
269 Parkville Ave
Coordinator: Violeta Robbins
718 677 8131
1st 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
3rd Friday 7:00 PM
Family of God
160-31 78th Rd

Flushing, NY 11366
Coordinator: Perla Leonardo
(718) 591-4579
2nd 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
3rd Saturday 8:00 PM

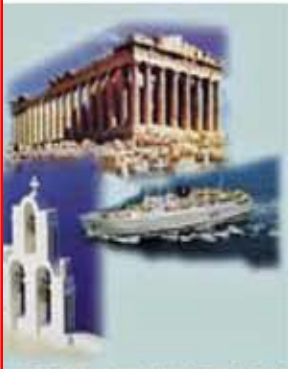
Divine Mercy Prayer Group
Our Lady of Mercy
70-01 Kessel St., Forest Hills, NY 11375
Coordinator: Victoria Angeles
718 268 6516
2nd Wednesday 6:30 PM

Filipino Community
Our Lady of the Angelus
63-63 98th St., Rego Park, NY 11374
Coordinator: Ofelia Concepcion
(718) 897-4444
2nd 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
3rd Thursday 8:00 PM

Friday Night Devotion
40-14 62nd St., Apt. 4F
Woodside, NY 11377
Coordinator: Rosemary Khan
718 457 5877
5th Friday 8:30 PM

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



PILGRIMAGES 2009

APR 16-28	MEDJUGORJE/ITALY <i>Medjugorje, Rome, Vatican, Pauline Pilgrimage sites, Padre Pio</i>	\$2,949 JFK
MAY 15-25	FATIMA/LOURDES/MADRID <i>Fatima, Burgos, Zaragoza, Lourdes, Madrid</i>	\$2,299 EWR
SEP 7-20	TURKEY/GREECE- Footsteps of St Paul (with 3 Day Cruise) <i>Istanbul, Antioch, Tarsus, Cappadocia, Athens, Corinth</i>	\$2,999 JFK
SEP 9-21	WATERWAYS OF RUSSIA <i>St. Petersburg, Mandrogi, Kizhi, Goritsy, Yaroslav, Moscow</i>	\$2,599 JFK
SEP 10-19	HOLY LAND <i>Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Tiberias, Cana, Nazareth, Dead Sea</i>	\$2,399 JFK
SEP 12-22	EASTERN EUROPE <i>Warsaw, Krakow, Budapest, Vienna, Prague</i>	\$2,799 JFK
SEP 19-28	GREECE- Celebrating 2000th Year of St Paul <i>Athens, Corinth, Meteora, Olympia, Thessalonica, Delphi</i>	\$2,399 JFK
SEP 25-OCT 5	TURKEY (ASIA MINOR)- Celebrating 2000th Year of St Paul <i>Istanbul, Antioch, Tarsus, Cappadocia, Pamukkale, Ephesus, Troy</i>	\$2,249 JFK
OCT 2-15	FATIMA/LOURDES/ROME <i>Fatima, Zaragoza, Madrid, Lourdes, Nice, Florence, Rome</i>	\$2,999 EWR
OCT 9-15	LISBON & FATIMA <i>Lisbon, Estoril, Sintra, Santarem, Fatima</i>	\$1,449 JFK
OCT 9-17	BEST OF PERU <i>Lima, St. Rose and St. Martin de Porres, Cusco, Machu Pichhu</i>	\$1,899 EWR
OCT 12-22	ITALY/MEDJUGORJE <i>Rome, Assisi, Loreto, Lanciano, Padre Pio, Medjugorje</i>	\$2,799 EWR
OCT 22-NOV 2	EGYPT & HOLY LAND <i>Cairo, Mt Sinai, Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Tiberias, Cana, Dead Sea</i>	\$2,499 JFK
NOV 6-16	HOLY LAND <i>Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Tiberias, Cana, Nazareth, Dead Sea</i>	\$2,749 LAX
NOV 29-DEC 8	HOLY LAND <i>Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Tiberias, Cana, Nazareth, Dead Sea</i>	\$2,199 JFK
DEC 8-13	OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE <i>Mexico City, Puebla, Ocatlan, Teotihuacan</i>	\$1,099 EWR

CRUISES 2009

JUL 10-25	SCANDINAVIA/RUSSIA/ESTONIA/BERLIN 15 day Cruise.	\$2,899 EWR
AUG 8-14	ALASKA -8 day Cruise	\$1,349 EWR
AUG 29-SEP 6	FAMILY VACATION 9-day Cruise w bus to Baltimore	\$ 729 BWI

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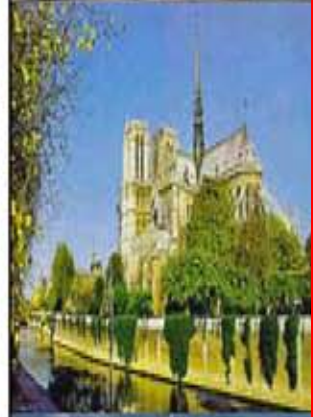
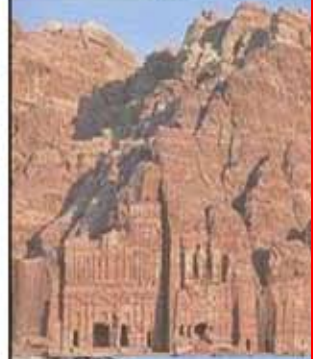
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MAY 27-JUN 6	SWITZERLAND/AUSTRIA/GERMANY <i>Zurich, Lucerne, Zermatt, Salzburg, Oberammergau, Munich</i>	\$2,999 PLUS AIR
AUG 26-SEP 4	ITALY/AUSTRIA/GERMANY <i>Milan, Turin, Padua, Innsbruck, Salzburg, Altoetting, Regensburg</i>	\$3,099 PLUS AIR
SEP 11-22	GERMANY/AUSTRIA/ CZECH REPUBLIC/ POLAND from \$2,999 PLUS AIR <i>Munich, Oberammergau, Salzburg, Vienna, Prague, Krakow, Warsaw</i>	
SEP 18-29	MEDJUGORJE/CROATIA/AUSTRIA/GERMANY from \$2,799 PLUS AIR <i>Medjugorje, Dubrovnik, Zagreb, Salzburg, Oberammergau, Munich</i>	

Note: Fares, taxes & schedules are subject to change without prior notice. Prices are plus tax/fuel surcharge, double occupancy. For Oberammergau, prices are plus airfare & tax/fuel surcharge. 090104/12/23/27/31/0212/0226/03030313/032509



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Sharing God's Gift

"God rewards those who seek Him"

Hebrews 11:16

Dominick F. Di Certo

Director of Religious Education

Mt. Carmel Holy Rosary School, NY, New York

The beauty and success of the Catholic Faith requires our sincere and active participation in all the spiritual activities which God provides for us: including, the Holy Mass, reception of the sacraments, our active participation in the prayer life, and our complete faith in those individuals that the Lord entrusts with special gifts to share with all humankind.

Throughout the many years since Christ established His Church; the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church, he has blessed us all with the power and gifts of the Holy Spirit. When we receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, the Holy Spirit descends upon each one of us in a special way, granting us special gifts, the very same gifts which the Holy Spirit gave to the apostles on Pentecost, as well as to all the saints and holy people throughout more than 2,000 years. One of these special gifts is the power to heal in the same way that Jesus healed the lame, the blind, and the sick. We all have that power within us.

However, it is through the saints and people with great faith who are able to use this God-given power to heal in His name. The Apostles and Saints have worked many of the same miracles that Christ performed. And stories of great healers have been recorded throughout the centuries.

Today, we read about great healers throughout the world. The Good Lord has touched their lives with the grace to continue the work which He began more than 2,000 years ago. It is through their prayer life, great faith, and complete trust in God that these healers are able to succeed in the work that God expects from us.

We have been greatly blessed to have in our company at Holy Rosary Church a person who has put complete trust in the Lord, and has dedicated her life to doing his work. Sister

Josephine needs no special introduction; we all know her love for the parishioners at Holy Rosary, and the complete dedication she has shown us. Many of us have experienced the healing services which she has lovingly offered to us, including myself. For these blessings, we offer her our complete love and thanksgiving.

Twice, Sister Josephine has generously performed her healing prayers at times when I truly needed her intercession with the Lord. I discovered during these special times that without our complete participation and faith in the Lord's power to heal through his holy people, we walk away not knowing whether God had granted our request. This occurred the first time that I asked to be healed. I did not participate; no silent appeal to the Holy Spirit, no special prayer on my part, no acknowledgement on my part that that the Lord's special mediator was at work.

The second time that I request her prayers and blessing, I promised myself that I would take an active part in the healing process. I silently prayed to the Holy Spirit, offering my thanks and complete faith in God's work through this holy person. I felt the tender, but strong hands as she prayed, and suddenly the noise of the Church Hall and the sounds of everyone softly speaking had vanished. I was in a silent world, and only the words of this dear lady softly whispered through my mind. When she finished her healing service, the sounds around me returned, just as quickly as they had disappeared. I felt the warm glow of spiritual love throughout my body, and I knew that something very special had just happened to me.

God bless Sister Josephine and all God's healers throughout the world.



From left: Malou Cadiz, Virgie Socorro, Rev. Gilbert Luis Centina III, His Eminence, Edward Cardinal Egan, Gladys Lopez, Anibal Aniano and Dominick Di Certo taken during the Cardinal's Appeal Dinner at St. John's Seminary, Jan 2, 2009, New York.



Sister Josephine Garcia Dichoso praying over Dominick Di Certo at the Chapel of the Holy Child, Holy Rosary Church, New York, New York.

Fund-Raising Book due in September

Fulgado's eye for scholarship gives birth to book of "Memories"

Right: At a special reception UP Diliman Chancellor Sergio Cao received a copy of the Memoirs of UP Alumni Abroad, the success of which brought about the new book Dr. Fulgado is working on now, an all-inclusive global MEMORIES ... a Legacy Gift of Filipinos and Friends in honor of the NEW CHARTER with the mission of raising \$100,000 endowment scholarship fund for the Philippines, from Baguio to Mindanao.



Left: Dr. Fulgado's aunt, Sr. Exaltacion Quesada, daughter Joy Fulgado, graphic designer of the book, aunt Gloria Quesada, and husband Dr. Ding Fulgado attended the reception.



Right: Deed of Donation was signed for a \$30,000 Centennial Memoirs Project Scholarship Endowed Fund to UP Foundation, check received by 19th and First Woman President, Emerlinda R. Roman on June 19, 2008.



Dr. Carmencita Quesada Fulgado of New York, "Menchee" to her friends, has an eye for endowed scholarships. Personally, for her 25th wedding anniversary, in lieu of gifts, she suggested to her guests to make a tax-deductible contribution to St. John's University where she was working. This created the Quesada-Fulgado Anniversary Scholarship for students of Philippine heritage. During her UP Alumni Association in America (UPAAA) presidency (1996-1999) she raised its first scholarship fund (\$10,000) and signed the deed of donation in 2000. In 2006, as prelude to the Centennial, the UPAAA Scholarship II (\$20,000) was signed in New York at the reception held for Chancellor Cao in April and the UPAA-NY's Adopt-a-Scholar Scholarship (\$10,000) at the reception held for President Roman in June. It is not surprising that when Dr. Fulgado was appointed Centennial Commissioner, she took at heart her advisory role and invited fellow alumni abroad in making contributions toward the publication of *Memoirs of UP Alumni Abroad*. With their contribution, donors were given a page or more to write their autobiography, express their gratitude, recollection of their UP days and beyond. This endeavor produced the landmark limited edition book and soon-to-be collectors' item. After deducting the publication costs, it netted \$50,000 which was presented at the June 2008 Centennial Celebration. \$30,000 created the Centennial Memoirs Scholarship Fund and \$20,000 created the Centennial Memoirs Carillon Support Fund for its continuous maintenance and that of the intended park. Both are endowment funds being managed by the UP Foundation.

Interesting and delightful outcome of the Memoirs book is the Memoir sequel, *MEMORIES ... a Legacy Gift of Filipinos and Friends at Home and Abroad* commemorating the New Charter as UP embarks in the New Century with the goal of \$100,000 scholarship fund for 7 campuses, from Baguio to Mindanao. The all-inclusive, global book will be dedicated to the 19th and First Woman UP President Emerlinda R. Roman. Anyone interested in making a tax-deductible contribution towards the cause and in return has the privilege of writing a page or two in the book is welcome to make their donation. For more information and reservation: visit the website: <http://www.memoriesbyfulgadophd.blogspot.com/> Dr. Fulgado can be reached at 718 658-2106, Email: memoriesbyfulgadophd@gmail.com

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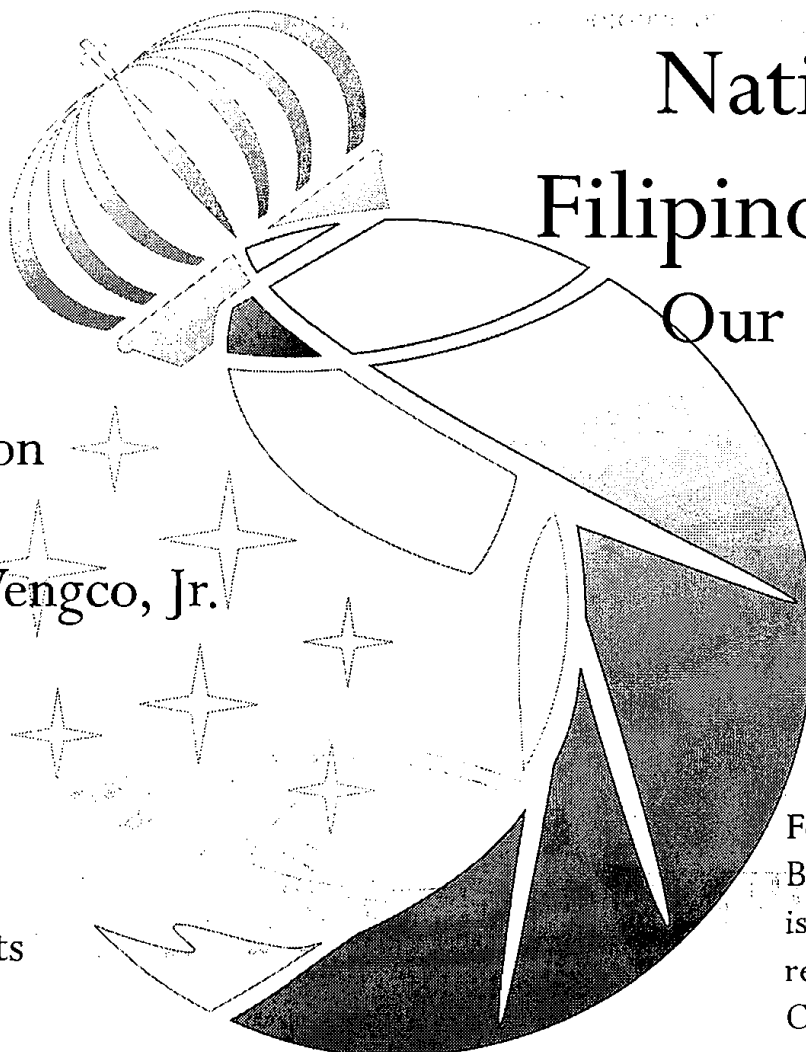
Novena and rosary prayers

Start at 10:00 a.m.

image procession and

Eucharistic celebration starts

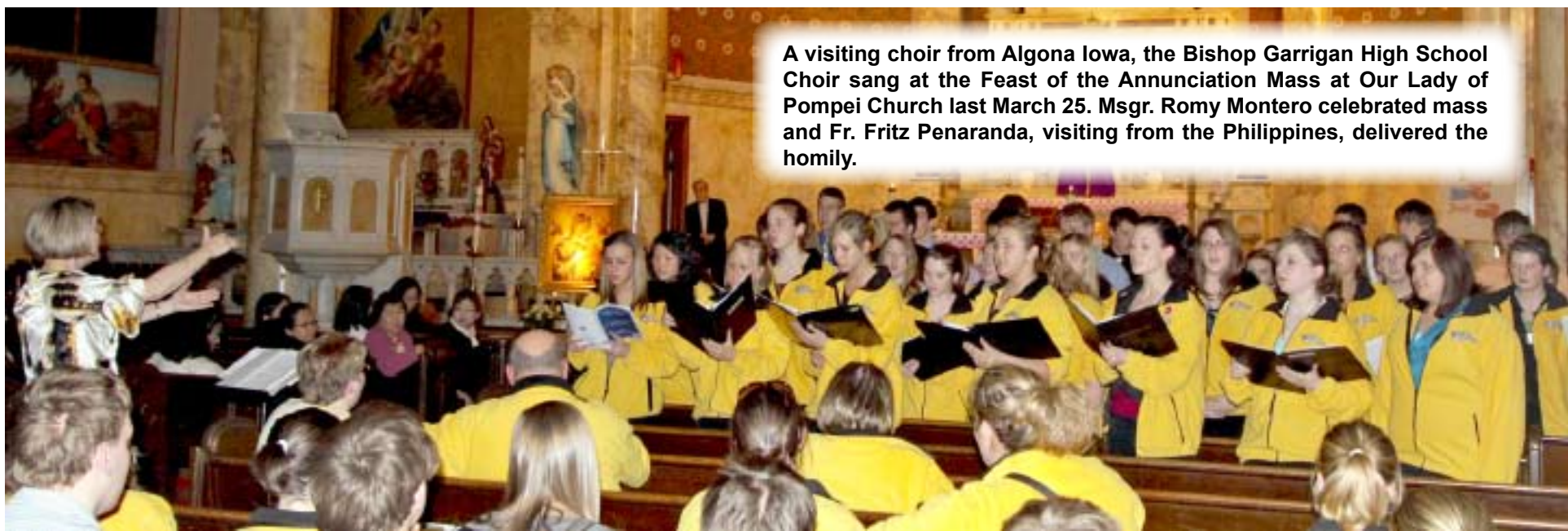
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A visiting choir from Algona Iowa, the Bishop Garrigan High School Choir sang at the Feast of the Annunciation Mass at Our Lady of Pompei Church last March 25. Msgr. Romy Montero celebrated mass and Fr. Fritz Penaranda, visiting from the Philippines, delivered the homily.



Pabasa ng Pasyon in front of Poon Hesus Nazareno at the San Lorenzo Center in Jamaica, Queens.

Photos by Henry Medrano

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**Novena
to Our Lady
of the Cape**

Fifth Month
Virgin Mary, we pray for the Pope, for our bishops and our priests. May the Holy Spirit fill them with strength and joy and give them grace to be worthy of their vocation as servants of the Gospel. Through your intercession may men and women consecrated to God be strengthened in their commitment and in their prayer. Be a guide to pastoral ministers and all those who accompany their brothers and sisters on the journey to God. Confirm the determination of parents who want to educate their children in the Christian faith. We entrust our parish community to you. May the Gospel become the focus of our lives. Reinforce the faith of all who doubt. Encourage those who in spite of repeated falls do not give up, but renew their efforts to live according to the Word of God. Our Lady of the Cape, pray the Lord of harvest to send laborers into His harvest. JCC

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VATICAN CITY - Pope Benedict's general prayer intention for April is: "That the Lord may bless farmers' work with an abundant harvest and sensitise the richer populations to the drama of hunger in the world".

His mission intention is: "That the Christians who operate in the territories where the conditions of the poor, the weak and the women and children are most tragic, may be signs of hope, thanks to their courageous testimony to the Gospel of solidarity and love". (VIS)

*Pope Benedict's
Prayer Intentions for this Month*



by Deacon Rolando V. Nolasco

“I will raise it up again”

When Jesus drove out people selling animals as holocaust offerings as well as the money changers in the temple area, some Jews questioned his authority. Without doubt, his claim of the temple as his Father’s house of worship being turned into a market place could have further incited their animosity against him for they did not believe the Lord Jesus to be the Son of God. His response to those who sought a sign to prove such authority, in a form of challenge, was to destroy the temple so he can raise it up again in three days. Not understanding that he was referring to his body, the Jews were infuriated because they knew the temple was built for forty-six long years. Even the disciples who were with him for three years did not understand. Scripture attests that it was only after Jesus was raised from the dead that the disciples remembered and ultimately understood. Peter, if we recall the time when Jesus revealed to him the Lord’s impending suffering and death, objected vehemently and found it hard to believe.

This past week, our parish had a three day Lenten reflection and our facilitator asked us to empty ourselves from all pre-occupations that could make our observance of the season less meaningful and prevent a better understanding and appreciation of the Lord’s ultimate sacrifice on the cross. He also asked us to contemplate on the Lord’s passion, death and resurrection which will make it difficult to comprehend the need for the Lord’s passion and death. It is perhaps our preference for a more acceptable and easy way to save humanity from its sinful ways. But God the Father chose the more painful way to prove his love for us by opting to have his only begotten Son redeem us by his death resurrection. Even the Sacrament of Reconciliation where the faithful can easily seek forgiveness for their transgressions, there is less and less people who seem to avail of this opportunity as the seasons of Advent and Lent are observed. Many seem to have forgotten how crucial is our understanding of God the Father sending to us his Son as he entered into human existence to destroy the power of sin.

It is sad to note that our faith has been so corrupted by the present time that even those who had been nurtured right are slowly but surely breaking away from what they practiced. The just recently concluded survey on many faith communities showed that many do not want to be affiliated with the faith they originally embraced and claim themselves to be without religion. The sacred author of the Letter to the Hebrews begins with the many times God spoke to his people in the past through the prophets and in this final age, He has spoken through his Son. So the Lord Jesus spoke on the pulpit of the cross as he delivers the Seven Last Words and our universal Church solemnly meditate on it every Good Friday so as to remind us of the harsh reality that the Lord Jesus indeed suffered and died for our sins. The Stations of the Cross, whose devotion begun when people in the past started to trace the route and prayed along the way, were done to allow us to walk with Jesus in his ultimate journey to Calvary.

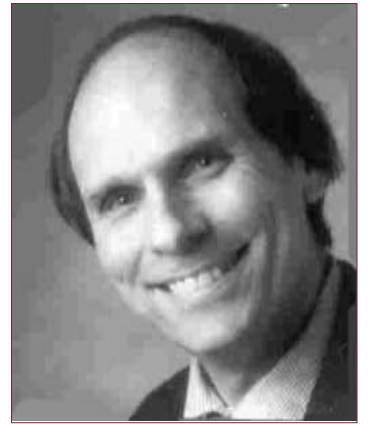
The Letter to the Hebrews clearly explains because the first covenant was without fault hence the need for the second one. The law brought nothing to perfection hence in this New Testament we are now under the grace of God with Jesus as the guarantee, “not under the law.” He is the mediator of a new covenant because his death has taken place for the deliverance from humanity’s sinful ways. “A testament comes into force only in the case of death; it has no force while the testator is alive.” So we recall that in the former covenant, there were holocausts offering through animal sacrifices as a sign of forgiveness for the transgressions committed by the Israelites. With his coming into this world, by one offering, “he has forever perfected those who are sanctified once and for all” by his sacrifice. St. Paul wrote that “sin will no longer have power over us.” The mystery of Incarnation for St. Paul is summed up in his epistle: “For our sakes God made Him who did not know sin, to be sin, so that in Him we might become the very holiness of God.” (2 Cor. 5:21) He further wrote one important reminder for us that “God proved his love for us by allowing Christ to die for us while we were yet sinners.”

There is no better way to pay our gratitude to God than to be united in his sufferings by allowing our old sinful lives to die just “so that the life of Jesus may be revealed in our mortal flesh.” In his other epistle, St. Paul wrote that our “old self be crucified with him so that the sinful body might be destroyed” and be slave no more to the many attractions of the world. Indeed, our glorious celebration of Easter will be more meaningful if new lives emerge from the ashes of our past.

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The Divine Mercy Chaplet

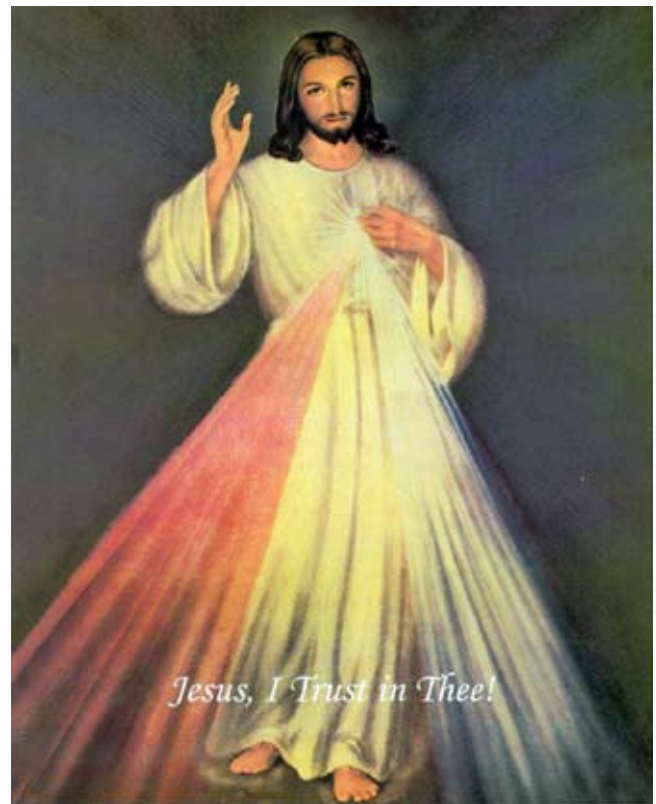


by Scapular John

Jesus said, “Tell souls who spread the honour of My Mercy I shield them their entire life and at the hour of death I will not be a judge for them, but the Merciful saviour.”

Jesus said, “Tell my priests that hardened sinners will crumble beneath their words when they speak about My unfathomable mercy, about the compassion I have for them in My Heart. To Priests who will proclaim and extol My mercy I will give wonderful power, and I will anoint their words and I will touch the hearts to which they will speak.”

Jesus said, “I want this image, (Divine Mercy Image of Jesus) to be solemnly blessed on the first Sunday after Easter: that Sunday is to be a Feast of Mercy. On that day, the depths of My Mercy will be open to all. Whoever will go to confession and Holy Communion on that day will receive complete forgiveness of sin and all punishment. Mankind will not enjoy peace until it turns with confidence to My Mercy.”



Jesus appeared to St. Faustina on February 22nd, 1931 with these and many more promises. Even a hardened sinner on his death birth can be converted to knowing the love of Jesus by reciting this novena.

This chaplet can be said on an ordinary Rosary. First say one Our Father, Hail Mary and I believe in God.

On the large beads say. Eternal Father, I offer You the body and blood, soul and divinity of Your dearly beloved son Our Lord Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.

On the smaller beads say:
For the sake of His sorrowful Passion have mercy on us and on the whole world.

In conclusion you are to say these worlds three times. Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.
There is a closing optional prayer that can be said.

Jesus said, “I desire to grant unimaginable graces to those souls who trust in my Mercy...through the Chaplet you will obtain every thing if what you ask for is compatible with My will.

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Happenings ... from page 9

Incardination of Fr. Joseph Marabe, JCD

Fr. Joseph G. Marabe, JCD was incardinated into the Archdiocese of New York on March 16, 2009 in the Incardination ceremony officiated by his Eminence Edward Cardinal Egan. He was one of the 14 priests including Fr. Francisco Lanzaderas of the Blessed Sacrament parish in Staten Island.

In addition to his responsibility as Parochial Vicar at Saint Patricks Cathedral, Father Joseph is a judge on the Metropolitan Tribunal of the Archdiocese of New York. He is also the Moderator of the Team Ministry of the Chapel of San Lorenzo Ruiz and the Temporary Coordinator of the Filipino Apostolate of the Archdiocese of New York.

Fr. Marabe, JCD was born in Vinzons, Camarines Norte, Philippines and attended school there. After graduating from Holy Rosary Major Seminary, Naga City, he was ordained in Luneta Park, Manila on November 28, 1970 by Pope Paul VI. Father Marabe holds a Doctoral Degree in Canon Law from the Lateran University in Rome where he graduated Summa Cum Laude and speaks four languages. Father Joseph, as he likes to be called, akin to his motto "Ite Ad Joseph" (Go to Joseph), has had a long and varied priesthood.

On Schedule

from page 9

May 17, 2009 Flores de Mayo

3:30 PM - Procession

5:00 PM – Filipino Mass

Our Lady of the Snows Church
258-17 80th Avenue, Floral Park, NY 11004

May 23, 2009 Flores de Mayo

5:30 PM - Procession

6:30 PM – Filipino Mass

Our Lady of Mercy Church
70-01 Kessel Street, Forest Hills, NY 11375
(Every 4th Saturday of the Month)

May 24, 2009

2:00 PM – Filipino Mass

Corpus Christi Church
31-30 61st Street, Woodside, NY
(Every 4th Sunday of the Month)

5:00 PM – Filipino Mass

Most Precious Blood Church (Basement)
32-23 36th Street, Long Island City, NY 11006

Filipino Mass every Sunday - 5:00 PM

at the Most Precious Blood Church (Basement),
32-23 36th Street, Long Island City, NY 11006.

Novena to Mother Perpetual Help at 7:00 PM

every Wednesday at St. Patrick Church,
39-38 29th 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. Please consult Mapquest.com or Yahoo.com or Google for directions to these events.



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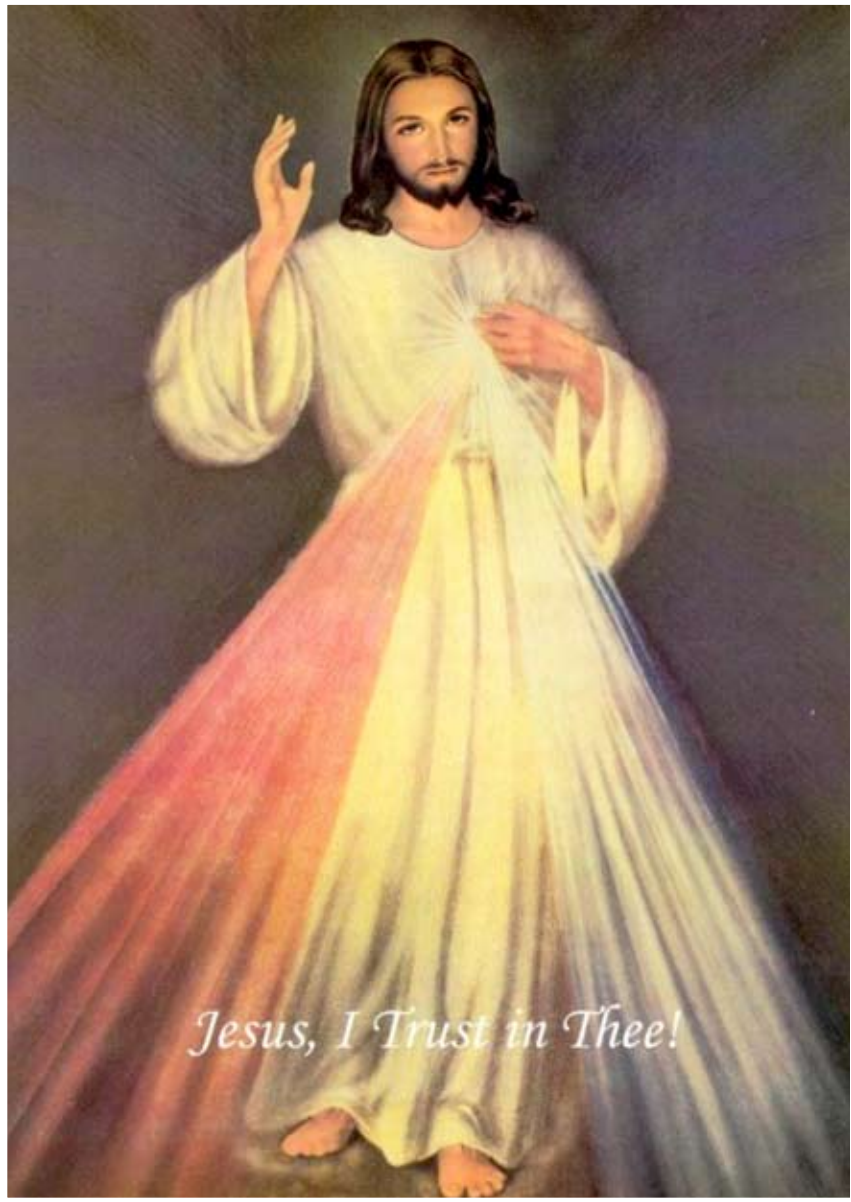
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Our Lord to Saint Faustina

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.

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