

Kapatiran



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ELEXSER SOON IN FULL SWING

The Employment and Livelihood Exchange Services (ELEXSER), BCBP Social Action Ministry, is now on-going with the appointment of ELEXSER Chapter Officers Ric S. Galing for Quezon City and Gerry Isada for Greenhills as announced by chapter heads Benjie Quinto and Mark Katipunan, respectively. Ogie Angeles and Chito Zabarte have been desig-

nated by chapter head Rolly Ona as the Makati chapter's ELEXSER officers.

It was known that the ELEXSER chapter officers' appointments were made initially in these three chapters since most of the communities being served by the Tahanan ng Panginoon (TNP) are situated in the areas covered by said chapters.

cont. on pg. 5

TNP TO RAFFLE OFF TWO CARS

A raffle with two cars as major prizes was recently announced by Fr. Herb Schneider, Chairman of the Board of the Tahanan ng Panginoon (TNP). Proceeds of the raffle will help fund the various activities and projects of Ligaya ng Panginoon Community's social action arm. Tickets are available through the Ligaya ng Panginoon, the TNP, and the Brother-

hood of Christian Businessmen and Professionals at P250 each. Draws will be on October 24 and December 24 this year.

Due to the generous support through a similar raffle held last year, the number of Tahanan ng Panginoon communities in the slum areas have increased from

cont. on pg. 5



**BCBP 11TH
ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION**
Aug. 17, 1991

More pictures on
pp. 3,15,19-21,29,36

Related articles on
pp. 3,4,19-22

Be an informed citizen. Prepare to vote wisely in 1992.

NEEDED: TRUE, GENEROUS, COMMITTED LEADERS

Excerpts From the CBCP Pastoral Letter: Preparing for the 1992 Elections

We, your bishops given charge by the Lord of shepherding His flock, address you this letter as we recall the exhortation of Vatican II: "Every citizen ought to be mindful of his right and his duty to promote the common good by using his vote" (G.S. 75).

The Second Plenary Council of the Philippines also strongly urged the lay faithful to participate in political activity. It said, "In the Philippines today, given the moral perception that politics has become an obstacle to integral development, the urgent necessity is for the lay faithful to participate more actively, with singular competence and integrity in political affairs" (PCP II, p.63).

The importance of what we must do has been heightened by what we have done or failed to do in the past five years of transition. ... The key is in how we shall recognize and vote for true, generous and committed leaders of service and in how we shall preserve the sanctity and value of our votes.

1. The first requirement is a wise, informed and formed electorate. The mature

social conscience will reject as objectionable and harmful our typical politics of payoffs, patronage and personalities. The mature social conscience will vote on the basis of political, social, and economic issues and programs. Such maturity of conscience will surely assist in transforming our nation into a genuine democracy. ... We must know the candidates and the issues, and pray to the

"There is an urgent necessity for the lay faithful to participate more actively, with singular competence and integrity in political affairs."

PCP II, p. 63

Lord, to show us whom He chooses to serve our people: "O Lord, make known to us whom You choose" (cf Acts 1:24).

2. The second requirement is the existence of conditions that will enable voters to choose freely. Freedom of choice is undermined by corruption, fraud, force and intimidation. ... Candidates who resort to these

practices do not deserve the offices they seek. They have no commitment and moral responsibility to the people. ... We must denounce them and their practices. We must exact a promise from those who hold and aspire for political power to forswear such practices.

3. The third requirement is to (guard the ballots). ... We must set up task forces which are technically competent in election rules and courageous in the face of formidable intimidation. Parish pastoral councils ... and basic ecclesial communities can set up these task forces.

We are not helpless. If we are in solidarity there is much that we can do. ... The time to prepare and act has begun. We must be on God's side, the side of justice and integrity, for we are His people.

For the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines: Leonardo Z. Legaspi, O.P., D.D. Archbishop of Caceres, President, CBCP, Tagaytay City

Interview with Fr. Herb:

THE ROLE OF THE BCBP IN THE ELECTIONS

KAPATIRAN: How do you view the role of the Brotherhood in the upcoming political elections?

FR. HERB: I would like to see the Brotherhood involved like any group of good citizens. Members must inform themselves about the political candidates. And this time for the first time in many, many years, most of the candidates will have a record of their service in congress or other public office so that we can actually assess their performance, their character, etc. Are these people really capable of serving the people in the position for which they are running?

I think one of the first things would be for the BCBP to perhaps use its resources to disseminate good, accurate information about individual candidates so that all the Brotherhood members and others, the people in their companies, would be well-informed voters.

KAP: Would this be mostly done on an individual basis or would the Brotherhood take a stand?

FR. HERB: Well, not so much that the Brotherhood would take a stand but I think that the Brotherhood could organize a committee that could actually put together accurate information on all the candidates. The BCBP would not say how its members would vote but rather would provide members with clear information about the candidates, both about their person, their past record in public office, the values they have espoused in public speeches. All of these things a voter needs to take into consideration.

So I can see the Brotherhood putting together the committee that would work on gathering and collating this type of information and disseminating it to the members.

As an organization the Brotherhood would not have a stand. However, how an individual votes, that is his own responsibility. But we in the Brotherhood can help them be informed voters.



CARE FOR JUSTICE, ACT WITH INTEGRITY

(Isaiah 56:1)

We asked some BCBP brothers to share with us their response to our theme: Care for Justice; Act with Integrity. All those who replied to our mini-survey were challenged to live out a better Christian example in their respective marketplaces. - Editor

Be Bolder

Indeed, this year's theme as taken from Isaiah 56:1 establishes the first step in attaining the BCBP mission of bringing Christ in the professional and business milieu. I strongly feel that our Lord is personally calling me to take my relationship with Him, with myself and with others very seriously, to put all my efforts in the pursuit of justice and to live a life of simplicity.

The theme made me resolve to be bolder in supporting the values of our Lord Jesus Christ in the marketplace. It means that I should live and lead by good example in my workplace; be fair with my subordinates and peers; be more courageous in rectifying wrongdoings in the manner of a true Christian; and excel in my work for the praise and glory of God.

Romeo Tocjayao
Greenhills Chapter

Be Honest

We can only be true Christians if we put a premium on honesty. We may be able to lead wayward employees to righteousness by being good examples to them. By being honest and trustworthy, we will maintain fairness in all our dealings. We may also be able to reach desired goals by trusting others.

In the office, these qualities could be best practiced if we deal sincerely with our co-workers; if we do not tolerate injustice or apathy. Indeed, the Golden Rule still holds water.

Gloria "Gigi" Gonzalez
Greenhills Chapter

Avoid Bias

The theme "Care for Justice, Act with Integrity" should elicit and inspire only the most positive of reactions from any well-meaning person. This theme, to me, calls for humane and Christian ways of solving the many personal or inter-personal problems we encounter in our daily business lives.

This theme, as a guiding light for business practice, would require that we the managers exert every effort to become completely aware of ALL aspects and EVERY angle of the problems or controversies, studiously avoiding all bias, as we sit in judgment of our employees' actions.

The subsequent decision, arrived at with God's guidance and tempered with Christian mercy for repentants, should be made with fair, just, and *corrective* disciplinary action, and NOT with cruel punishment. Any lessons learned through this exercise would then be disseminated to help all others avoid repeating the same mistakes. This practice will help INTEGRATE the organization, if you will pardon the pun.

Billy Godinez
Greenhills Chapter

Go the Extra Mile

In meeting the demands of today's marketplace, I believe that the BCBP should start with committed and dedicated members who are willing to go beyond their own family and personal spiritual needs and even beyond their own marketplace. We need many evangelists who can fulfill the mission of bringing Christ to the center of every man's heart. The Brotherhood should encourage all members to undergo training in the various fields of evangelism, preaching and gospel sharing.

Being part of a Christian community like the BCBP is a lifetime commitment. One cannot backtrack or remain stationary so he has to go forward. I believe in this total and eternal commitment and in all the responsibilities it entails. In return, the BCBP has become my guide in my professional growth and personal growth.

Johnny Joel
Dagupan Chapter

Amos 5:7-15





Eyes of Faith FACING THE CHALLENGE

Kytt Mier, Las Pinas chapter

As far as I can remember from my college ethics class, the word "justice" is defined as "giving others what is due them." The word "integrity" on the other hand, is described as the quality of being "whole" or "complete," but is also used to refer to the quality of "wholesomeness" acquired by faithfully clinging to moral values.

These two words are supposed to embody the ideals that Christian businessmen and professionals live by. They are supposed to be like the air we breathe, a necessary condition for us to live but something so commonplace it has become "invisible" and often taken for granted.

Justice, Integrity: A Part of Us

This year, the words "justice" and "integrity" have acquired a special significance for BCBP members because they make up the theme for the BCBP's 11th anniversary: "Care for justice, act with integrity" - Isaiah 56:1 (JB). As this year's theme, these words should now become the subject of our reflection in our personal spiritual readings and prayers. They should also become part of our discussions in action group meetings, be made part of our teachings in our culture talk series, and become the subject of some of our Spiritual Director's talks during our assemblies.

"Justice" and "integrity" are abstract terms which we ordinarily find difficult to understand without concrete examples. Not only that, they also have the character of being universally applicable so that their presence or absence can be noted in practically all areas of human affairs: the family setting, the business milieu setting, the public policy setting, etc. This is why we ought to have all the time in the world - and we have one year - to discuss, dissect, digest and internalize what they really mean.

Just to give us a "feel" of the universality of "justice" and "integrity," let us take a look at the various circumstances wherein these moral values are expected to be manifest. Giving others what is due them assumes a relationship between the one who "gives what is due" and those who would receive what they deserve. A person's relationships where "justice" and "integrity" may be prac-

ticed includes, but is not limited to, his situation:

- as a child to his/her parents;
- as a brother/sister to his/her siblings;
- as a student to his/her mentor(s);
- as a spouse to his/her spouse;
- as a parent to his/her children;
- as an employee to his/her employer;
- as a businessman/professional to his/her clients;
- as a member to his/her organization;
- as a follower/disciple to his/her leader/master, and
- as a creature to his/her Creator.

It would be instructive and profitable to discuss how we can practice these two important moral values in the circumstances listed above, but we simply do not have time (or space in this column) for that. What we can do is pick out the most relevant of these in terms of our 11th anniversary as an organization of Christian businessmen and professionals. How do "justice" and "integrity" figure in our lives?

We know by experience that our capacity as individuals to practice "justice" and "integrity" is limited by many things. One such limitation that immediately comes to mind is the internal resistance that our 'flesh' puts across our path. Our efforts to be "just" are constantly challenged by the socio-economic and political factors around us.

As part of society, we may have been party at some time or another to the establishment and rooting of structures and conventions that are diametrically opposed to Christian values. Wittingly or unwittingly, our par-

ticipation in (or non-resistance to) certain activities deemed "normal" or "accepted," may have reinforced unchristian values, creating the problems we are now facing as a nation.

We Are God's Instruments

As renewed Christian businessmen and professionals, we have become aware of the inevitable clash of values in our lives. We are also aware that on our own, we cannot do anything against the structures and conventions of the world no matter how noble our intentions or how "foolproof" our plans are. We know that only God can effectively do something about it, but He needs instruments. That's why He established the Church. That's why, He also established specialized groups such as the BCBP.

Caring for justice and acting with integrity within the BCBP context would therefore mean allowing ourselves, our skills and even our resources to be utilized by our Lord through service in the various ministries of the Brotherhood. Whatever it may be, this service is always directed towards the establishment of alternative structures and conventions that could supplant those offered by the world, craved for by the flesh and skillfully used by the devil to entrap God's children. The alternative structures and conventions arising from our service in the BCBP, taken as a unit, is what we commonly refer to as our "support system."

To be "just" within the context of the Brotherhood means to give this alternative support system what it is due as an organization that provides members the means towards sanctity and salvation. For an ordinary member like me, being "just" is giving the Brotherhood the support I can give it in relation to my personal capabilities and limitations. The minimum support I am expected to give is the monthly pledge which I contribute not out of personal generosity, but because as a member, I am obliged to sustain the organization that supports me. However, I must strive to exceed this minimum because as a child of God, I am expected to be 'perfect as the Father in Heaven is perfect.' Exceeding the minimum means doing service for the greater glory of God.

The demands of justice on BCBP members in responsible positions would naturally be greater and more exacting. This is considering that they shall be held accountable for ensuring that this alternative support system does become an effective means towards sanctity and salvation of the members who depend on it.





TNP TO RAFFLE OFF TWO CARS

cont. from pg. 1

even (11) last year to fourteen (14) as of September 2, 1991. Membership has grown from 1,392 last year to the present 1,775 strong. With the ongoing Christian Life Programs, this year should see Tahanan in fifteen (15) slum areas with a membership of 1,950.

Another major development in the past year has been the establishment of the Tahanan Youth Program. There are 320 individuals ages 15 to 21 who have been brought to the Lord. Their witness is now being felt in the communities where they reside. These renewed youth will form the base for future leadership of their respective communities.

What Is The Tahanan ng Panginoon?

The Tahanan ng Panginoon (Home of the Lord), which began in 1986 as a social action project among the poor, is now incorporated as a non-stock, non-profit corporation under the name The Philippine Foundation of Tahanan ng Panginoon, Inc. Its application for a donee institution has been filed with the Bureau of Internal Revenue. The TNP is run by a Board of Trustees headed by Fr. Herb Schneider, Chairman, and Vic Gutierrez, President. Ely Lademora, Jr., serves as TNP's Executive Director for Operations.

The goals of the organization are to build Christian communities in economically depressed areas, designing these communities so that the social, economic, and cultural needs of the people will be met by the activation of Christian gospel values. As these values take root the communities will then become more responsible for their own lives. Tahanan documents its experiences so that it may become a reference for further work with the poor.

The social action approach of Tahanan is anchored on the belief that the transformation of society requires man's cooperation with the action of God. Thus, its overall program underscores the importance of personal conversion and Christian value formation.

The TNP programs follow a holistic approach where both the spiritual and practical needs of the poor are addressed. Programs include value formation, a support group system of family-type groups, and medical assistance. Micro-business loans are available in amounts ranging from P500 to P3000 payable at P10 daily plus ten percent interest. As of August 31, 1989, the repayment rate of the 77 borrowers was 80 percent.

Together with the Brotherhood of Christian Businessmen and Professionals (BCBP) the TNP is undertaking a job placement skills training program designed to equip unemployed members with useful skills and to link them with possible employment opportunities. See related article, this issue, on ELEXSER, the Employment and Livelihood Exchange Services of the BCBP.

The Tahanan office is located at 300 P. Guevarra St., San Juan, with telephone 78-30-25.

Livehood projects in TNP communities.

ELEXSER SOON IN FULL SWING

cont. from pg. 1

This social action of employment and livelihood in coordination with Tahanan ng Panginoon Center is primarily being undertaken in fourteen (14) depressed areas namely: Barangays E. Rodriguez in Cubao, Bagong Silang in Novaliches, Corazon de Jesus in San Juan, West Crame in San Juan, De La Estrada in Diliman, Joriz in Mandaluyong, Pandacan in Manila, Tambacan in Paranaque, Maricaban in Pasay, Pineda in Pasig, Cogeo in Antipolo and Halang in Antipolo.

The TNP Center is currently undertaking data gathering on skills aptitude (hillig), individual family income and entrepreneurship while Ric Galing and Turing Orlina, Social Action Coordinator for the BCBP, are familiarizing themselves with the people in the depressed areas and are busy tying up the program with the Metro Manila Regional Office of the National Manpower and Youth Council (NMYC). With the help of NMYC officials Nnette dela Cruz, Supervising Manpower Development Officer, and Esperanza Alvarez, Senior Manpower Development Officer, a pilot project on non-traditional skills training for women is now underway at Barangay E. Rodriguez in Cubao, Quezon City. Coordinating with ELEXSER Director Turing Orlina are TNP Director for Youth Sol Saludes and Director for Administration Peter Bautista together with area heads/servants to insure success of the social action program. Several meetings have already been conducted by the Ligaya ng Panginoon Center at 300 P. Guevarra Street, San Juan, Metro Manila.

The ELEXSER chapter officer is in charge of implementing activities in TNP areas under the geographical location of the chapter. Emphasis is given to training programs, which include work attitude and skills development, and linkages with institutions of manpower resource training. Linkages are also established with BCBP members who may be in need of services that TNP members can supply.

The ELEXSER is now organizing BCBP chapter manpower support as the program will soon be in full swing Metro Manila wide. - Ric Galing

WELCOME LAS PINAS CLP 18

Nestor/Becky Aguirre
Benjie/Emy Bulaclac
Roy/Annie Cristobal
Pros/Ludy Justiniano
Bernie/Divina Remolino
Dennis Garcia
Lydia Paulino
Jun/Teresita Densing
Arnel/Yett Garcia
Charlie/Victoria Ho
Jojo/Flory Villaescusa
Nena Juarez
Pete/Lulu Bertis
Ric/Nette Gumato
Jose/Minnie Manlutac
Domeng/Estrelle Zacarrias
Zeny Lampa
Irene Lopez
Rico/Linda Culala
Paquit/Dory Valle
Manry Guzman
Bong Dayday
Josie Javier
Mila Sapin
Bobby/Khelle Gaerlan
Mar/Lot Guzman
Angelo/Lydia Guzman
Danny/Susan Tumanac
Rexie Quiamson
Rosalinda Tan
Mariles Celis
Chit Mendoza
Emy Sydliongco
Elvie Sotaso

Las Pinas Chapter 53 CLP GRADUATES JOIN LAS PINAS BCBP

53 participants signed their commitment cards during impressive ceremonies on August 24 at the ballroom of the Alabang Country Club. In so doing, they formally joined the Las Pinas chapter of the Brotherhood. This activity culminated the chapter's CLP 18 under course leader team Jimmy and Baby Porciuncula.

Assistant course leader team was Milo and Jojo Panlilio; Totoy Tirona headed the service team of 70 Las Pinas members as chief servant. Discussion leaders were Ric and Lina Gloria, Rody and Norma Boquiren, Rey and Beth Panopio, Gary and Tess Mendoza, Angel and Charito Garcia and Jek San Juan. Assistant discussion leaders were Mel Centeno, Rody and Elsa Ignacio, Mar and Belle Ciabal, Elma and Vic Mirasol, Pons and Girlie Fallarme, Oggie and Becky Hachang, Jun and Lydia Figueroa and Cora Celicious.

The CLP talks were given by Spanky Meer, Jerry Vidal, Rem Gopez, Efren Carag, Joey Estagle, Bobby Dee, Kytt Mier, Beth Domingo, Manny Banigan, Lito Francisco, Mon Malinao, and Fernando de Larrazabal, with sharings by Rose Dec, Haydz Banigan and Tess Estagle.

BCBP ANNUAL REPORT 1990 OUT

The annual report covering the Brotherhood's activities for the year 1990 was recently released. Fernando de Larrazabal, BCBP Exec. Dir. said that the year was basically an "inward-looking" period with emphasis being more on the reinforcement of the BCBP 'Culture', secondarily on evangelization.

The report highlighted sources and uses

of funds on an individual chapter basis and the BCBP as a whole. Despite difficult economic conditions during 1990, expenses only grew by 2.2% as contrasted to funding which increased by 4.08%. Tithes, donations and love offerings were the most significant sources of funds.

Copies of the 1990 Annual Report are available from your chapter head.

Scripture Study:

GIVING TO THE LORD

A. Read and reflect on these scripture passages:

God's Promises to those who give: Malachi 3:10; Luke 6:38

What can we give to Him? Numbers 18:29; Romans 12:1-21 esp. verses 1, 6-8, 13.

How should we give? Sirach 35:1-12

B. Discuss:

1. Evaluate your personal habit of giving to the Lord.

2. How can you improve your giving to the Lord?

CHAPTER SERVICE ASSIGNMENTS

October	Las Pinas
November	Quezon City Bazaar/Concert (?) Quezon City
December	Makati
January	Alabang
February	Greenhills
March	Las Pinas

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Makati Chapter

TWO LSS'S HELD

Two Life in the Spirit Seminars were recently sponsored by the mission team for business of the Makati chapter and conducted by the *Biyaya ng Espiritu Santo Community (BESC)*, a Catholic Christian Community under the Archdiocese of Manila, reported Jess Manalo, mission head for business of the BCBP Makati.

LSS I was held at the Asia Apollo building, Polaris St., Bel Air Village, Makati, last May 4, 1991. Participating companies were Ecosystem Construction and Development Corp. (c/o Freddie Estrella) and Heuristics Technology and Management Consultants, Inc. (c/o Ely Evangelista).

The 18 graduates were Arsenio Abrazaldo, Catherine Agramon, Alex Aringo, Jose Bax, Gloria Canete, Bernardo Carpio, Ofelia Carpio, Cesar Cruz, Amanda Gallajones, Danny Javier, Janet Mamalio, Danilo Manlapaz, Danilo Marcelino, Marcelino Natividad, Maria Ortiz, Margarita Ragudo, Manuel Samson and Leonila Tinitigan.

LSS II was held at the Magallanes Parish Hall on August 9 and 10. Participants came from Fornier, Lava, Fornier Law Office (c/o Andy Fornier), Manalo, Puno, Gozos, Jocson Law Office (c/o Jess Manalo), Acotex Philippines, Inc. (c/o Jules Villamor), and Advanced Power Products, Inc. (c/o Art Olarte).

The 20 graduates of LSS II were Luisa Abenilla, Junchyn Acosta, Bernardo dela Cruz, Za Dinglasan, Delfin Mabute, Fatima Mabute, Apolinar Mabute, Eric Orante, Girlie Palec, Rolando Paras, Herminia Paz, Domingo Sadia Jr., Ferdinand Sadia, Benjamin Segui, Eva Segui, Evelyn Sta. Maria, Angel Sun, Norma Vinoya, Romel Yapana and Caesar Zaide.

Several graduates have already signified their intention to join the forthcoming CLP 18 of the Makati Chapter scheduled to begin early this October 1991.

The Makati chapter's mission team for business is organized in order to touch base with employees and staff through inter-company short evangelization activities. This is to put into action the BCBP's main thrust of evangelizing the marketplace. The mission team consists of the units of Joe/Nanette Ferreria and Art/Susan Olarte.

Mission head for business Jess Manalo emphasizes, "Let us do our best to plant the seed and God will do the rest."



Top - LSS II graduates;
Bottom - LSS II service team from Makati BCBP and BESC.



WORKSHOP ON PRAYER, FASTING

A 4-day workshop on prayer and fasting will be held on Oct. 5, 12, 19 and 26, 1991 at the Lay Formation Center, San Carlos Complex, Makati. The workshop sessions seek to

answer these questions: What is prayer? What is the best way to pray? What is the relation of prayer to daily life? What is fasting? How can there be power in fasting and prayer?

Sponsored by the Love Our Priests Movement and the Prayer Campaign for Evangelization 2000, this workshop will feature teachings on prayer and fasting, and personal sharings on the effects of prayer and fasting in their daily lives. Participants will have the chance to discuss, interact and practice what they will learn for the day. Additionally, there will be periods provided for silent adoration and personal prayer. Each day will end with the celebration of the Holy Mass.

The workshop is open to leaders of the different Catholic Church movements and organizations. BCBP action group leaders, unit leaders and service heads are encouraged to attend.

Makati Chapter

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Brotherhood Christian Marriage Retreat (BCMR)
September 27-28, 1991
Maryhill Retreat House, Antipolo

Christian Life Program No. 18
October 1991
Magallanes Parish Hall
Course leader: Joe Ferreria

Children's Formation Program
(in its planning stage; ideas, suggestions are welcome)
Program heads: Mike/Mee Reyes and Rico/Honey Tirona

BCBP**MEN'S BREAKFASTS**

Wednesdays	MAKATI : Aling Asiang's, Greenbelt
Thursdays	GREENHILLS : Club Filipino, Greenhills
Fridays	QUEZON CITY : Malacanang Canteen, Malacanang
Saturdays	ALABANG : Ayala-Alabang Country Club BACOLOD : Rolly's Restaurant CAGAYAN DE ORO : Paolo's Steak House CEBU : Fernando's Sunburst Restaurant, Centro Maximo Bldg. D. Jakosalem, Cebu LAS PINAS : Aristocrat, Las Pinas QUEZON CITY : Alfredo's Steak House, T. Morato Ave.

MEN'S LUNCHEON

2nd, 4th Saturdays	DAGUPAN : Pinkee's Restuarant, Dagupan City
-----------------------	--

6:15 FELLOWSHIP

Wednesdays	Arc Dates n' Nuts, Jupiter St., Bel Air Open to both men and women.
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JOINT BREAKFASTS

1st Wednesdays	MAKATI : Aling Asiang's, Greenbelt, Makati
Saturdays	LAS PINAS : Aristocrat, Las Pinas

LADIES' BREAKFASTS

1st Saturdays	BACOLOD : Cafe Negrense, Bacolod City
2nd Saturdays	ALABANG : Ayala-Alabang Country Club QUEZON CITY : Alfredo's Steak House, T. Morato Ave.
3rd Saturdays	CEBU : Sunburst Restaurant, D. Jakosalem, Cebu
4th Saturdays	CAGAYAN DE ORO : Silver Court Restaurant

LADIES' LUNCHEONS

2nd Thursdays	MANILA : Arc Dates n' Nuts, Jupiter St., Bel Air
3rd Thursdays	GREENHILLS : Beijing Garden, Shaw Blvd. (Center for Peace)
3rd Saturdays	DAGUPAN : Pinkee's Restaurant, Dagupan

**NOV. 30 DAY OF PRAYER
AND RENEWAL**

In a rare show of unity all 23 senators supported a resolution proclaiming Nov. 30 each year as a national day of prayer and renewal to seek God's aid to steer the country toward prosperity and "hold back the wrath of nature."

Sen. Joey Lina said that weekly prayers for national affirmation of faith in God, atonement for our failings, renewal of values, reconciliation, peace and unity, and economic recovery and prosperity would precede the national day of prayer. The senator said that the many calamities plaguing the country today are bringing about not only material poverty but spiritual poverty as well.

The resolution noted that as individuals and as a nation, "We must take time out in prayer to acknowledge and atone for our failings and turn our hopes and aspirations, sorrows and fears, our deep remorse and renewed resolve, our thanks and joyf praise, and most especially our love, all toward God, and allow Him to work in our hearts and our daily tasks."

The resolution cited the biblical passage from 2 Chronicles 7:14: "If we as a people, upon whom God's name has been pronounced, humble ourselves and pray and seek His presence and turn away from our evil ways, He will hear us from heaven, pardon our sins and revive our land."

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE:**BROTHERHOOD OF CHRISTIAN
BUSINESSMEN AND PROFESSIONALS***ON ITS***11th ANNIVERSARY****FROM:****HYDRO SPECIALISTS, INCORPORATED**

NO. 214

AMBULKAO ROAD

UBULAN, BECKEL

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET



BCBP Cagayan de Oro Outreach in action; Ed Canlas, outreach head; center picture, talk to CLP 2 participants.

TURNING TO OUR GOD

Ellen Escano, Cebu Chapter

The BCMR last July 26-28 was a wholesome and enriching experience. Little did we know and realize that myriad areas in the marital and family life are unheeded and taken for granted. In the context of Christian responsibility for instance, we as couples have our respective roles to fulfill. In the past, we assumed that these roles were too minute and insignificant since ignorance and complacency had driven and subjected us to misguided roles as spouses and parents. The BCMR helped my husband and I straighten out our concept of Christian values and responsibilities. We have learned to work as a pastoral team, my husband Jimmy as the head of his domestic church comprised of our family members, and I as his helpmate.

The Lord has captivated our lives, creating a much stronger bond with our own personal God. It has indeed strengthened our lives, enhancing our growth with spiritual nourishment with God, who is the very source and essence of our strength and existence. Praise God!

Cebu Chapter

BCMR 3 FOR 34 COUPLES

BCMR 3 in Cebu was held last July 26-28 at the Holy Family Retreat House. 34 couples attended, 19 from Cebu, 11 from Cagayan de Oro, 2 from Bacolod, and 2 from Alabang. Lito Urgino was the retreat master. Although he said that this would be the last BCMR that he will conduct, all the participants certainly hope that this is not so!

Marilou Ordonez who attended with her husband Del said that the BCMR has strengthened their marriage and made them more aware of the power of forgiveness. "We are now also more aware of the harassments that the evil one wants to create to destroy the foundations of marriage," she said.

"The BCMR is one of the most wonderful spiritual experiences one can have in the Brotherhood," remarked Art Malgapo when interviewed. "It opened my eyes to the real responsibility of the head of the family not only as a provider but primarily as the priest of the domestic church, which I did not know of before. I only learned now that if one of my children goes to hell, it's my responsibility! The BCMR helped improve a lot the harmony between my wife and I, and between us and our children."

Daisy Kokseng, another BCMR par-

ticipant, believes that "it has enhanced our married life. Communication is more open and our roles are more defined. We set aside a night each week to talk about anything. We also have less arguments now. In the past, I was left to handle most of the children's disciplining but now Raymond has a hand in it. He is taking a very active role in shepherding them. We now celebrate the Lord's Day once a month."

Participants to the BCMR from Alabang were Rojas, Macario/Ofelia and Salvador, Jesus/Teresita. Bacolod couples were Corral, Hugo/Melissa and Legarde, Art/Lucille. Coming all the way from Cagayan de Oro were Cabrera, Bobby/Ela; Cabrera, Dale/Rosette; Canlas, Ed/Lita; dela Cerna, Dito/Tata; Corona, Joe/Hedy; Panlo, Manolo/Roberta; Fortich, Pepot/Charisse; Mondonado, Ernie/Linda; Paras, Jess/Nena; Pasion, Nes/Alma and Raypon, Dee/Baby.

Cebu couples participating were Almario, Paquito/Elnora; Angbetic, Jesse/Leah; Bandajon, Al/Liddy; Cabanesas, Nick/Lily/ Escano, Jimmy/Ellen; Fajardo, Orly/Anna; Garcia, Eddie/Lyn; Ignacio, Lope/Nati; Kokseng, Raymond/Daisy; Lloren, Bobby/Tisha; Malgapo, Art/Malou; Manaloto, Mike/Fely; Martinez, Mariano/Ada; Martinez, Tony/Christy; Monteclaro, Buddy/Vi; Nadela, Casey/Emma; Ordonez, Del/Marilou; Reyes, Ernie/Renee; Teves, Ernie/Suzette.

New Evangelization

ETERNAL LIFE?

Tita O. Cerdania, Alabang Chapter

*We are One, but We are three:
We are a community.
Perfect in our unity,
We rejoice in our diversity.
Seek not to fathom the mystery
Of the eternal Trinity.
Our call from all eternity:
"Come, live with us,
the One-in-Three!"*

Last Trinity Sunday, I wrote these words in my prayer journal. This has been the eternal call, the eternal invitation: Not so much to understand the mystery of the Trinity (we can't), but rather to *experience* the life that They have to offer! And yet, in our usual arrogance, we allow ourselves to get diverted and focus on the one rather than the other.

In his profound prologue to the Fourth Gospel, St. John tells us:

*"To all who did accept Him
(Jesus, the Word made flesh), to all
who believe in the Name of Him, HE
GAVE POWER to become children of
God."
(Jn 1:12)*

Someone once defined "power" as simply "God in action". And when God acts, the Holy Spirit is present, because when we speak of the power of God, we speak of the Holy Spirit. We preach a Trinitarian Gospel - the love of the Father as revealed, demonstrated by the Son, climaxed by His salvific act on the Cross that won for us the long-promised Gift of the Holy Spirit:

*"I shall put my Spirit in you, and
make you keep my laws and sincerely
respect my observances."
(Ez. 36:27)*

Jesus underscored this promise when He talked about "the Advocate, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in my name" (Jn 14:26) and "When the Advocate comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of Truth who issues from the Father" (Jn 15:26). Again before His Ascension, He instructed His disciples not to leave Jerusalem "but to wait for what the Father has promised...you, not many days from now will be baptized with the Holy Spirit. You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you..." (Acts 1:4,8). We all know when the promise was fulfilled: on Pentecost.

With the Holy Spirit in us and able to operate through us (as we have been taught in our Christian Life Programs), we now have the power to live the kind of life that the Father has always intended for His children, to become the men and women that the Father has always wanted us to be. What a far cry from our previous understanding of what Christian life is: to be in Church where we are told to be good.

The Good News is: when we come to Jesus, He gives us the power to be good - and we get all the credit! What a God!

My favorite illustration of the Trinitarian life is: The sun is the Father; the light it radiates is the Son; and the warmth we feel is the Holy Spirit. When we enter into His Light, we automatically enter into the life of the Trinity. And this life that we begin to live and experience is what we call "Eternal Life" or, as the synoptic evangelists call it, "Salvation" and what modern-day renewed Christians call the "Life in the Spirit" or "Kingdom Living". Take your pick. Whatever you call it, it is a life free from the bondage of Satan, a life of love and fellowship, a life victorious in the midst

of pain and suffering, a life of unity in the midst of diversity. God is Emmanuel (God who is with us, for us and indwelling in us, and never against us).

In our work in evangelization, we have the perfect question to gauge a person's understanding of eternal life: "Imagine that tonight you were to pass away and you stand before God, and He asks you: 'Why should I give you the gift of eternal life?' how would you answer God?"

Some typical answers are:

"It's up to Him, if He thinks I'm worthy."

"Because I have no mortal sins."

"Because I generously support our parish projects."

"I'm a daily Mass goer."

"I serve in the parish."

Replies like these cue the evangelist to two very common misconceptions about eternal life:

1) It is merited.

2) It happens after death.

Pope Paul VI's encyclical describes eternal life (or salvation) thus:

"(It is) not an immanent salvation, meeting material or even spiritual needs, restricted to the framework of temporal existence and completely identified with temporal desires, hopes, affairs and struggles, but a salvation which exceeds all the limits in order to reach fulfillment in communion with the one and only divine Absolute: a transcendent and eschatological salvation, which indeed has its beginning in this life, but which is fulfilled in eternity." (Evangeli Nuntiandi #27)

Quite a mouthful, but perhaps the following illustration can simplify it:

(1) We speak of God who is in eternity.

(2) We speak of Man who is in time, but by divine plan destined by God to be united with Him in eternity.

(3) For man to enter into eternity, he has to pass through a certain door. It is called "Death" (So, who's afraid of death?) After what Jesus did, "When this mortal nature has put on immortality,

death is swallowed up in victory. Death, where is your victory? Death, where is your sting?" (1 Cor. 15:54-55). When do we begin to experience this eternal life, after death? Of course not!

(4) Let us not forget that our God, in His infinite condescension and love for His beloved creature, Man, entered time in the person of Jesus Christ, and

(5) Our eternal life begins when we accept Jesus and we begin our journey in communion with Him; a journey to the Father, through the Son, in the Holy Spirit!

(6) Can we still lose this eternal life? Definitely! Let us not also forget the presence of that dark, malignant personality, the devil.

The bottomline is this: Who is our companion when we finally cross that doorway into eternity? Eternal life, therefore, is a purely gratuitous gift given by Jesus to us once we accept Him, believe Him and everything that He stands for into our lives. It begins at the moment of our conversion to Jesus, not after death. By then it's too late!

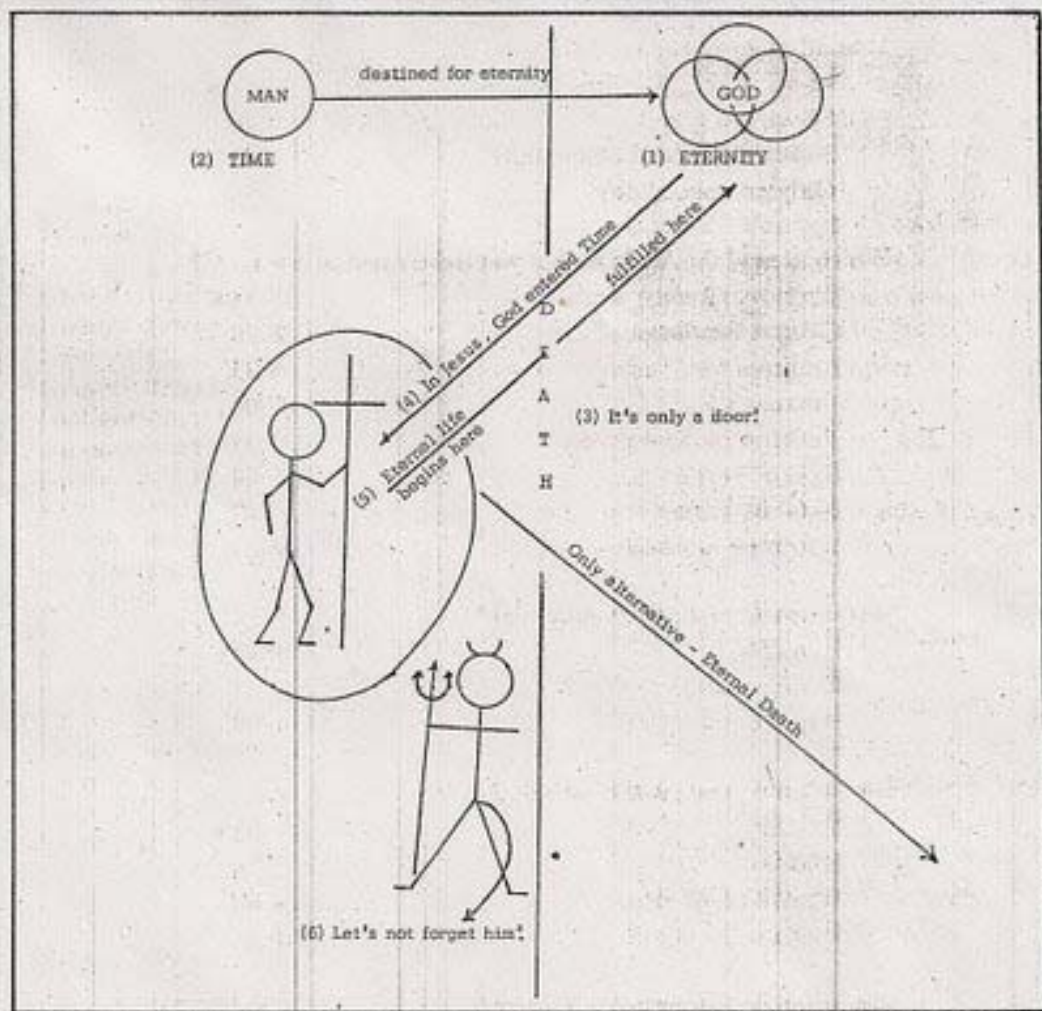
What is our assurance for all this? Jesus gives it to us:

"Yes, God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not be lost out may have eternal life."

(Jn. 3:16)

This article is the second in a series on New Evangelization. Last issue's article entitled "What is the 'Good News?'" presented Jesus Christ as the Good News of God, with evangelization (in the words of Mother Teresa) being the act of being Jesus to others, so that they can in turn become Jesus to others.

Tita O. Cerdania is a master trainer for CLAYE (Catholic Lay Evangelization Program) and has an active teaching ministry at the National Training Center for Catholic Evangelists.



CYA 11TH ANNIVERSARY SET NOV. 17

Christ's Youth in Action (CYA), a national movement of young Catholic students actively engaged in evangelization and apostolic work in various university campuses, invites everyone to a "Day of Renewal" on Sunday, November 17, 1991, 7:30 a.m. at the Immaculate Conception Academy, Greenhills, San Juan, M. Mia. Mass will be celebrated by His Excellency Bishop Teodoro Bacani. Inspirational teachings, Christian entertainment as well as more prayer and worship follow afterwards. This activity is in celebration of CYA's 11th Anniversary.

All parish youth groups, college students and campus organizations are encouraged to come. Admission is free. For further details, please contact Lulu

Cruz at the CYA office, telephone number 708095.

Christ's Youth in Action is an outreach to young people by the Ligaya Ng Panginoon Community, a Catholic covenant community based in Metro Manila. Its two principal goals, evangelism and youth leadership development, are carried out through person-to-person evangelism on campuses, establishing Christian support groups and environments for the young people, conducting prayer rallies, retreats, seminars and teaching modules in over 26 college campuses throughout the country.

The Brotherhood of Christian Businessmen and Professionals actively supports the CYA as a partner-in-mission.

How often do you go to Mass?

Daily	12.16%
Seldom	7.70
Sundays, Days of Obligation	75.06
Only on special days	1.50

Which part of the Mass makes you feel closest to our Lord?

Sermon/Homily	35.55%
Gospel Readings	28.70
Communion	28.23
Consecration	27.09
Reciting the Our Father	21.38
Sign of Peace	17.64
Final Blessing	11.32
Listening to Choir	6.24

How often do you go to Confession?

Monthly	16.08%
Once a year	34.41
When need arises	40.80

How often do you go to Communion?

Monthly	4.93%
Seldom	13.74
When I go to Mass	64.02
When need arises	10.51

How often do you pray the Rosary?

Daily	34.23%
Weekly	15.89
Seldom	37.91
Never	34.24

Why do you go to Church?

To comply with the Church obligation	19.91%
To obey my parents	5.00
To be uplifted spiritually	30.13
To seek our Lord's help	26.02
To give thanks	40.06
To get closer to our Lord	40.06

Which five projects would you consider important for this parish?

Bible studies	50.98%
Catechetical work	50.71
Livelihood projects for the poor	46.09
Feeding centers for the poor	39.98
Activities for the youth	38.16
Bring back those who left	35.76
System of providing more info	27.52
Have a parish library	23.32
Sports activities	19.92
Organize parish think-tanks	18.51

HOW DOES YOUR PARISH RATE?

Only 16% of Manila Catholics go to confession regularly every month. Most Catholics find themselves closest to God in the Mass during the homily and the gospel readings. 72% seldom or never pray the rosary.

These eye-opening figures are some of the data gathered in a survey conducted in 208 parishes in the Archdiocese of Manila by the Parish Development Foundation. 42,391 respondents replied to various questions designed to gather information on the average church-goers - their religious profile, their impressions and perceptions of church facilities, homilies, and programs, and what they believe the priority projects of the parish should be.

Fernando de Larrazabal, BCBP Exec. Director and a member of the Parish Development Foundation, says that the survey brings to light the need for the enlightened and concerned laity to be more active in their respective parishes. He feels that the parish is an area in which the brothers and sisters in the BCBP should be exerting more effort in serving their fellowmen.

Some of the survey results are given below.

The Parish Development Foundation, a non-stock, non-profit organization composed of experienced and committed Catholic businessmen and professionals with expertise in the various disciplines, is committed to bring more life into the parish. PDF members would be happy to meet with the parish priest and his parish group to discuss ideas on how to respond positively and dynamically to the survey findings. Video tapes and scripts explaining the mass are available from the PDF as well as several ideas and options for action projects for the parish.

Among the members of the PDF are Ben Baluyot, Paquito Buenaseda, Rolly Cabilao, Agustin Cancio, Henry Canoy, Romeo Crisostomo, Jose M. Espino, Leon P. Hontiveros, Edmundo F. Kaimo, Fernando de Larrazabal, Ernesto F. Martinez, Antonio A. Nieva, Jose R. L. Orosa, Pedro Picornell, Mike Recto, Ricardo Taylor, George Templo, Carlos J. Valdes, and Jaime Vergara.

PDF offices are at the CJV Bldg., 108 Aguirre St., Makati with telephone 85-77-06 and at 101 Quezon Ave., Quezon City with telephones 711-4445 and 711-4448.

A VISION OF HOPE

A Mini-Sharing during the CLP,
May 18, 1991

By the late Benjie Gorospe, Cagayan de Oro Outreach

*Yesterday is but a dream
Tomorrow is only a vision
But today we live
Make every yesterday
A dream of happiness
And every tomorrow
A vision of hope.
Look well, therefore, to this day.*

This afternoon I stand before you a sinner who has completely changed and has renewed his life with the Lord.

All my adult life I have lived in sin. I didn't go to confession for 23 long years. I was a gambler, a heavy drinker, and a good womanizer at that. I knew all the way I was doing wrong...I kept asking myself why? I wanted to change a long time ago but I couldn't have the heart to change.

Then one day a friend invited me to a breakfast and to join the CLP. At first I was just curious. But surprisingly, I was chosen as one of the core group for the CLP. During the first day of orientation and empowerment I got bored and got mad because our first meeting lasted for

ON DEATH AND LIFE

... whoever believes in me
will live ... Jn 11:25



On November 1 and 2 we Catholics remember our dead during All Saints Day and All Souls Day respectively. Why does death strike some people and leave others behind? These three sharings on death and life may help answer this question.

-Editor

almost 7 hours! But as time went by I asked myself this question: Why am I here? I thought the Lord must have plans for me. So here I am now.

I got the courage to tell my wife about all my infidelities and wrongdoings in the past. Praise the Lord she forgave me. Then and only then I went to confession after 25 long years to ask God's forgiveness. I claimed the promise in 1 John 1:9.

cont. on pg. 14

WHY LORD?

Mee Reyes, Makati Chapter

Last year when I learned that my closest friend of nineteen years had metastatic brain tumor at the age of 37 my first reaction was to ask the Lord to spare her because her husband and two sons, aged 11 and 6, needed her. And I needed her, too. She was more than a friend to me, we had no secrets, we jokingly called ourselves each other's alter ego. I was pained by the fact that she had long wanted to have a home of her own and they would have had that home built this year in Bagulo where her husband is a successful executive while she had recently been promoted as an officer of a big bank where she was working. In short, she had everything going for her, why now?

If I didn't want to let her go, so too her husband (my brother-in-law, we are married to brothers). It was at this point that I came to realize how entrusting my life to the Lord is put into action, although it was a lot easier said than done. It was also then that I realized that the Lord in His goodness had given her a chance to grow spiritually through the Couples for Christ.

The Lord really prepared her for her death as three days before she was brought to the hospital for headache, she confided to me that she felt she was nearing death. Although I remained hopeful that the Lord would heal her and make her well again, I submitted her to the Lord and urged her husband to do the same. I know the Lord had better plans for her and He knows best.

In my personal prayer time, I always ask the Lord to grant me a peaceful death and I also ask Him to allow the Blessed Mother to be with me one hour before I die. I don't know why but I suddenly remembered this prayer and offered it up for her. It was like endorsing a check in favor of another person; I wondered if

cont. on pg. 14



Benjie P. Gorospe, Jr. and family, taken Jan. 1991

WE FOUND PEACE IN THE LORD

Fabiola Gorospe, Cagayan de Oro Outreach

During necrological services for her husband, Benjie, on July 5, 1991

Years ago I had this reflection: "If only people would just love one another, this world would once more be a beautiful place to live in." I was in Saudi Arabia then.

About 5 years later, this wishful thought became a reality God answered. I didn't realize Benjie would become the object of such love. The brothers and sisters of the BCBP (Manila, Cebu and Cagayan de Oro) community shared a LOVE for him. A special kind of love, genuine and witnessed by many. Praise the Lord!

There are two things I would like to share: First is the truth that it is very important to have or to belong to a praying community, without which, hope beyond would be farthest from the grieving loved ones. Because of God's existence in our lives, we are made stronger. What touched us most was the sincerity of each brother and sister.

The pain is there. Only time can heal the broken heart.

The second thing is this: When you love someone, show him/her that you love him/her while you still can...for when the curtain falls, there's nothing you can do. Do not take each other for granted. Don't waste your time. Life is too short.

I thank the Lord for all our blessings. He puts order into our lives. Benjie was prepared for this eventuality with God's grace. God is really all good. And how He loves Benjie and all of us! He took such good care of Benjie. When Benjie went to confession after 23 years, he frequented the sacrament, even daily without difficulty.

The BCBP came into our lives formally on Jan. 11, 1991. Spiritual struggle was experienced at the onset. But this did not

put an end to our search for God. The Lord was patient with us. Before the baptism of the Holy Spirit in February we had to resolve the biggest trial of our married life. When he confessed to me his wrongdoings and infidelities, my world shattered. We loved each other so much. But God's love for him was even greater. He took Benjie in His own beautiful time.

I almost could not forgive Benjie. I kept saying, "Lord, why does it have to happen at this time when we are preparing ourselves for our baptism? Why? I want to receive your gifts. How can I now?" In just four days time, I was able to forgive him and forget the hurt. Isn't this a gift from God?

I'm very grateful to all the brothers and sisters who prayed for us at that time in our lives. If God was able to forgive us, why can't we forgive those who wrong us?

Our life changed after the CLP and culture talks. We tried to live a life in the Holy Spirit. Our day started with Holy Mass. We found peace and joy in the Lord. Even if he was alone, as I was stranded in Manila for two weeks during the Mt. Pinatubo eruptions, he went to mass daily. 5 days after I arrived home, he got sick, so sick the Lord took him after 5 days of severe pain.

An aunt and uncle who watched him and whom he requested to pray over him witnessed his prayer of resignation: "Lord, if there's anything you want me to do, heal me so I can go back right away to Cagayan de Oro. If not, then do it quick."

In less than 24 hours, God answered him. On July 2, 1991, Benjie rested in peace. Praise God!

A VISION OF HOPE

cont. from pg. 13

The Brotherhood has really changed my life for the better, the temptation is still there but I don't entertain it anymore. Thank God! That was yesterday and tomorrow will remain a vision of hope.

After the CLP I have promised the Lord to work for the Brotherhood for His better glory. As a good Christian "I expect to pass through this world but once. Any good therefore I can do or any kindness I can show to any fellow creature, let me do it now. Let me not defer or neglect it for I shall not pass this way again."

On July 2 Benjie Gorospe died of complications at the Makati Medical Center, but not before he was able to raise his hands to praise his God, in the presence of his uncl. and aunt and other members of his family. The death of our brother Benjie and the example he showed after his conversion and renewal in the Holy Spirit has borne fruit in the phenomenal growth of the BCBP here in Cagayan de Oro. - Ed Canlas, BCBP Cagayan de Oro Head

WHY LORD?

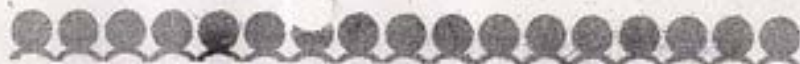
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the Lord considers such a prayer request as a negotiable instrument. But after the prayer I submitted to His will and then I felt peace. I was able to see the goodness of the Lord in giving her the chance to have a personal relationship with Him and calling her to Him at a time when life is vibrant and full of hope, not at a time when one is depressed and feels lost.

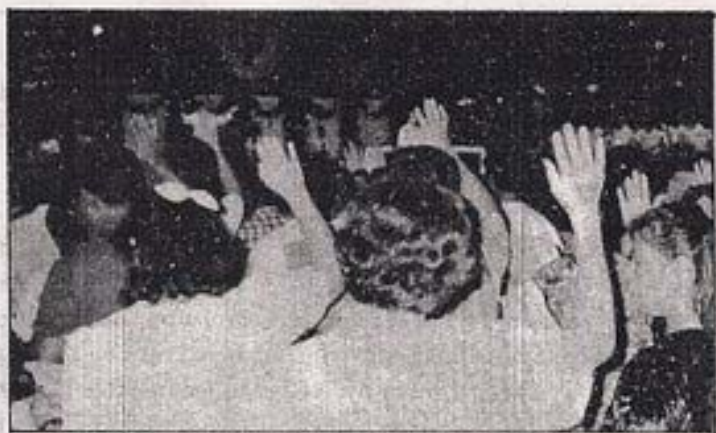
Accepting her death (on January 14, 1991) became a lot easier for our family especially with the prayers and support we received from CFC and the Brotherhood particularly our BCBP unit brothers and sisters, and all those loving and caring brothers and sisters who took time out to visit and pray with us, constantly supporting and strengthening us in that period of crisis. I have learned that putting our faith into action is easiest with the help and support of brothers and sisters who are concerned with our spiritual life.

Earth Has No Sorrow That Heaven Cannot Heal.

- H.W. Beecher



PRAISING



**EUCHARISTIC
CELEBRATION**



**SPECIAL
AWARDS**



Business Case No. 2

THE CASE OF THE INADEQUATE EMPLOYEE

Roberto, a department manager in a marketing firm, has a problem. "One of my supervisors is a good example of Peter's Principle. Rico was promoted to his present position two years ago but until now his performance is just not up to what is expected of him. He tries his best and I've helped him all I can but nothing seems to work. I seem to have two options left: to help him find another job for which he'd be better suited or to demote him back to his former position.

"Rico has served the company faithfully and loyally for eight years and I feel bad about the situation. But if I don't do anything, I'm afraid it will affect my department's morale and efficiency. On the other hand, how Christian am I if I demote or terminate Rico and end up embittering him? He knows I'm a renewed Christian in the BCBP. How can I be fair to both Rico and my department people at the same time?"

What would you do? How would you advise Roberto?

Some Scripture Passages: Rom. 15:1-3. John 6:27. Heb. 13:1,5-6. 1 Thess. 5:12-14. Col. 3:23-24. Prov. 16:2. 2 Samuel 23:3-4. Phil. 2:3-4.

Note: This business case is the second in a continuing series that deals with moral and ethical dilemmas a BCBP member might meet in his work. We invite your thought, your discussion in your action groups, during the men's breakfasts, among your BCBP friends. The scripture passages are given as food for thought and discussion starters; these are not 'the answers' but may serve as guidelines to point the way to a sound response to the dilemma. If you would like to share your thoughts with our brothers and sisters through the KAPATIRAN, we welcome your comments. If not, we sincerely hope and pray that reflection and discussion on these issues will help clarify for you the role of the Christian in the marketplace today.

-Editor

WHAT MAKES BOSSES ANGRY?

"What employee behavior disturbs you the most?" The vice presidents and personnel directors of one hundred "Fortune 1000" companies were asked in a survey commissioned by Accountemps. Respondents ranked their pet peeves this way:

1. Dishonesty and lack of integrity.
2. Goofing off and irresponsibility.
3. Arrogance and egotism.
4. Absentecism and lateness.
5. Not following instructions or ignoring company policies.
6. A whining or complaining attitude toward the job or the company.
7. Absence of commitment, concern or dedication.
8. Laziness and lack of motivation and enthusiasm.

(Note: Couldn't these same irritants apply to member behavior in BCBP action groups? -Editor)

Guidelines for Decisionmaking

by John Ankerberg

Opportunities to pursue many good and legitimate activities abound. But "innocent" commitments can keep us from accomplishing what God desires for us. Asking the following questions about an activity can help us determine if the Spirit is truly leading.

1. Does it glorify God?
So . . . whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.
-1 Cor. 10:31
2. Can I do it in the name of Jesus and offer a prayer of thanks over it?
And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.
-Col. 3:1

3. Does this focus my attention on "things" or does it help me in spending more time with Jesus?
The worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful.
-Mk. 4:19 (cf. Lk. 10:41-42)
4. Does it help build up my Christian life, or does it tear it down?
"Everything is permissible"--but not everything is beneficial. "Everything is permissible"--but not everything is constructive.
-1 Cor. 10:23
5. Will it offend another?
. . . Therefore, if what I eat causes my brother to fall into sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause him to fall.
-1 Cor. 8:11-13
6. If there is still doubt, don't do it.
Everything that does not come from faith is sin.
-Ro. 14:23

ARE YOU IN FINANCIAL BONDAGE?

We can be in the chains of financial bondage basically in four ways: from lack of money, from spending more than what we have, from an abundance of money, and from misunderstanding the purpose of money or why God gave it to us.

Christian writer Larry Burkett in his article "Your Finances in Changing Times" (Christian Financial Concepts, 1975, Moody Press) has identified several symptoms of financial bondage which he has found common among Christians.

1. **Overdue Bills.** A Christian is in financial bondage when he experiences anxiety from overdue bills, usually resulting from overspending splurges and "trying to keep up with the Santos".

2. **Investment Worries.** Worrying over investments, savings, money, or assets also is a cause for financial bondage and can interfere with the Christian's spiritual life.

3. **"Get-Rich-Quick" Attitude.** This attitude is characterized by attempts to make money quickly with very little applied effort. An investment is a "get-rich-quick" program if we assume excessive debt, borrow the money to invest, or deal deceitfully with people.

4. **No Gainful Employment.** Someone who does not want to work for his living, who finds ways and means to get out of working gainfully, who can't seem to hold onto a job for more than a week or so is in financial bondage. St. Paul said in 2 Thess. 3:10, "If anyone will not work, he shall not eat."

5. **Deceitfulness.** We are in financial bondage if we are dishonest in financial matters. Ask yourself: Am I honest and open with everyone?

6. **Greediness.** This is a serious cause of bondage to money and the things that money can buy. Some

symptoms of greed are when someone always wants the best or always wants more than he has, or someone is never able to put others first, never able to accept a necessary loss, or is always looking at what others have, never being satisfied with what God has given him. Any Christian who cannot put his own wants behind him to satisfy the needs of others suffers from greed.

7. **Covetousness.** If we continually look at what others have and desire it, we are in financial bondage. We are also rejecting God's commandment "Do not envy..."



8. **Family Needs Unmet.** A Christian is in financial bondage if, because of his past buying habits, his family's needs cannot be met. This can happen if he is chained with debts to the point that creditors take necessary family funds, or when his standard of living may demand 'luxuries' that deprive the family of its 'needs'.

9. **Unmet Christian Needs.** It is the responsibility of each Christian to supply the needs of others who cannot do so for

themselves. Of course, God will not lead us to meet every need of every Christian, but we should be open to help those whom He directs us to help meet their basic needs.

10. **Over-commitment to Work.** This is one form of financial bondage that most of us are guilty of at one time or another in our lives. A life that is devoted to business pursuits, to the exclusion of all else, is a life of bondage. When it comes to the point that business or business-related activities are all we can talk about even with our family and friends, then we are experiencing some degree of financial bondage.

11. **Lack of Commitment to God's Work.** A Christian is in financial bondage if he has no financial commitment to God's work. Basic Christian financial management can be found in Proverbs 3:9-10 and Malachi 3:10. It is only when we honor the Lord from the first part of our income that God can take control.

12. **Financial Superiority.** Someone who has wealth should think of it as not an honor or wealth rightfully earned (even though it has been gainfully and rightfully earned by worldly standards), but as a responsibility. We are stewards of God's abundant riches here on earth. Read about King David's principles of stewardship in 1 Chronicles 29:10-19 to help in getting your priorities in order.

13. **Financial Resentment.** The converse of superiority is resentment, thinking God has not given us what we feel that we deserve or what we desire. We become resentful of our station in life with this resentment becoming a form of bondage because it prevents the grace and power of God to work in our lives fully.

St. Paul teaches us how to overcome financial bondage in 1 Timothy 6:3-19.

WHEN THE LORD ANSWERED 'YES' HE SAID "KO-YO-TER"

Nene B. Ocampo, Quezon City Chapter

No, the Lord was not speaking in tongues. He was just stating His message clearly. At least to me. He knows the language I am familiar with. He knows me well. And yes, I know Him, too. I got His message and I rejoice in Him.

It's been more than two years now since I hated my profession, in fact my career. Journalism had been the only job I had appreciated most. I was always in high gear every time I went on assignments, the fulfillment of which meant articles like this (but in Filipino) and news and photos on the front page. It was a source of happiness and self-worth in my life.

But in 1988 it became the root and cause of the biggest crisis in my life. I had delved in this career to serve the people, I considered my job as a vocation, a means to serve with the utmost of my ability and my capacity even though it meant personal sacrifice, fatigue, meeting deadlines, being away from the kids and home. So why the crisis? I found that I had succeeded in getting my target readers but that I had failed in maintaining the interest of the very person I had wanted to share and offer my victory.

I gave up. No more career, just a job to earn. No more community-oriented projects. Suddenly I realized that I was nothing. Worthless. Worst of all, I was unloved.

I was even afraid to touch the keys of my typewriter. I dreaded reading my mail addressed to me as 'editor'. I didn't live anymore, I just existed.

But God's ways are marvelous. He called me by name. I was routinely sorting out the mails on the desk in the publication I am working with when I came across a letter of invitation for another editor to attend the Christian Life Program, a special live-in class for media practitioners, to be held at the Asian In-

stitute of Management. The invited editor laughed at the invitation because "that is only for the sinners." I called up the secretariat and asked if I could join the seminar even if I had not been invited. They accommodated my request with the condition that I had to bring along my husband.

*God's ways are marvelous.
He called me by name.*

It was during our one-on-one that my husband Obet encouraged me to go back to my career. He explained that everything connected with it and the crisis was just incidental. What the Lord wanted to remind me was that I was neglecting Him. That was confirmed by my reading for that night: "Marami ang aanihin ngunit kakunti ang mag-aani."

I took that both as an invitation and a challenge. The Lord needs helpers in evangelization and He wanted to use me and my skills in writing.

But the inner healing was so gradual and slow. There would always be harassments every time I went back to my typing table. There were oppressions in going about the projects; these were in the form of financial shortage for the printing, mixed up schedules with the household chores, no househelp, negative memories and others.

"I didn't want to give up again, so I challenged the Lord. If you want me to do your assignment, make things easier for me. If you cannot provide me with a househelp, or a clerk typist, give me a computer."

Lots of blessings, both material and spiritual, came but still we could not afford to get that equipment. Contractual jobs were piling up, schedules conflicted,

where would I find the time for household work, BCBP activities and meeting deadlines in my job?

Came another wonderful project - translating a monthly meditation booklet for the use of those who understand better in Filipino. I thought, "This is it, the real assignment for me!" But I would have to give up my other income generating activities to have the time for this. And I would have to stay up late evenings again and that would mean I'd be susceptible to negative memories again.

But the Lord's calling was so strong. I heard myself saying "Yes, Lord." That answer opened all the opportunities for my healing.

The first month's material to be translated served as my retreat master. It prepared me for more assignments of that sort. Then came the second issue and the third. God must have liked my performance for He used Obet to give me my prize. Obet acquired a loan from their provident fund and in three days, he had picked up the computer from the store.

Every member of the family was excited as we all helped in opening the boxes, except Bibo, our youngest, who slept early. When he awoke at 2:00 a.m., he saw the set of equipment and exclaimed: "Wow! T.V." "Hindi anak, computer iyan," I said. "WOW, KO-YO-TER!" he shouted.

In two days I finished the third issue. Thinking aloud, I said, "Sana suwertihin ito para gumanda na ang takbo ng buhay natin." My second son, Nico, who was then helping me to print out the text quipped: "Susuwertihin, 'yan, Mama. Hindi ba para kay Lord naman ito?"

So short a comment, so clear is the message. No need for further confirmation. "Yes, Lord. You called me as a journalist. I'll serve you as one." Praise God!

All the flowers of all the tomorrows are in the seeds of today. - Chinese Proverb



BCBP CELEBRATES 11th ANNIVERSARY

Heavy rains and inclement weather failed to dampen the enthusiasm of 623 BCBP members and guests that registered at the Folk Arts Theater, August 17, for a day of prayer, fellowship and fun in observance of the Brotherhood's 11th anniversary. Although attendance was poor, all chapters and outreaches were represented including the newest outreach of Navy officers and wives from Ft. San Felipe, Cavite.

The celebration was a success from the viewpoint of its stated objectives: the members, undaunted by the storm raging outside the FAT were able to thank God for eleven years of grace in the Brotherhood. They listened to His guidance concerning justice and integrity through the talk of Fr. Herb. They interceded for the nation and asked for

its deliverance and healing. They shared their bounties with the victims of the Mt. Pinatubo eruptions and contributed to the evangelization work of the BCBP. Then they enjoyed an afternoon of clean fun and fellowship through the various chapter/outreach presentations.

The anniversary celebration opened with a Prayer Rally led by Spanky Meer. Its high point was Fr. Schneider's inspiring talk on the anniversary theme: "Care for Justice: Act with Integrity." Fr. Herb enjoined everyone to reexamine their personal as well as business lives in an effort to make justice operative and integrity a reality.

After a short break, the Eucharist was con-celebrated by Fr. Herb Schneider, BCBP Spiritual Director, and Msgr. Gorgonio

Zapatos, Chief Naval Chaplain. In his homily Fr. Herb further developed his point on personal integrity through lives lived in the manner of salt and light contributing to the integrity of the world.

Donations for Mt. Pinatubo victims and offerings for the BCBP evangelization thrust were taken during the Offertory. Collections for Mt. Pinatubo victims amounted to P21,842.50 while love offerings for BCBP evangelization amounted to P21,563.50 indicating that contributing members decided on an almost 50/50 split in their donations.

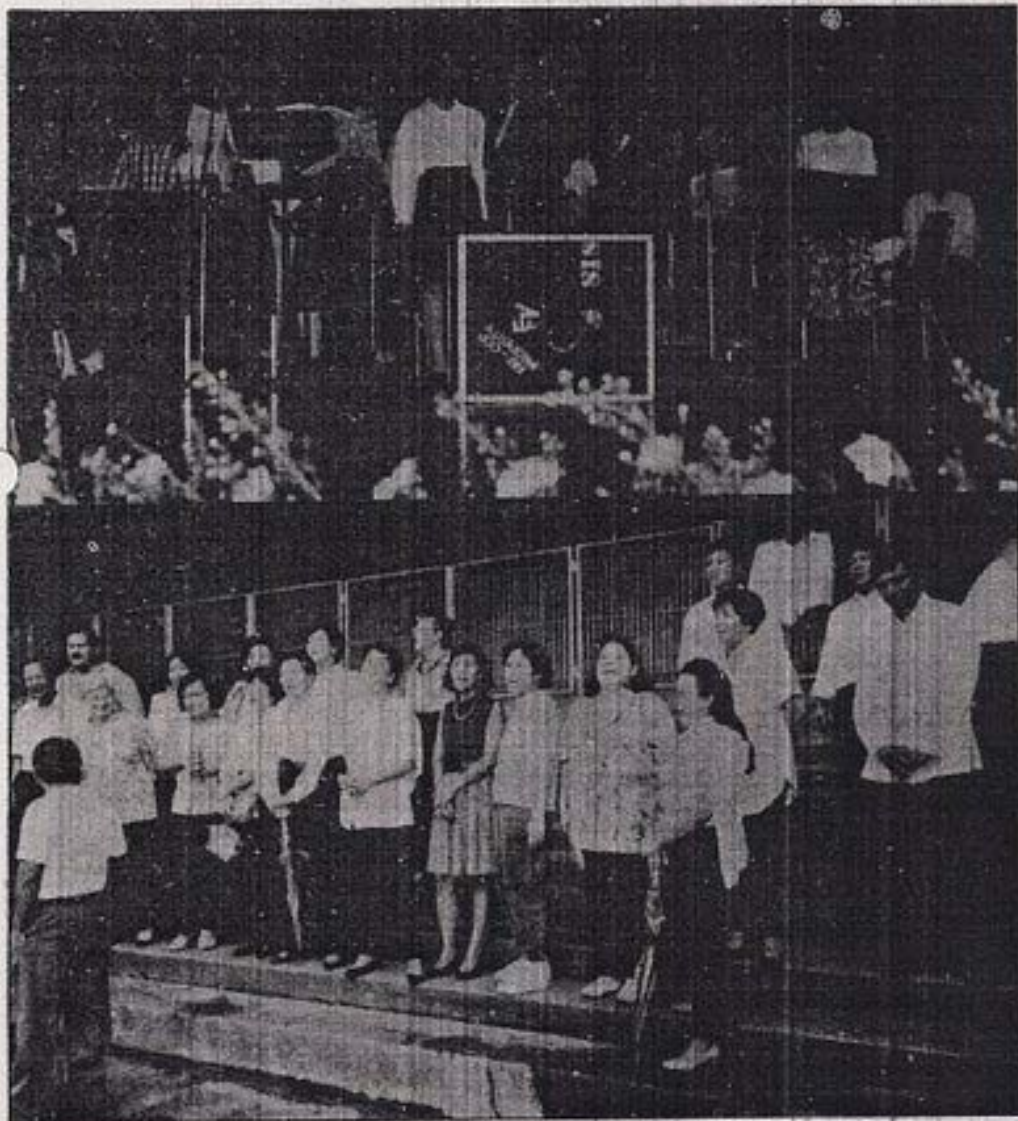
The continuity of the crucial parts of the celebration – the Prayer Rally and the Holy Mass – was assured by means of the inspiring music of the Anniversary's Music Ministry, this year handled by Quezon City chapter. Maximizing its talents, the music ministry treated everyone through spirit-filled songs and music. One of the most memorable and uplifting renditions was Nanette Maigue's lyrical singing of the Responsorial Psalm whose melody was composed by her husband Rayben.

Right after lunch a colorful five-piece cultural presentation was given by the Nayong Pilipino Dance Troupe signaling the start of the afternoon's festivities. Superbly emceed by Marissa Nuguid (Las Pinas) and Boy Javier (Alabang), the program got underway with a sequence of skits and musical numbers.

The story lines of practically all the musical skits (Dagupan, Quezon City) revolved around the Anniversary Theme. The beautiful choral and group singing numbers (Alabang, Bacolod, Makati) again gave testimony to the gift of music with which God has abundantly blessed the Brotherhood. Even the dance numbers (La Naval Cavite, Las Pinas) were obviously inspired. Adding fun to the festivities was a bible-based guessing game (Greenhills) which tested the memories and organizing skills of participants.

The names of brothers and sisters who helped bring about the celebration would be too numerous to list down here. Nonetheless, the Anniversary Committee under Manny Banigan extends its profound gratitude to all those who helped out in one way or another in the form of a prayer of thanksgiving offered to God.

Next year, the 12th BCBP anniversary celebration will be handled by the Greenhills chapter. -Kyt Mier





TO THE BROTHERS AND SISTERS WHO WORKED FOR THE SUCCESS OF THE 11TH BCBP ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

August 17, 1991

THANK YOU!

The 11th founding anniversary celebration of the BCBP unfolded smoothly amidst difficulties, and has become a source of spiritual upliftment for those who shared their joy with others on that happy and most significant occasion.

This could not have been possible without your assent to the prodding and guidance of the Holy Spirit that led you to pour out your resources, talents and time in planning out and coordinating the anniversary activities.

It is therefore with faith in God's un-failing generosity that we recall each one of you in His Presence, invoking Jesus' Name in asking for His abundant love in return for the service you have graciously rendered to Him.

We thank and praise our Lord for your invaluable contributions:

FR. HERB SCHNEIDER for his prophetic and priestly roles as bearer of the Lord's message on Justice and Integrity during the Prayer Rally and as main celebrant at the Eucharistic Celebration;

SPANKY MEER (LNP/BCBP) for preparing the audience to stand in God's Presence and effectively leading them in adoration, contrition, thanksgiving and

intercession as Prayer Leader at the Rally;
FERNANDO DE LARRAZABAL for his inspiring leadership which made the task of the Anniversary Committee a lot easier;

HEADS OF VARIOUS BCBP CHAPTERS for supporting the Anniversary Committee by motivating their members to participate in the celebration;

JOE FERRERIA (Makati) for guiding the initial proceedings of the occasion as moderator at the Prayer Rally and for coordinating the Physical Arrangement Group's work;

MSGR. GORGONIO ZAPATOS (Chief Naval Chaplain) for helping dispense the graces of the Eucharist as co-celebrant at the Mass;

PONS PREYSLER (Alabang) for helping put order in the liturgy as Lector/Commentator;

HERMIE RODIL (Alabang) for proclaiming part of God's message as Reader of the first Reading;

BROTHERS AND SISTERS FROM DAGUPAN, MAKATI AND QUEZON CITY for their symbolic offerings to our Lord;

LOUIE CASIMIRO (Las Pinas) and **BING CLADO (Quezon City Singles)** for

facilitating the celebrants' work as Sacristans;

THE SINGLE AND MARRIED MEN AND WOMEN OF THE METRO-MANILA CHAPTERS AND THE MEN OF THE DAGUPAN CHAPTER for ushering and assisting during the mass as offerors, collection assistants and banner bearers;

BROTHERS AND SISTERS FROM VARIOUS CHAPTERS/OUTREACHES for lifting up the BCBP's petitions during the Prayer of the Faithful;

JOJO PANLILIO (Las Pinas) AND **NELIA OLLER (Las Pinas)** for ensuring security of collections for the Pinatubo victims and love offerings for the BCBP evangelization thrust;

NANI AND DOLLY MAGBANUA (Quezon City) for assembling together the lay ministry couples who helped serve the Holy Eucharist during the Mass;

RAYBEN AND NANETTE MOSCARDON MAIGUE (Quezon City) for arranging into song and interpreting respectively, Psalm 24, the Responsoria, Psalm, during the Mass;

SAL AND CHARITO ESTRADA (LNP/BCBP) for lending us the altar linens;



BENNY DE GUZMAN (Greenhills) for graciously arranging the use of extra chalices and ciboriums through the kindness of the **BUKAS LOOB SA DIOS** Covenanted Community;

DAVE CONCEPCION OF THE ANG LIGAYA NG PANGINOON COVENANTED COMMUNITY for lending us their mass kits/paraphernalia and electric organ;

JUN CAPACILLO AND THE QUEZON CITY CHAPTER MUSIC MINISTRY for assuring continuity through the Rally and the Mass with their inspiring music and songs;

ERNIE AND LALLY DE LA CRUZ (Las Pinas) for graciously donating the printing of the two sets of envelopes used in the collection of love offerings and donations for the Pinatubo Fund Campaign;

PONS FALLARME (Las Pinas) AND **BOBBY ATENDIDO** (Alabang) for helping account for the love offerings and contributions to Mt. Pinatubo fund campaign respectively;

THE FOOD CONCESSIONAIRES for providing a source of nutritious, safe and competitively priced sustenance to the participants;

THE BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF OUR CHAPTERS/OUTREACHES FROM ALABANG, BACOLOD, CAVITE (LA 'AVAL), GREENHILLS, LAS PINAS, MAKATI AND QUEZON CITY for glorifying God and delighting the BCBP members with their insightful and refreshing presentations and game;

MARISSA NUGUID (Las Pinas) AND

BOY JAVIER (Alabang) for their superb and efficient management of the presentations as Masters of Ceremony during the afternoon festivities;

MILO PANLILIO AND TITO GUTIERREZ (Las Pinas) for graciously assisting the distribution of raffle gifts to participants;

BROTHERS AND SISTERS FROM VARIOUS CHAPTERS for generously donating raffle gifts and giveaways enhancing the fun of the festivities;

BCBP FAMILIES, CHILDREN AND THEIR GUESTS for adding to the joy and significance of the occasion through their participation and contributions;

THE NAYONG PILIPINO DANCE TROUPE for gracing the occasion with a number of well-appreciated cultural dances;

BROTHERS AND SISTERS REPRESENTING VARIOUS CHAPTERS WHO MANNED THE RECEPTION TABLE for graciously welcoming and helping members and guests;

ROMY OLLER (Las Pinas) for lending to the Working Committee portable communications equipment which facilitated coordination of the anniversary activities;

EMY MAGDANGAL (Quezon City) for his resourcefulness and energy which facilitated the planning and execution of the celebration;

MEMBERS FROM CEBU CHAPTER, CAGAYAN DE ORO AND PALAWAN OUTREACHES who braved Manila's stormy weather in order to join the rest of the Brotherhood in celebrating its

11th anniversary;

REPRESENTATIVES OF OUR PARTNERS IN MISSION FROM THE ANG LIGAYA NG PANGINOON COVENANTED COMMUNITY, COUPLES FOR CHRIST AND CHRIST'S YOUTH IN ACTION for sharing with us the joy of our anniversary celebration;

NANCY CATAN (Makati) AND **THE KAPATIRAN STAFF** for the timely publication and distribution of the Anniversary Issue of the KAPATIRAN;

LYDIA AND JUN FIGUEROA (Las Pinas) for the timely printing of the Anniversary Issue of the KAPATIRAN;

ADVERTISERS TO KAPATIRAN'S ANNIVERSARY ISSUE for sharing their blessings and giving their support to the Brotherhood;

JUN KAMATOY for his well-stocked book tables;

GENEN SAMBALIDO (Quezon City) for making his car and driver available for use of the Working Committee during the celebration;

TATA TECSON, PAUL ANTONIO AND FRIENDS for manning the soft drinks booths and related efforts;

LEO MACARIOLA (Quezon City) for extending to the Working Committee the use of his office computer and printer to produce camera-ready materials for use in the Anniversary;

OCA BALAOING (Quezon City) for immediately responding to the rush printing of tickets and the Anniversary Program/Song Sheets;

NESTOR SALONGA for rushing the large





wooden BCBP Logo used as center piece in the stage decoration;
THE NAYONG PILIPINO STAFF for the beautiful stage decorations;

FOLK ARTS THEATER TECHNICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF for their assistance on stage; for lending us the Tambiolo; for helping distribute the Anniversary tickets, and for helping out as ushers and guides;

CULTURAL CENTER OF THE PHILIPPINES MANAGEMENT for graciously allowing the BCBP use of the Folk Arts Theater at a discount, and for waiving the concessionaires fee for BCBP concessionaires;

CHARITO GARCIA (Las Pinas) for serving as de facto secretariat of the Anniversary Committee as well as **KAPATIRAN** advertising manager;

THE STAFF OF THE FILIPINO SOCIETY OF COMPOSERS AND PUBLISHERS, INC., (FILSCAP) for putting up patiently and helpfully with the requirements of the BCBP's 11th Anniversary Celebration;

P.V. BELEY (Greenhills), **JUN CAPACILLO** (Quezon City), **BENNY DE GUZMAN** (Greenhills), **NANI MAGBANUA** (Greenhills), **EMY MAGDANGAL** (Quezon City), **KYTT MIER** (Las Pinas) for constituting the Liturgical Group which designed the Anniversary Liturgy under the guidance of **FR. HERB SCHNEIDER**;

P.V. BELEY AND BOBBY LAVINA (Greenhills), **JOE FERRERIA** (Makati), **RIC LAZATIN** (Alabang), **EMY MAGDANGAL** (Quezon City), **KYTT MIER AND ROMY OLLER** (Las Pinas) for ensuring the successful execution of the Anniversary Celebration through their creative cooperation and coordination among one another as the Working Committee of the Anniversary.

ON BEHALF OF THE 11TH BCBP FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE, THANK YOU VERY MUCH AND MAY OUR LORD JESUS RICHLY REWARD YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE.

MANNY BANIGAN
 Overall Coordinator



"A BELL IS NO BELL TILL YOU RING IT.
 A SONG IS NO SONG TILL YOU SING IT.
 THE LOVE IN YOUR HEART WAS NOT PUT THERE
 LOVE TO STAY.
 LOVE IS NOT, TILL YOU GIVE IT AWAY..."

-BARDNESS DE HUECK

ANNIVERSARY STATISTICS (And Comments)

On Attendance

A total of 601 members reportedly attended the 11th BCBP anniversary celebration at the Folk Arts Theater on August 17. Around 20 guests were also recorded as having attended. This was a far cry from the more than 2,000 expected. The consoling thought is that these 600 or so members represented around 30% of total BCBP membership. At least this is better than the 10 percent turnout (one out of ten who said "Thank you") among the lepers healed by our Lord Jesus during His time.

Pro-Active, Not Re-Active!

This low attendance factor should be an indication of the size of the job awaiting Governance in strengthening their system of encouragement and participation in BCBP affairs. Members must be individually and collectively taught on how to be more effective in spiritual warfare. In this aspect, we should be, as Fr. Herb so aptly put it in his September first Friday talk, **PRO-ACTIVE** and not merely **RE-ACTIVE**.

Missed Opportunity to Share

A conservative forecast of attendance was around 1,200 excluding children and yayas. Assuming that each of these members was able to invite one guest each, there would have been a minimum of 2,400 participants. Considering that the average love offerings during the Mass last August 17 amounted to about P35.00 each (P21,564 divided by 623), full participation according to the forecast could have raised P35 x 2,400 or P84,000 for the BCBP's evangelization program. About the same amount could have been raised for the victims of the Mt. Pinatubo eruptions.

On Participation

Some groups, including a few whole action groups, came prepared to spend the day, bringing with them water jugs and picnic lunches as they were supposed to do. Lunch break saw them gathering their chairs in circles, sharing food and experiences in braving the flashfloods to get to the Folk Arts Theater that morning. This is how it should be! As businessmen and professionals we should be prepared for every eventuality. And we should be prepared to exert best efforts to meet our appointments and our commitments. We might ask: Why is it that our new brothers and sisters from Cavite were able to make it to Folk Arts Theater, and many brothers and sisters from Metro Manila were absent?

- Kytt Mier, Nancy Catan

MAKE IT CEBU!

"Make it, make it, Cebu, Cebu
You just got to feel it
It's not enough that you hear it
You just got to know it"

Thus go the lyrics of a popular jingle here in Cebu. Cebu is not only a nice place to stay, but it also has wonderful, charming and accommodating people who surely make you want to stay on.

My being assigned here in Cebu by our company is no coincidence, so I believe. Perhaps one of the Lord's reasons is for me to see His greatness, that truly He is very much alive everywhere, whether I be here or back in Manila.

Thanks to my constant fellowship with the brotherhood here, Christ still remains the focus of my life. When I left Manila, I didn't leave Jesus behind. He is very much a part of my decisions and plans, making me sensitive to his calling and obedient to his instructions. I may not have the necessary experience or the maturity needed for my new work assignment but I trust God so much that I am confident He will not let me down.

Let me count my blessings. If in Manila the people in our company didn't have the time to pray, here we start our first hour of the week with a prayer. If in Manila, I could not attend the Men's Breakfasts because I had to report for work early, here I am able to adjust my schedule so that I can attend them every Saturday morning.

If in Manila, my time was eaten up by traffic jams and long distances I needed to cover for my sales calls, here I am blessed with plenty of time for personal prayer and service in the BCBP to glorify and witness for God. If in Manila, I had Lito, Ed, Millard, Tino, Beth, Susan, et al., here I have Lynn, Sol, Diana, Jojo, EJ and the rest of the Cebu singles.

Yes, I left my family and loved ones in Manila but I am now being embraced and welcomed by a bigger family - the BCBP chapter of Cebu. Praise God!
Boy Ragaza, Cebu Chapter



BCBP Toronto's core group gather at Elors Gorge Park for a picnic. I, TO R are: Mark Katipunan, Vic and Ellen Legaspi, Ricky and Cecile Nuguid, Kit and Gay Arcilla, Gigi and Jovet de la Torre, Jong and Evie Amante.

WE NEED TO GROW MORE

I believe my decision to join the BCBP (CLP 3, Dagupan) was a grace coming from the LORD. The Brotherhood has helped me develop a personal relationship with Him; I have also improved relationships in my family and among my business peers and workers. But there seems to be so much more waiting to be done before the BCBP can meet the needs of today's market place.

Prayer time. There are still members who are afraid or too shy to pray if asked to lead the prayers during a BCBP function. Others have not improved in the level of prayers, perhaps lacking confidence (in God?).

Scriptures. Many are not so familiar with simple verses or passages in the bible. Others cannot even paraphrase simple bible texts in their own words; some find it difficult to connect bible passages with their own experiences.

Service. I feel at this point in time that we are suffering from a leadership crisis since many do not want to handle responsibility even at the smallest level. Members,

signed in the different ministries sometimes lack commitment and neglect their responsibilities in service.

I really love to be a part and parcel of this community for it is here that I can help His Son Jesus Christ evangelize the market, that is to bring more businessmen and professionals living in the kingdom of darkness to the Kingdom of Light. I look at being active and committed in the BCBP as one of repaying Him for His great love for me and my family.

Rudy Fernandez
Dagupan Chapter

"A mature Christian is responsible. He must be "able" to "respond" positively, willingly and obediently to God."

Fr. Herb Schneider

Makati Outreach

LA NAVAL CLP 1 GRADUATES 59

On October 5, 1991, after 14 weeks of attending the BCBP's Christian Life Program, 59 naval officers and their wives will graduate to become regular members of the BCBP Makati chapter. This first CLP for the Cavite-based naval officers has been held at the officers club in Ft. San Felipe, Cavite City, every Saturday afternoon from 1:30 to 5:00 p.m. Makati chapter mission head for the Navy Jun Catan was the course leader ably assisted by Vic Cuna as co-course leader.

Baptism of the Holy Spirit was held in the nearby church on Sept. 14. The Eucharistic celebration was con-celebrated by Bishop Severino Pelayo, Military Bishop of the Philippines, as main celebrant and Msgr. Gorgonio Zapatos, naval chief chaplain, assisting. The power of the Holy Spirit was truly

felt by all who attended as evidence of His gifts abounded. The Makati music ministry led by Cheng and Lucy Legaspi sang inspired music throughout the baptism with the choir loft acoustics making the music sound heavenly. Immediately after the baptism, the participants, the service team and guests gathered in the Officers Club for a "pot luck" supper; each discussion group and the Makati service team brought food and shared with each other.

During the next several months culture talks will alternate with action group leader training. The new BCBP navy outreach is already looking forward to the La Naval CLP 2 early next year.

For all those who helped in one way or another make this CLP a success, we pray for God's abundant blessings, said Jun Catan.

WELCOME
LA NAVAL CLP 1

Panes, Pong/Jessie
Zarzoso, Andy/Paz
Esmeralda, Tante/Linda
Sunga, Mike/Betty
Fernandez, Daisy
Dagunan, Emly
Basconcillo, Dickie/Lina
Aberca, Willie/Fely
Mendoza, Jess/Mely
Dayon, Ed
Allones, Sid/Ellen
Flores, Loui/Lyn
Gayo, Jhun/Mhing
Abad, Ricky/Eyeng
Cabrada, Mhel/Rhose
Tabermio, Ogie/Baby
Loria, Francis/Dith
Tuppil, Ching
Barrozo, Erning
Turalde, Willie/Marilyn
Matas, Dioko/Cynth
Agudelo, Nonoy/Nene
Taccad, Sar/Joy
Dimawala, Ferdie/Del
Taneo, Tanny/Beth
Coronel, Gerry/Inas
Orio, Willy/Carmen
Banico, Rodrigo/Emma
Ullia, Ben/Baby
Anastacio, Jun
Callejero, Frank/Sally
Avellanosa, Danny/La
Simbre, Felicidad

Quezon City Chapter

DIRECTORY ADDITIONS

Please make the following corrections/additions to the Q.C. Chapter Membership Directory published in the KAPATIRAN's Anniversary Issue (Aug/Sept 1991). Thank you.

Leaders Formation: Val de Guzman
Women's Breakfast: Claire Fernandez
Members: Bautista, Jansen; Figueras, Gong/Alma; Gutierrez, Henry/Cora; Gutierrez, Willie/Alice; Lamug, Danny/Beth; De Leon, Peping; Lansangan, Cel; Macariola, Leo; Madrono, Ben/Lyn; Nepomuceno, Danny/Bing; Novales, Manny/Aurora; Ocampo, Robert/Nene; Odina, Jojo/Weng; Orlina, Art; Pantaleon, Edward/Marivic; Sambalido, Cenen/Gigi; Sumilang, Boy/Baby; Tan, Andoy/Joy; Teotico, Johnny/Pinky; Yupangco, Ramky/Kathy; Balingit, Jun/Vangie; Del Rosario, Jun; De Veyra, Dino.



QUEZON CITY CHAPTER: NEWS BRIEFS

BCMR. The annual BCMR of the Q.C. chapter was held on September 27 to 29 at the Sacro Costato House of Prayer located along Scout Lozano and Mother Ignacia streets in Quezon City with Vic and Claire Fernandez in charge of the weekend retreat. The Brotherhood Christian Marriage Retreat is a must for all member couples of the BCBP and is an integral part of the couple members' formation process.

The BCMR talks were given by Roy and Janet Calleja, *Serving the Lord Through Marriage*; Benjie and Ninette Quinto, *Christian Couple as a Pastoral Team*; Romy Limuaco, *The Christian Husband*; Nancy Limuaco, *The Christian Wife*; Jun and Terry Ramirez, *Effective Copmunication*; Gil and Edith Beltran, *Healing Our Marriage*; Vic and Claire Fernandez, *Building Our Homes For God*.

Fr. Greg Buenavista, SVD, was the officiating priest. Gerry and Virgie Jimenez, Monching and Nanette Kagaoan, and Oscar and Mila Balaoing composed the service team.

PEPSI LSS. The Life in the Spirit Seminar conducted by the BCBP Q.C. chapter at the Pepsi Cola Bottling corporation for Pepsi employees has just been concluded. Held on Thursdays from 6:00 to 8:00 in the evening, the LSS culminated with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist followed by a commissioning service for the Pepsi LSS participants who will now form the core group of the Pepsi Prayer Community at the Aurora Blvd. office and plant of Pepsi Cola Bottling Corporation.

The team from the Q.C. chapter which conducted the LSS included: Val and Cora de Guzman as LSS administrator couple; Nani and Dolly Magbanua as service team couple; Fred and Ditas Medina, Rolly and Tina Odina, Bong and Myra Salvosa, Bong and Alma Figueras, and Manny and Pacing Manalo as members of the service team.

CLP NO. 18. The chapter completed their Christian Life Program 18 last September 14 at the Alfredo's Steak House along Tomas Morato Ave., Q.C., with the 28 participants making their commitment to the Lord through the BCBP. Fr. Henry Carlos, OMI, celebrated the Holy Eucharist, with the participants collectively offering their commitment cards during the offeratory. In the program that followed each discussion group presented a special number in the spirit of

WELCOME Q.C. CLP 18

Almazan, Noli/Shirley
Bombeta, Emelita
Cembrano, Augusto
Cruz, Mylene
Desierto, Felix/Julie
Eban, Renato
Gabalda, Ronnie
Galing, Saturnino
Layug, Art/Lita
Magbanua, Eden
Mortel, Ding/Leny
Nadela, Chikki
Nadela, Tini
Oca, Oscar
Ocampo, Answelmo
Paul, Jeremias Jr.
Pingca, Plaridel
Santos, Avelino/Liwayway
Teng, Cesar/Agnes
Vasquez, Enrico
Vizcarra, Kaye
Zapata, Jesus

fellowship and brotherhood.

The group's baptism in the Holy Spirit had been held August 24 at the Religious of the Virgin Mary Chapel located along N. Domingo St., Q.C., with Fr. Virgilio Bartolome, SVD., celebrating the Holy Mass.

C.L.P. 19. The chapter began its 19th Christian Life Program on September 21, 1991, barely a week after the completion of CLP 18.

LAS PINAS MONITOR

Christian Service Series Completed

Las Pinas chapter members are undergoing a second set of culture talks called the Christian Service Series. The talks are incorporated into the chapter's monthly assemblies every third Fridays. September's talk, the last talk in this series, was on "Spiritual Warfare." The next set of culture talks will focus on Evangelization.

Monthly Action Group Themes

Augmenting the culture talks for regular members is the development and distribution of the monthly Action Group Themes which basically are outlines for discussions during action group meetings. These themes tackle various aspects of Christian life with guidance taken mostly from the Scriptures.

Chapter Retreat

A retreat for 22 couples has been slated from October 18 to 20 at the Holy Spirit Retreat House in Tagaytay. Retreat coordinator is Mael Calata who is with Rem Gopez' mission team.



These pictures were taken during Quezon City's CLP 18.

Cebu Chapter

CLOSER TO GOD Through the CLP

53 participants recently completed Christian Life Program No. 6 of the Cebu chapter. Sessions had been held twice a week for 7 weeks with their baptism in the Holy Spirit on August 15 and their commitment 10 days later. Nap Polotan, course leader, said that this was the first CLP where all the speakers came from their own chapter. He thanked the service team who cheerfully donated their time and effort in helping make the CLP the success that it was.

The new graduates were asked for their reactions/comments to their experience in the CLP.

I learned to be close to God. My heart was fully open for Him to enter my life. I am now 100% committed to Him.
-Jun Muriel

It's a nice way for getting closer to the Lord. I like the camaraderie, the closeness. It's something I can bank on during my times of need. Everyone is so open, so eager to be close to you.
-Joy Climaco

I met a lot of wonderful people. It has given me joy. Very fulfilling!
-Danny Aguas

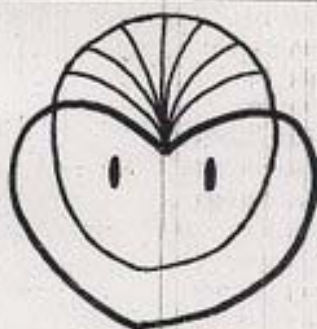
I've always advocated the Golden Rule so there wasn't much adjustment needed. The CLP has helped me clean up the rusty sides and put things in perspective where roles and expectations are concerned. On the whole, it was a reaffirmation of faith, where some points had been dormant. It's good to do some polishing. Once in a while, reminders are good.
-Elmo Siap

My discussion group leader was very supportive. Everyone is kind and generous, and I'm glad I've met them.
-Edwin Majam

It has helped my Mom a lot in her attitudes. She's happier now.
-Ilanthe Casenas (daughter of CLP participant Reina Casenas)

WELCOME CLP 6 CEBU

Aguas, Danny
Andrino, Max
Arriola, Jing
Bandajon, Alipio/Liddy
Buensalido, Aldo/Girlie
Cahatol, Joel
Casenas, Reina Marie
Climaco, Jojo/Joy
Collantes, Senen
Coleongco, Mark



Peace of Mind
grows only from
a Loving Heart!

Lorenzo A. Judan
QC BCBP

Dayondon, Filmer/Larochelle
Fajardo, Antonino
Fernan, Marcel
Filoteo, Rene/Jocelyn
Gallego, Jaime/Malou
Gamboa, Paul/Lydia
Guinto, Marcelo
Laput, Rudy/Ofelía
Lim, Sandra
Limbaga, Lloyd/Myrna
Lucmayon, Roger/Milagros
Mahinay, Arturo/Luzviminda
Majam, Edwin
Martinez, Jesus Antonio
Muriel, Jun
Nemenzo, Antonio
Ocubillo, Chad
Olayvar, Chad
Osmena, Edilberto
Padriga, Erwin
Pimentel, Roy/Ina
Rillos, Rene/Rebecca
Sancover, Arnold/Bernabella
Siap, Elmo/Padma
Suegay, Edgardo
Tupas, Estrella
Urgello, Antonio
Urgello, Pedro Jr.

LIVING AND WORKING WITH CHRIST

Joey Bacugan, Jr., Dagupan Chapter

Being a member of the BCBP (CLP 1, Dagupan) has changed my entire life. Jesus is now the center of my life. He has changed me to become more humble, patient, kind and available to my family. Our home is now a Christian community with the children becoming aware of the power and kindness of the Lord. We pray together and read scripture together as a family. We always share what the Lord is doing in our lives and proclaim His goodness, kindness and His abundant support. We help one another with any problems and always include the children as a part of the team in solving problems.

In the line of duty and work in the office, I try to set the example to all my staff by giving my best in serving our clients and treating everyone equally. I try my very best to resolve any problems brought up by my staff in the earliest possible time. I always emphasize that we work together as a team. I stand for their rights and if they are in need of my assistance with regards to management policies, I always give them the proper information. If they have any grievance, I see to it that their problems are brought to the higher management.

I am active in the Brotherhood because I feel serving the Lord is a delight; it gives me an inner feeling of love as I serve brothers and sisters. I have found that the more you serve, the more are your graces. Service makes you a better person because you have to follow what you preach. It makes you hungrier and thirstier to know the way of Christ. Service makes you more united with your brothers and sisters making us truly one community and one church.

WHAT THE BCBP MEANS TO ME

BCBP And Single Parenthood

Prior to my joining CLP 17, I always thought that I already had a good relationship with my Lord and Savior - that I was already living a good Christian life.

Little did I know that there were so much yet to be realized in my life. First and foremost on my list is my realization of the real meaning of the word "commitment". I realized back then that I made so many unnecessary commitments, I lost out on those I should have really focused on. It dawned on me that because I wanted to take life easy that all the commitments I made were more to suit myself rather than face my real responsibilities in life.

The Brotherhood changed all this. It made me aware of the proper way to run my life in all aspects - handling my children, finances and decisions in my daily life. I am now better equipped to deal with and to face family life as God would want me to -- putting order in my life, setting my priorities straight and most importantly, putting Christ in the center, not only of my life, but of my children's lives as well.

Being a single parent gave me a whole lot of excuses to veer away from the right path. Like a child of this world, sometimes, it felt good to rebel against what should be, although I had quite a tough time reckoning with the guilt that came afterwards. Luckily the BCBP tackled this problem, too. I have, since then, realized that the Lord loves me just as much when I did wrong as when I did right. Whatever I had done in the past, my Father has forgiven me and this inspires me to do better - to strive harder each day to do my best to gain His favor knowing I could have a closer relationship with Him.

If I had not matured with all my experiences in life, it could have been providential because now I know I have been blessed with a chance to mature under the guidance,

A New Dimension In My Life

Coming to know the Lord in a "personal" way through the Brotherhood, has added a new dimension to my life. Where before I would view life only from two points, that is, myself and others, now I have another point -- my God everything in relation to God. Then life took on more meaning suddenly my role as wife and mother has become a "calling." I have come to realize that all my household chores and activities are meritorious, thus I try to do them well. Now I am renewed and transformed in thought, in attitude, in words and in deeds -- Praise God!

Pixie Cutisia
Alabang Chapter
CLP 9



strength and love of my Creator and Redeemer.

Thank you Lord for counting me as one of your blessed.....

Nancy Coo
Alabang Chapter
CLP 17

Serving The Lord In My Family

Through the teachings I have received from the Brotherhood of Christian Businessmen and Professionals, my life as a whole has changed dramatically. Before, for me to serve my husband was an obligation on my part. In fact, I would halfheartedly serve him because of fear of spoiling him. Submission for me was only for those wives who could not think for themselves. My family was not the number one priority for me.

But when I learned to accept the Lord as king and Lord of my whole being and of my life, and truly tried to live the teachings of the Brotherhood, I began to see and find joy and fulfillment in serving my husband and children. I realized that I cannot submit to the Lord's authority and kingship if from my heart I cannot submit to the authority of my husband. For my husband's authority over me was given to him by our Lord Jesus Christ himself.

I cannot say I would want to serve the Lord if I cannot serve my family lovingly. For now I believe that the love, service, and time I give to my family is also the love, service, and time I give to the Lord.

Through the teachings, I found the true meaning of commitment. Through the love and support I received from my brothers and sisters in the community, I felt Christ's love and support for me and my family. Truly, I can say that being a member of the Brotherhood is one of the greatest gifts we as a family have received from the Lord. The teachings have made me a better person, a person committed to the Lord, to my family and to the BCBP.

Dindy A. Gamboa
Alabang Chapter

MAKE ME YOUR INSTRUMENT

Tippi Sala, Cebu Chapter

1 Cor. 13:3-4 : *The prophet instead addresses all people to give them strength, encouragement and consolation. He who speaks in tongues strengthens himself but the prophet builds the Church.*

When I am used by God to relay messages to fellow brothers and sisters in Christ, there is one question which bothers me - does this really come from the Lord? I guess all of us wonder about this at one time or another, whether it is He speaking to us during our quiet moments with Him or at any other time.

The last time I asked myself this (for at least 5 times) was when I helped pray over Tita Nena Yap. I had a sense that she would be healed in less than a month if her family would surround her with love. Honestly, I didn't know what the family

part had to do with it. My initial reaction was to tell myself to stop imagining things. I didn't think God was going to use me because at that time, I felt unworthy ... but the sense just kept getting stronger.

I decided to approach two of our elders, Iris Polotan and Tito Sadi Saguisag, and they confirmed my sense. That evening, I prayed for two things: first, that Tita Nena would be healed, and second, that the confirmation from the elders was from the Holy Spirit. For the next few days, I continued to pray for Tita Nena. All the time I kept scolding myself for my lack of faith until I made the decision to believe -- I would not worry, all would be well!

About a week after praying for Tita Nena, I asked how she was. I was told

that she had undergone a check-up which revealed that there was no trace of the cancerous growth which the doctors had earlier seen.

Sometime later, I came upon a poem and changed the last words to fit what I felt:

I believe in the sun even when it does not shine.

I believe in love even when it is not shown and I believe in what God can do even when the signs are not visible.

I rejoice in this realization and knowing that I have been used to give someone strength, encouragement and consolation, and I would like to share this joy.

Praise and glory to the Father of fathers and the greatest friend who brings out the best in us!

BCBP - THE MAXIMUM WAY

Ferdie Baena, Alabang Chapter

"The world, the devil and the flesh are a band of adventurers who take advantage of the weakness of that savage you have within you. In exchange for the poor bauble of pleasure, which is worth nothing, they want you to hand over to them the pure gold and the pearls, the diamonds and the rubies, drenched in the living and redeeming blood of your God -- the price and treasure of your eternity."
-Josemaria Escriva

The BCBP culture slowly creeps up on you -- before you know it you are caught in a quagmire of practices and beliefs which are harsh to your immediate environment and to your usual business norm. You initially become an oddball amongst your peers only to shine and stand out again simply because you have chosen to follow a path few have taken, few are willing to defend and few

are willing to adhere to.

I remember those embarrassing moments or praying before meals in a crowded room or in a restaurant, the hesitation in lifting my hands in church services and the reluctance to refuse an old acquaintance for the usual boy's night out.

Business policies were slowly transformed into acceptable form where fairness and honesty prevails. Meetings in offices were started and closed with a prayer and soon this influence is filtered down to your people. While there are silent whispers around that you have also become one of those "born again", slowly the respect is given and your example becomes an emulated behavior at least within your office corridors.

My priorities have changed, suddenly there seems to be more time for prayer

and meditation, with less and less effort. While I still concentrate on business concerns, there are less worries and more hope and trust in the Lord. And now in all kinds of daily encounters, be it with associates, friends or a stranger, I can always find the opportunity to evangelize and spread the Word of God.

I remember discussing the role and meaning of God in my life and rebutting all doubts and counter arguments of a business acquaintance for three hours. Questions like 'why do innocent children have to die?' and 'if God is so loving why is there so much suffering?' were asked. Armed only with the spiritual and emotional "high" of the CLP I had taken barely four months earlier, I prayed for the guidance of the Holy Spirit and stood firm in my newly found faith. I only discovered later on that this unbeliever was a former seminarian.

cont. on pg. 29



I recall being a senior praying partner in the Baptism of CLP 2 in Cebu, guiding a neophyte action group leader-to-be, with no experience whatsoever and only trusting in the assurance of Charlie that the Holy Spirit is the One baptizing and that we are merely instruments. And the Holy Spirit really worked, inspite of our anxieties, hunger and physical exhaustion.

Doing service for Him, living up to what He has shown, following His footsteps has become my new direction.

As I continue to set my goals on the ways of the Lord, as I stumble and fall and rise again and again, the steps taken seem to be more difficult even if I feel stronger and are sustained by a deeper spiritual shield.

I still wonder why contracts are delayed or not available at all, why there are always moments of financial difficulties and occasional emotional outbursts. I still long for a better car, a new set of golf clubs or a regular pro to guide me on the driving range. I still crave for better material wants in the guise of comfort and convenience even if sometimes it is not that important or necessary.

But when I look closer and the source of the temporary emotional trauma settles down, I come to realize that these things are of the old ways and while they would seem comfortable and ego-filled, they are temporary in nature and a harassment from the evil one. I know he is surely beginning to feel that I am a losing battle as far as he is concerned as I have always fallen back on my prayers and meditations in moments of doubt and are continually sustained in my participation in the death and passion of our Lord in the Holy Mass.

Sometimes I think that the Lord must have been a great golfer, for if He would have asked Loy Mendoza how his score was for the day, Loy would have smiled and replied, "Maximum". That is how much He has loved us - to the MAXIMUM!

Now as I review my BCBP commitment card and reflect on how I have lived that covenant, I hope that the state my card is in (partially mangled piece of paper, date barely legible) shows how I have tried to be faithful to the Lord through the BCBP. In a few more years my commitment card will probably lose all semblance of an agreement and some provisions may be totally erased - but somehow I know that every word will have been carved in the deepest part of my heart. Praise God!



Be Joyful!

ONE MINUTE MEDITATIONS

Fernando de Larrazabal, BCBP Exec. Director

(1)

*"God so loved the world that he gave his only beloved Son..."
(John 3:16)*

We look at the sacrifice on the cross as the greatest sacrifice ever made. I wonder, which was God's greatest sacrifice? Was it the one at Calvary or the decision to become man? There is no denying the one at Calvary was a great sacrifice, but for God to temporarily give up the prerogatives of God to become an insignificant creature with all of man's weaknesses except sin, must have been, to my mind, the greatest sacrifice he made. However, both sacrifices were made because of the love he bears for us.

God emptied himself to give us the fullness of life everlasting. In exchange we continuously break his law and sin. Every time we commit a sin, we show how ungrateful we are. By our actions we are telling Jesus that all his sufferings were meaningless. Is this the way you treat Jesus? Don't turn your back on him, but fall on your knees, repent, and amend your life.

(2)

*"Rejoice, O highly favored daughter! The Lord is with you;
blessed are you among women."
(Luke 1:28)*

Did Mary's blessedness protect her from temptations? The fact that she was free from original sin in no way exempted her from Satan's temptations. After all, wasn't Jesus also tempted? Mary was human and like all, there must have been situations when she was strongly tempted to sin. There was the time when she saw her Son being abused while carrying the cross, and finally when he was crucified. It would have been easy for most of us to be tempted to anger, hate and desire for revenge. But Mary never faltered, she was strong and Satan failed. He failed because Mary was full of God's grace.

The Lord's grace is available to all and it's only a matter of accepting and holding on to this grace to offset Satan's prodding. If we sin, there is no one, not even Satan who can be blamed. God promised no one will be tempted beyond his or her capacity to resist (1 Cor. 10:13). So there you have it, you can resist temptation and avoid sin if you want to.

Mary was a prayerful person which gave her the strength against temptation. Pray like she did and you will also be able to find off Satan's thrusts.

These Minute Meditations are part of an on-going series by BCBP Exec. Director Fernando de Larrazabal. They are translated into several dialects and are aired several times daily, nationwide on 42 stations, free of charge, through the facilities of the Radio Mindanao Network.

LITANY OF HUMILITY

O Jesus, meek and humble of heart, hear me,
deliver me, Jesus

from the desire of being esteemed,
from the desire of being loved,
from the desire of being extolled,
from the desire of being honored,
from the desire of being preferred to others,
from the desire of being consulted,
from the desire of being approved,
from the fear of being humiliated,
from the fear of being despised,
from the fear of suffering rebuke,
from the fear of being forgotten,
from the fear of being wronged,
from the fear of being suspected,

And, Jesus, grant me the grace to desire
that others might be loved more than I,
that others may be esteemed more than I,
that in the opinion of the world others may
increase and I may decrease,
that others may be chosen, and I set aside,
that others may be preferred to me in everything,
that others may become holier than I,
provided that I become as holy as I should.
AMEN.

Submitted by Mar Raymundo, Greenhills Chapter

A SINGLE TEAR Thoughts On Forgiveness

It is necessary to repent for years in order to efface a fault in the eyes of men; a single tear suffices with God.

Francois Renee Chateaubriand

I think that if God forgives us we must forgive ourselves. Otherwise it is almost like setting up ourselves as a higher tribunal than him.

C.S. Lewis

All forgiveness, human and divine, is in the very nature of the case vicarious, substitutional...No one ever really forgives another, except he bears the penalty of the other's sin against him.

James Buswell, Jr.

ON BENDED KNEES

Dear Father,

You are the one who calls us all to live like brothers and sisters,

OUR FATHER.

You are above our petty divisions — black and white, rich and poor, handsome and plain, brain and brawn, rightist and leftist, young and old —

YOU ARE IN HEAVEN.

We belong to you. You give meaning and purpose to our lives. You are our future, and one day we'll be really close to you, forever,

BLESS YOU!

But you know how things are at the moment...

There's a lot of pain and suffering, people dying of loneliness and hunger; there's a lot of cruelty and exploitation going on, and it hurts to see it all.

LET YOUR KINGDOM COME, soon!!

May the world be a bit more like you want it to be, like your dream for us all. A bit more laughter, not so many tears. It must be one big party in heaven with everybody united, no bicker-

Listen Dad

A PRAYER FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

ing or envy.

LET YOUR WILL BE DONE HERE ON EARTH AS THEY'RE DOING IT IN HEAVEN.

We can get by on very little, really. We don't need all the junk food they keep showing us on telly...

GIVE US EACH DAY THE BREAD WE NEED.

Okay, Lord, now comes the bad part. We're to blame for a lot of the mess we're in. We're so petty, jealous, self-



centered. We're so slow to forgive, and we're like elephants when it comes to never forgetting. Let's wipe the slate clean then, so that you can begin all over again with us.

FORGIVE US AND WE'LL TRY TO FORGIVE OTHERS.

Now that we're forgiven, we can really change the world, Lord. But let the change be real and deep, not just us taking

over the power from the rich and becoming like them, which would defeat your whole purpose.

DON'T LET US FALL INTO TEMPTATION.

The truth is that things are complicated, and life isn't easy. We've all got our weaknesses, and sometimes we are overcome by darkness when we want to walk in the light.

DELIVER US FROM WHAT IS EVIL.

Let all this be true! It will be because you want it to be! A big hug from all your children!

AMEN.

Jose Luis Cortes: "That's My Boy", Collins Liturgical Publications.



SEE THE CHURCH

(Tune: *Where have all the flowers gone*)

See the Church assembled here
See the Church in common prayer
See the Church with love and care
Celebrate today.

See the Church a sacrament
See the Church a mystery
When will we ever learn
When will we ever learn.

Christ is here in happiness
Christ is here in jubilee

Christ is here to bring us joy
Within our hearts to stay
Christ the same in suffering
Christ the same in victory
When will we ever learn
When will we ever learn.

Christ the Lord, our suffering
Christ the Lord, our sacrifice
Christ the Lord, our common meal
Present here today

Christ the Lord, our celebrant
Christ the Lord, our neighbor
When will we ever learn
When will we ever learn.

Found inserted in an old hymnal from Cebu.

Contributed by Inday Go,
Makati chapter.

MAJORING IN PARENTAL EDUCATION

Jane Manalo, Makati Chapter

We enter into marriage with an exclusive frame of mind - you and I. We float in and out of reality thinking only of one single relationship - the marital relationship.

Having children is often taken as a consequence of marriage. Partly because this "consequence" is beyond anyone's control. As to one's capability and/or when to have children, this would solely depend on the will of God.

In this very context we should, all of us, parents, take our children as God's gift to us. Once we realize the purpose of their existence, only then could we begin to see them not as mouths to feed but priceless gems to nurture, to value and to cherish.

There is no such thing as Bachelor of Arts major in Parental Education or Bachelor of Science major in Responsible Parenthood. We read psychology books, guides, editorials, studies; we listen to experiences and sharings; we follow or contradict our parents' advice. We sometimes resent lectures and sermons of in-laws, even of well-meaning friends.

It is only the Bible, the Word of God, that has all the answers. Why? Because it teaches us our priorities in life, it guides us through values and precepts, it gives us wisdom in times of decisions. It nurtures our wounds, it gives us joy even in moments of adversity and pain. It provides inspiration and hope when we weaken. It helps us develop a new kind of personality that springs from within. In other words, we become a new creation.

Proverbs 22:6 says: *"Train a boy in the way he should go; even when he is old, he will not depart from it."*

We read in Sirach 30:11-13:

"Give him not his own way in his youth,

*and close not your eyes to his follies.
Bend him to the yoke when he is still small,
Lest he become stubborn, disobey you,
and leave you disconsolate.
Discipline your son, make heavy his yoke,
lest his folly humiliate you."*

I for one, believe that loving and disciplining children are inseparable ingredients that go hand in hand. I love my kids therefore I want them to have or develop what's best for them. Teach them how to become responsible individuals by making them see the value of school work. Study periods at home, diligent students in school. Obedience to authority, respect for elders, habit of wise spending, to name a few.

There are a thousand and one ways to get involved in our children's lives. But as our Lord has taught us, love them, love them all. Love them with a big heart

of patience and understanding. We have erred, they will err. Love them with compassion and forgiveness.

People have asked me why I no longer work. If my husband is listening, he will answer for me. If my kids are present, they will answer the same way.

A mother was telling one of her sons who graduated top of his class, "Your task is to do your best in your formative years and mine is to make sure you do it right."

I don't have a perfect family, a lot farther from the ideal one. Working mothers, single mothers, housewives, mothers in business, it doesn't matter. What is essential is you know what your purpose in life is. You have asked God to empower you with His love therefore enabling you to share that love to others. This kind of spiritual love will sustain you amidst challenges, crises and trials.

I would like to share with you a simple poem which touched me deeply. What makes this special is, it was brought home from school by my 9-yr. old daughter. I think it imparts a segment of the true formula taught to us by God, our God of love.

WHAT ARE PARENTS FOR

Are parents simply here to give allowances day by day?
And to provide food and shelter for children to stay?
Are parents simply meant to pay increasing tuition fees?
And work day in and out like diligent bumblebees?
I am a parent, I know why I'm here
To teach my children, "Love God and others without fear."
More than just allowances, it's knowledge I give
On how to love, relate, work and live.
I'm here to give them proper advice
On how to become happy, peaceful and wise.
I'm a parent, I know what my duty is
Someday, my children will be grateful for this.
The gift of love - the gift of life - the gift of peace
Let the number of responsible parents in this world increase.

We interrupt our series on the Sacraments to share with you some of our thoughts on the Vocation of the Laity in response to Fr. Herb's talk during the 11th anniversary: "Walking Our Talk". This will also serve as an introduction to the article on the seventh sacrament - Holy Orders - that will appear in the Dec-Jan issue. -Editor

How often have we heard the comment: "When I was young, I wanted to be a priest (or nun) but they said I had no vocation. Now, I'm just a doctor." Or "That girl is wasting her life doing social work! Why can't she do something more worthwhile?" Or, "With all her education, she is just a housewife and stays at home. What a waste!"

Many Catholics have the mistaken belief that vocations belong solely to the priests, nuns and religious making the rest of us sort of second-class citizens in the heavenly hierarchy. But a close look at the scriptures shows us differently. God didn't demand that Abraham leave his family and become a hermit in order to serve Him. Ruth was twice married before becoming the great-grandmother of King David. Nehemiah was an important official in the king's household when God called him to use his special skills to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.

The Gerasene demoniac whom Jesus healed (Luke 8:26-39) begged to remain with Jesus and his disciples, but Jesus sent him away telling him, "Return home and recount what God has done for you."

What Does 'Vocation' Mean?

Pope John Paul II in the words of St. Paul often calls us, the laity, "a chosen race, a holy priesthood" with the specific vocation and mission to express the Gospel in our lives through the world in which we live and work. "They are called by God that, being led by the spirit to the Gospel, they may contribute to the sanctification of the world as from within like leaven..." (Lumen Gentium, no. 31) He goes on to say that there is no vocation more religious than work!



ANSWERING THE CALL OF GOD What Is God's Plan For Me?

(Edinburgh, Scotland, 31 May 1982)

What do we mean by 'vocation'? Usually defined as "business, calling, trade, something one is good at", it seems to me that one's vocation should be a calling to love, to service, and to commitment.

To be a doctor one must love both the work and mankind, must be willing to work long, uneven hours taking care of the sick, and must be committed under the Hippocratic oath to being the best doctor he/she can be. To be a good businessman, one must like that particular type of work, must seek to serve his employer as best he can, and must be dedicated and loyal to the business he is working in.

To be a priest, one must love serving the Lord as His appointed priest, he must enjoy serving the Lord and his flock, and he must be committed to God and to his calling. A housewife and mother likewise must have a great capacity for love and for service; she must be committed to her role as wife and mother. In fact I cannot think of any business, trade, profession, calling or livelihood that does not demand love, service and commitment!

And the key word is "LOVE".

Our Vocation Is Love

Love is our ultimate vocation. This is

the one thing in our lives that can never be lost, or misplaced, or blotted out (unless we ourselves wish to lose it!). Love will survive, love will endure. A vocation is 'something one enjoys and is good at'; shouldn't we exert our best efforts then at being good at 'love'?

To be called by God is to be called to a mission of love. We answer His call by choosing the vocation which for us will allow us to love and be loved the most, given our particular and special needs and abilities. It does not matter what is our status in life, or our livelihood, or our business or profession - what matters most to God is how much we have loved Him and our fellowmen.

As a wife I must love my husband and live out the Gospel teachings in my marriage. As a mother I must show God's love for me in the love that I show my children. I must seek to nourish their capacity for love so that they will be ready to answer God's call when He calls them. I must encourage their love, service and commitment to whatever vocation (whether religious in nature or as a lay Christian) they discern to be their special calling.

In our business, my husband and I must seek to look at our employees with

cont. on pg. 34

ANSWERING THE CALL OF GOD

Cont. from pg. 33

love rather than as adversaries in the corporate battlefield. As employers, we must carry out our corporate responsibilities with a servant's heart bearing in mind that we are the Lord's stewards here on earth and as stewards, we will be held accountable for what He has given us - our business and our employees. Our commitment to the Lord must be vibrant so that we will be able to witness and bring our employees closer to Jesus. And this same love, service and commitment must be carried over to our customers, to the larger marketplace, too.

Our Own Special Calling: Walking Our Talk

Every one of us possesses different abilities, charisms and ministries, diverse yet complementary. We all have our own specially tailored vocation, created for us by God and molded in us by His Spirit (Eph. 2:10).

As women we may have a vocation to single blessedness, to marriage and motherhood, to caring for the sick and the aged, to counseling, to homemaking, to a profession or business. Men may be called into business to provide livelihood for others, to government/public service, to marriage and fatherhood, to a life of single commitment. And the list of Christian vocations is indeed endless!

But let us not forget that there is such a great and pressing need for religious vocations. There is urgent need for men to join the priesthood and men and women to join religious orders in order to bring the Catholic sacramental life and Christianity to those in need.

What can we do? It is up to us to commit in a spirit of Christian love to use our lives, our work, our marketplace, all that we do in such a way as to please God and serve our fellowmen. And we must encourage our children, our friends, and everyone else to do the same! We must "walk our talk!"

One of my favorite sayings sums it up nicely:

*What we are is God's gift
to us; what we become
is our gift to God!
- Nancy R. Catan*

Thank you!

Our family wishes to thank BCBP members who prayed for the repose of the soul of Tomasita Ortiz y Parraguirre.

Adolf & Myrna Ortiz

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OUR LORD REIGNS! ALLELUIA!

LOOKING BEYOND

In his talk on the work of the Holy Spirit in our Christian life during the Holy Mass before the baptism in the Holy Spirit (La Naval CLP 1), Bishop Severino Pelayo urged us to practice "looking beyond". He emphasized that "looking beyond" is essential to being a mature, faith-filled, Christ-in-action Christian.

He showed us the different ways to look at a rose. What do we see when we look at a rose?

The ordinary man sees a pretty flower, perhaps he only sees the thorns that prick his fingers when he tries to pick the flower.

A poet rhapsodizes on the beauty of the red, red rose comparing it to his burning love for his sweetheart.

Commercially, the rose has developed a love language of its own; the rosebud means something different than the fully blossomed rose especially between boyfriend and girlfriend! The number of roses and their colors also reveal the shades and nuances of one's love for another.

But what happens when we look beyond the rose? What do we see? The red rose may remind us of His Sacred Heart, the thorns, of His Crown. Its glowing beauty amidst the thorns hints to us of the glory of heaven bursting through our sufferings and worldly concerns. As a Christian, we look beyond the flower and see Christ in action!

What is the meaning of our daily work routines, our struggles to become better Christians, our growing pains, illnesses, our experiences of great joy and happiness? What if we experience a Mt. Pinatubo in our life, covering all we have so far accomplished, our every achievement, with obliterating ash and mud? What will remain when all these material and necessary things of the world have been blotted off the landscape of our life?

Certainly I do not understand some events in my personal life anymore than I understand how a rose petal is able to retain its deep color and velvety softness

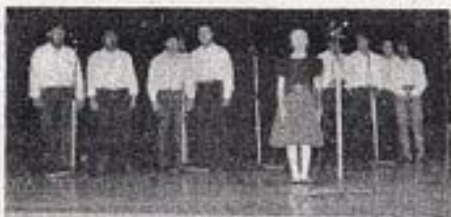
despite rain and wind. Many happenings I can understand only 'after-the-fact' and with much prayer and seeking the Lord's will. I have to "look beyond" what actually happens; I have to learn how to see Christ in action in what happens. I must remember God's promise in Romans 8:28.

I have found that the more I am able to "look beyond" and see Christ in action, the more clearly I can see God's will for me.

God did not promise us a rose garden. He did promise us, though, that he would be with us in all circumstances and situations.

There is an old proverb that says:
Beauty is in the eye
of the beholder.
I would like to
rephrase the
proverb to say:
The beauty
of life is in
the eye
that looks
beyond.
N.R.C.





11th BCBP ANNIVERSARY
Folk Arts Theater, Aug 17, 1991

