

May Christ's love and peace be ours!

# Kapatiran



BROTHERHOOD OF CHRISTIAN BUSINESSMEN AND PROFESSIONALS

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*And thou shalt  
call his name Jesus,  
Prince of Peace, Mighty God,  
Wonderful Counselor, Holy One,  
Lamb of God, Prince of Life,  
Lord God Almighty,  
Lion of the tribe of Judah,  
Root of David, Word of Life,  
Author and Finisher of our Faith,  
Advocate, The Way, Dayspring,  
Lord of All, I am, Son of God,  
Shepherd and Bishop of Souls,  
Messiah, The Truth, Saviour,  
Chief Cornerstone, King of Kings,  
Righteous Judge, Light of the World,  
Head of the Church, Morning Star,  
Sun of Righteousness, Lord  
Jesus Christ, Chief Shepherd,  
Resurrection and Life,  
Horn of Salvation, Governor,  
The Alpha and Omega.*

*Glory Be To God!*

*Love!*

*Joy!*

*Peace on Earth!*

*Alleluia! Alleluia!*

**HAVE A BLESSED CHRISTMAS!**

# NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS FOR 1992

## MORE MEDITATIONS

Lately, I have become so hopelessly forgetful that I have to resort to writing down the things I have to get done, even for the children's needs. But writing down my bold plans for the coming year is something that I must be careful about for it is hard to break promises when there is written evidence. I know that this time I have to take this resolution seriously because other people will get to know about it. The readers who know me will start watching for any signs of progress, others might take me seriously and take after me, so I am asking your prayers so that I can persevere.

I have this desire to do some meditations to our Lord. After my prayer time, I've tried doing it several times but usually I end up falling asleep. My greatest enemy during these meditations are sounds which easily distract me and make me loose my concentration. So I know I have not really been successful.

So, for this coming year, I would like to start and really do some serious meditations to our Lord on a regular basis and be able to experience this pure joy of truly communing with our God. I know this is something I cannot do on my own power but I have shared this desire to our Lord and have asked for His help and will keep on asking for it. I don't expect to accomplish hourly meditations regularly, but I know that with God's help and inspiration, my Lord will slowly lead me to see and hear glimpses of His glory in the coming year.

Ester T. Saguisag  
Cebu Chapter



## CHANGE MY READING HABITS

My New Year's resolution for 1992 is to spend more time in spiritual reading and reflecting.

I have noticed that spiritual reading and reflecting are a great help to one's spiritual progress. Spiritual reading brings me many thoughts and helps me to understand better what I already believe in. It keeps my outlook on life fresh and my enthusiasm alive.

To make sure that I keep this resolution, I have decided to reduce the time I spend reading newspapers and magazines and instead, spend more time for spiritual reading and reflection. This way I can also reduce the negative inputs from newspapers and magazines, and have more positive inputs from spiritual readings.

Larry Veloso  
Cebu Chapter

## CHRISTIAN MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY

I resolve to invite BCBP members and organize a consultancy service in Christian Management whose tool would be a creative system of communication that would foster sustained group productivity for individual development, not the other way around. I

will insure my dedication to this resolution by submitting its development to BCBP discernment.

Ernesto Mondonedo  
Cagayan de Oro Outreach

## FOCUS ON MY LORD JESUS

In 1992 I intend to focus on the Lord Jesus, so that everything I will do will be for His greater glory and honor. I would like to present to the Lord my family united in mutual love, respect and understanding, a family that is guided by the Holy Spirit in our spiritual enrichment. As a wife I will continue to give my support and love to my husband so that our love can be strengthened. As a member of the BCBP, my service to the Lord will be priority because it is in serving of and God that I find the real meaning of peace, joy and love.

How can I do all these? Through a lot of prayers, sacrifices and fasting, by being humble enough to surrender and place my complete trust and dependence on my Lord Jesus Christ.

Marite Congmon  
Cebu Chapter

## LOVE MY NEIGHBOR

My resolution for 1992 is to try my very best within the limits of human capacity to treat my neighbor as if he is Jesus.

Dale Cabrera  
Cagayan de Oro Outreach

## APPLY THE SCRIPTURES

As my resolution I would like to be able to emulate in the minds of Filipino families the value of studying scriptures, learning them by heart, and applying God's Word in their daily lives.

Lito Saquilayan  
Makati Chapter

## VOTE WISELY.

## WHAT MAKES A GOOD BCBP LEADER?

*Interviews with Fr. Herb Schneider and Fernando de Larrazabal*

**KAPATIRAN:** One of the BCBP's objectives is to identify, train and develop Christian leaders. How would you describe a good Christian leader?

**FR. HERB:** The number one quality is that a person must put his life under the Lordship of Christ. I believe a good Christian leader needs to be a man under authority like the centurion in the gospel. When our Lord said He would come and cure his servant, the centurion said, "I am a man under obedience so I have somebody over me and I have people under me. And if I say to one, 'Come', he comes, and 'Go', he goes." A leader needs to be under authority and this authority, first of all, is our Lord Jesus Christ.

The second quality I would look for is a man who would work as part of a team. Because in something like the Brotherhood that is a missionary organization, we don't do our own thing, but we work again with leaders over us; we work together as a team with those around us. So if somebody is simply a solo worker, he wouldn't really fit in into the Brotherhood service. We're looking for somebody who can genuinely work with others in a team. And we need somebody who can take direction.

Thirdly, I would look for someone who knows the Brotherhood and has really made the Brotherhood life his or her own. Leading is mostly done by example. If a leader himself doesn't live out his commitment card, how can he help others to live it?

I do believe that the last and maybe the most important quality is that the person must be a servant. So what we're looking for is non-dominating leadership.

We need someone who is genuinely concerned for others and would do his best to help others come to the Lord, come to the rich life, to live out the richness of the Brotherhood, to help them do well in their service, and really be able to show that in their whole attitude. Their concern is the development, the growth, the deepening of the other person. He does it with a certain humility by putting the other person first without being weak or wishy-washy, or a wimp or anything of that kind of thing.

**F. DE LARRAZABAL:** A Christian leader needs a good background and knowledge of his faith, not just the rules of the BCBP but also a knowledge of his true faith. He must be able to set a good example in the area of Christian virtues and morals. He must be able to make and meet his commitment. There is however another requirement I believe is important: a good leader must be able to teach, both by example and by word. He must be able to communicate well to others.

**KAPATIRAN:** Do you feel the Brotherhood has been able to develop sufficient leaders who meet this criteria?

**FR. HERB:** I believe so considering the different leadership levels in the Brotherhood. I would say that most of the action group leaders are men and

*cont. on pg. 4*



*Alabang chapter head Louie Morales gives a talk on Communication Skills during the Trainers' Training workshop.*

### Alabang Chapter **TRAINERS' TRAINING SEMINAR HELD**

A trainers' training seminar was held last August 10, 1991 at the Alabang Country Club with Gus Arguelles and Joey Angeles as course leaders.

Communication skills accompanied by exercises were taught during the one-day workshop. The course was attended by more than 25 participants composed of Alabang's unit leaders, members of the CLP 19 service team and potential speakers. Its objective was to provide further training for the chapter's reservoir of CLP/Culture Talk speakers and to develop potential speakers from among its members.

The Trainers' Training seminar has not been fully integrated into the chapter's teaching track but is held on a "per need" basis.



*Shown in the photo are some of the participants in the training seminar: I to R - Frank Hidalgo, Rey Feria, Willie Racaza, Gus Arguelles (course leader), Louie Morales, Rene Cortes, Teks Espiritu and Nonie Cortes (back-partly bidden)*



## THE SOUTHERN BEAT

By ROLLY ESPINA

# Christian businessmen's brotherhood

Corruption stems from greed. The business community can be as obsessed with profit at any cost. But slowly and without fanfare, businessmen have tried to alter the situation. They often discuss social responsibility. What to do for others. Especially how to introduce Christ in the market place.

The group is better known as the Brotherhood for Christian Businessmen and Professionals. Very low key. They often shun publicity. Every Saturday, they gather here at the Roli's Restaurant along La Salle Avenue to study the Bible and to share their experiences with the Word. The local group is tied up with BCBP-Alabang of Metro Manila.

The usual format of the weekly meetings — opening prayer, songs usually from the Psalms, sharing on how the Lord has touched a member's life, then Scriptural response. These are followed by response

from the members, and more hymns.

The group is composed of about 54 couples and 45 singles, all either in business or successful professionals. BCBP has some 300 associate members. Those wishing to become regular members undergo the Christian Life program seminar consisting of 12 talks every Saturday afternoon, according to former Bacolod City Mayor Jose Y. Montalvo.

Montalvo said the governing body is made up of Ramon Garcia, Monet Kilayko, former Silay Vice Mayor Luis Ledesma, Rodolfo Salazar, Jose Erenita, Johnny Bantug, Ernesto del Castillo, and Tony Garcia.

But while publicity-shy, these businessmen and professionals have impressed others with their Christian outlook. And they "always ask God to help us live Christ daily," was how Montalvo put it.

Almost imperceptibly, however, the members of the BCBP have touched others in the business milieu by introducing Christ in the Market Place.

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### Makati Chapter BCMR EMPOWERS COUPLES

The Makati chapter's Brotherhood Christian Marriage Retreat, BCMR, was held last September 27-29 for its recent CLP graduates. Thirteen couples attended the weekend at the Maryhill Retreat House in Antipolo.

The healing power of God was felt by the participants as they experienced the talks, the discussions with their spouse, the Lord's Day celebration and the healing of all pains and hurts. The BCMR was additionally blessed when two guest priests arrived to hear individual confessions.

On Sunday all were touched as the priest during his homily explained the relevance of banquets, wedding feasts, and fellowship in the partaking of the Eucharist as a symbol of God's eternal presence among us.

The oldest couple had been married 31 years while the youngest had been married for only two years. Jesse Manalo, Makati chapter's mission head for business, quipped, "It doesn't matter when you come to learn about God's wisdom, you may receive it at a young age or at an old age. The time is never too late because God's time is Perfect."

The BCMR 1991 closed gracefully as one lady participant cheerfully sang a song that she composed during the weekend: "Praise, Praise the Lord!" Indeed, God must be praised for the wonders He worked during this BCMR weekend. - Manny Villanueva

BCBP LEADER... from page 3

women who really love the Lord, can work on a team, are very open to being directed in their service, and really sacrifice a lot of time for the people in their group. And I think the same thing goes for all the other leaders in service.

I think that one of the things that I would want to stress is that an organization such as the Brotherhood must do constantly leadership formation. One of the reasons is that there is a certain leadership turnover which in a way is a good thing. Some people are

transferred by their company and they can't serve any more, or family matters come up and they can't serve. So I believe that we need always to raise up new leaders. Every leader needs to be on the look-out for someone who can take his place.

I think if the Brotherhood would increase more and look more toward becoming not only a missionary organization but a leadership training organization which could constantly raise up new leaders, it would allow it to expand more and faster. It would make it stronger because if someone could not serve, there would be several replacements immediately at hand.

**F. DE LARRAZABAL:** To a certain extent I would say "Yes" but we should improve our leadership program more so that we would be able to hold our leaders. As has happened several times already, we have a leader and, as you know, it takes time to teach him and let him to become a good Christian, BCBP leader. Then as he begins his service, he chooses to move into another organization or group. This may create some sort of a leader vacuum.

We should look for and train as leaders those men and women who recognize the challenge of the workplace, who are committed to serve the marketplace, and who are convinced that the Brotherhood's mission is their mission, too. We must change the concept that the Brotherhood is just a stepping stone to something else. Then we will be able to have more effective and dedicated leaders in the Brotherhood.

*When a man walks in integrity and justice, happy are his children after him! Prov. 20:7*

Reprinted from the Philippine Star,  
Saturday, Nov. 9, 1991, page 27.

**Be an  
informed and  
concerned  
citizen. Vote wisely.**

## LAS PINAS MONITOR

### Early Christmas Party

The Las Pinas chapter held an early Christmas Party on November 23, 1991, at the Nayong Pilipino, simultaneously with its Family Day. Lito Francisco's unit coordinated the affair while Perry Domingo's unit handled the games.

### BCMR Slated

The first BCMR for the Las Pinas chapter is slated for December 13 to 15. Coordinated by Frank and Marissa Nuguid, the retreat will be held at the Bethania House in Tagaytay.

### Commitment Series

For the month of November, the chapter's Commitment Series tackled the significance of the Brotherhood Breakfast as the unique evangelization tool of the BCBP as well as its key entry-point activity. The action group meetings' theme focused on the spiritual underpinning of the breakfast.

### Planning Conference

The Las Pinas chapter's planning conference for the year 1992 was held at the DAP-Tagaytay from 8 to 10 November. Headed by Manny Banigan himself, the 2-day, 3-night live-in affair guided the chapter's unit heads and mission team members in laying out their activities for the coming year.

### Joint Breakfast

Palawan outreach's coordinator Fuji Rodriguez and wife Chit delivered a very inspiring sharing on the Law Pinas chapter's joint breakfast held at the Aristocrat Restaurant in Las Pinas on November 2. Previous sharers included Rey Panopio (Oct. 26), Vic Mirasol (Oct. 19), Rene Leandro Oct. 12) and Fr. Rolly Tirona (joint breakfast on Oct. 5).

### Speakers Workshop

The chapter's Speakers Bureau headed by Jerry Vidal has launched an "Effective Presentation Skills" workshop for November 30 and December 7 for Bureau members and others who may wish to enhance their ability to communicate. The workshop will have Tess Estagle and Marissa Nuguid as main speakers and moderators. It will be conducted at the San Miguel Packaging Division Training Room in Makati.



The CDO-BCBP music ministry practices songs for forthcoming CLP 3 sessions, Sunday Mass, and men's and ladies' breakfasts.

### Cagayan de Oro Outreach HAPPENINGS

Christian Life Program No. 3 is scheduled for Nov. 5, 7, 12, 13, 19, 21, 26, 28 and Dec. 7 and 8 from 6:00 - 8:30 p.m. at Ta-Ysn restaurant. As of 29 October, 49 participant-couples had submitted their applications.

Last October 12 a training session and practicum for speakers of CLP 3 was held at the Mindanao Polytechnic State College. Facilitators for this seminar-workshop were Bros. Sadi Saguisag, Rene Almendras, Larry Veloso and Nap Polotan of BCBP Cebu. The training session for the discussion group leaders continued in the afternoon of October 13 at the Paras beach house.

A BCBP monthly fellowship was held Oct. 13 at the Paras beach house. In attendance were some 30 children from the

Jesus and Mary Orphanage in Upper Carmen, Cagayan. BCBP members and their families enjoyed the interaction and fellowship with the children.

Another CLP staff training session was held on Oct. 26 at the Mindanao Polytech State College. Bros. Ernie and Ed Canlas were the facilitators.

A combination governance-singing practice-despidida party was held on Oct. 10 at the residence of Jess and Nena Paras who were leaving for Europe on a Phil. Chamber of Commerce related mission.

BCBP members attended the Couples for Christ worship assembly during its 4th anniversary celebration on Oct. 27 at the MPSC gym.

### Palawan FIRE RALLY, BCMR HELD

The BCBP Las Pinas mission team held a "Fire Rally" for its Palawan Outreach at Puerto Princesa on October 26. Comprising the FIRE speakers were Manny Banigan, Rem

Gopez and Mon Malinao. With them were Manny and Tess Dacayan who shared in the Palawan Outreach's breakfast that morning. The rally's message was enthusiastically received not only by the outreach members but also by a number of non-BCBP participants who were invited to the event.

The weekend of November 22 to 24 saw the Palawan outreach conducting its second BCMR. Coordinated by Frank and Marissa Nuguid, the retreat featured Palawan's favorite speakers Lito and Edith Urgino.

### CLP 19

Las Pinas' CLP 19 is scheduled to start on January 18, 1992, at the Alabang Country Club. Chapter members who have candidates in mind are encouraged to start working for their inclusion in the program by inviting them to the breakfasts and faithfully following through their attendance till the start of CLP 19.

**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
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**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	MAKATI : 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

**QUEZON CITY NEWS BRIEFS****BCMR**

Thirteen couples underwent the Brotherhood Christian Marriage Retreat least September 27 to 29 at the Sacro Costato House of Prayer located along Scout Lozano and Mother Ignacia streets in Quezon City. They were: Ccl/Meng Cahilig, Del/Ofie Castro, Danny/Pola de Guzman, Lito/Edsel Parco, Gene/Ghie Morales, Felix/Lynn Obusan, Fred/Ditas Medina, Gong/Myra Salvosa, Boy/Cons Bautista, Luis/Susan Ferrer, Levi/Dina Parinas, Bob/Arlene Casauay and Emil/Baby Morales. The service team was headed by Vic and Claire Fernandez.

**Family Christmas Breakfast**

The Quezon City Chapter will hold its annual Joint Christmas Breakfast on Saturday, December 14 from 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon with the members' children as special guests. The affair will be held at the Holy Family School in Quezon City, venue of the Chapter's regular Family Sunday and Chapter Prayer Assembly.

To be emceed by the regular breakfast emcees of the chapter's men's and ladies' breakfasts, the Family Christmas Breakfast will start off with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, followed by a fiesta-type breakfast which will be laid on a long table with food courtesy of different units of the chapter. Chapter Head Benjie Quinto will deliver the Christmas message with the chapter's music ministry performing a short entertainment number afterwards. An hour's games for the children and exchange gifts among the attendees will highlight the affair with a special chapter presentation participated in talents from the various units. The party will close a few minutes before noon with the usual closing prayers. Mascots, courtesy of Greenwich Pizza and General Milling Corporation, will be there to liven up the children's games and exchange of gifts.

**Chapter Planning Weekend**

The Quezon City chapter held its 1992 Planning Weekend last November 23, 1991. The day long workshop was attended by the chapter's governance group composed of the chapter head, the mission director, and the the unit leaders. Also attending were the heads of the various service ministries and all the action group leaders currently serving in the chapter.

Among the topics taken up were the chapter's mission for 1992 including the number of Christian Life Programs to be conducted, formation of new outreaches and entry points for the chapter, fast-tracking more members for leadership service, developing new training modules on effective evangelization, modification-finetuning of culture talk topics, enhancement of members' commitment to service, strengthening family life structures, and support for Dagupan chapter's outreach program. Details of the results of the planning weekend will be announced to the chapter membership in early January 1992.

**Chapter Reorganization**

The membership of the Quezon City chapter was realigned to accommodate the new graduates of CLP numbers 17 and 18 and to allow for a more effective service team for CLP No. 19. The reorganization immediately took effect last October 27, 1991, after it was announced during the chapter's prayer assembly. Taken into consideration during the realignment was the member's residence to allow for action groups whose members will be more easily and more conveniently accessible to each other.

**New Appointments**

Vic de Veyra is the new breakfast head for the Quezon City chapter as Jun Valencia has been assigned a special service. Louie Rodrigo has been designated the chapter's assistant treasurer.

*Alabang Chapter*

**CHILDREN'S BLUE TEAM  
WINS SPORTSFEST**

On October 26, 1991, about 40 members of the Alabang Children's Formation together with their parents met at the Alabang Recreational Park for a mini-sportsfest.

The group was divided into two teams: the Red Team, coached by Carla Gamboa, Randy and Rickie Feria and Renoir Amba, and the Blue Team led by April Javier, Meggy Cuisia and Toto Javier. All coaches are active members of the Alabang Youth Formation. The half-day affair was filled with fun, laughter and excitement as the children raced through five events: caterpillar relay, obstacle course, 3-legged race, straw and bottle relay and the spider race. A cheering competition capped the day's festivities. There were separate games for children ages 3-6 which were handled by Didith and Ric Lazatin.

The Blue Team emerged as the over-all champion winning all events except the 3-legged race which was won by the Red Team. An unusual award that was given away for that day was for the "Most Behaved Boy" and "Most Behaved Girl". These awards were won by Jonathan Joson and Trisha Constantino. There were prizes everyone, win or lose. These were donated by GOODYEAR through the courtesy of Charlie Carballo.

The Blue Team was composed of: Patty Gamboa, Rea Vergara, Monserrat Preysler, Tesmelyn Tomas, Joanna Borra, Genevieve Francisco, John Paul Francisco, Alan Avelino, Carlo Lazatin, Christopher Deveza, Normal Barrientos, Andy Baena, Carlitos Carballo, Norina Florendo, Catherine Diaz, Christine Tan, Christian Tan, Therese Borra, Alvir Francisco.

**CHAPTER SERVICE ASSIGNMENTS**

December	Makati
January	Alabang
February	Greenhills
March	Las Pinas
April	Quezon City



*The Red and Blue Team coaches swap strategies for the next event.*



*The victorious Blue Team poses for a championship picture.*



*The Red Team "Runners-up" show their fighting spirit as they meet with coach Renoir Amba.*

*The victory of virtue is the decline of vice. - Indian Proverb*

Eyes of Faith

## OUR FATHER'S BUSINESS - Part I

Kytt Mier, Las Pinas Chapter

### Looking At Centessimus Annus

Christians have had, and continue to have, sure guidance in the "Teaching Magisterium" of the Church which has safeguarded and taught the Truth through the centuries. In a recent teaching, the Church, through its Chief Steward, John Paul II, issued the papal letter "Centessimus Annus" commemorating the 100th anniversary of Pope Leo X's milestone encyclical "Rerum Novarum." The recent papal letter reaffirms the validity of the Church's stand against communism as well as against the excesses of liberal capitalism.

Indeed, the Church teaches that both communist and liberal capitalist orientations lead to the debasement of human dignity. The demise of communism in the USSR, Eastern Europe and some parts of Asia laid bare the massive material and moral decay that accompanied the march of the "proletarian vanguards," confirming the deleterious effect of totalitarian collectivism on human dignity and its unfortunate consequences on human progress. We are also witnesses daily to the repercussions of the unbridled grasping and the idolized individualism that underpin the thrust for more and more profit.

### Use Capital Wisely

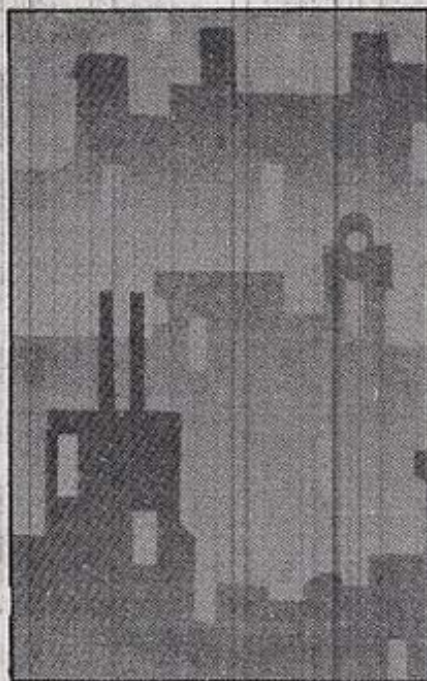
Read conscientiously and with honest effort to understand God's guidance therefrom, "Centessimus Annus" can give Christian businessmen and professionals of today pointers on what really constitute justice and integrity, helping them to avoid the pitfalls of liberal capitalism. The following passage, for instance, are words of advice for entrepreneurs, particularly those who possess and control one form of capital or another:

*"Ownership of the means of production, whether in industry or agriculture, is just and legitimate if it serves useful work. It becomes illegitimate, however, when it is not utilized or when it serves to impede the work of others, in an effort to gain a profit which is not the result of*

*the overall expansion of work and the wealth of society, but rather is the result of curbing them or of illicit exploitation, speculation or the breaking of solidarity among working people. Ownership of this kind has no justification, and represents an abuse in the sight of God and man." (C.A. No. 43)*

This passage tells us that those of us who own "means of production" - talents/skills in one form or another, material resources such as land, as well as financial resources - will be justified in ownership only for as long as these "means of production" are employed in work that results in the "overall expansion" of productive activity (i.e., leading to more employment and enhanced technology) and the "overall expansion" of the "wealth of society."

Such ownership becomes unjust and illegitimate in a number of instances as when the means of production are not utilized at all and instead "buried" somewhere (salted abroad?) in the manner of the unenterprising steward in Jesus' parable (Matt. 25:14ff). This becomes clearer when we realize that refusal to employ the "means of production" to productive endeavors is in effect refusal to



feed the hungry, clothe the naked and accommodate the jobless stranger - all of whom are our brethren in Jesus Christ. (Matt. 25:31-46).

### Undermining Instead Of Expanding

The injustice becomes greater when the means of production are employed "to impede the work of others in an effort to gain a profit which is not the result of the overall expansion of work and the wealth of society." Drug trafficking, for instance, results in destruction of the drug victims' productive capacity rendering them useless, parasitical and even a hazard to society. Smuggling of any form undermines the overall equilibrium of the nation's industrial sector as well as saps the government's ability to deliver its basic services. The destruction of the nation's natural resources (e.g. dynamite/cyanide fishing, indiscriminate and illegal logging, etc.) create long-term problems that are sure to impact on the livelihood of the next generations of Filipinos.

Sometimes, unfortunately, resources are expended in a way that pits people against others such as when mercenaries are organized into private 'security forces' meant to protect private interests. Social problems are thus exacerbated when interaction of such armed groups with other groups lead to sad incidents of injuries to properties or health, or even to deaths of people.

### Going About Our Father's Business

Through this passage from "Centessimus Annus," we are all called upon as businessmen and professionals to order our career and business plans around God our Father's business: the establishment of His Kingdom here on earth. By using the very same endowments He has graciously given us and applying these means of production to socially productive enterprises, we are able to emulate the wise and faithful servant in Jesus' parable whose endowment of five talents was applied assiduously to work, enabling him to "bear fruit a hundredfold." For businessmen and professionals, this is one of the best ways to give honor and glory to God.



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## LET OUR FAITH BEAR FRUIT

*Adolf Ortiz, Makati Chapter*

The message of Fr. Herb to "Walk Our Talk" during the BCBP's 11th anniversary struck home to me. I can almost hear our heavenly Father saying words like this to each one of us.

To me, walking our talk means firstly commitment, a drawing of our minds and hearts to God. Only then can we plunge into action. And this action does not mean exclusively external movements and religious practices. Rather I believe it means bringing Christ into our experiences, responses, encounters, involvements -- into our whole life. Only when we do this can we expect miracles to happen to us.

In 1989 just after completing CLP 15 and making my commitment to the Lord, I was on a spiritual "high". But I was abruptly brought back to the level of the world when I was offered P5 million to lose a case. It was very tempting. I was already feeling the pressure of the law practice and this was an easy way out. With this amount I could even bring my family around the world and we would still be able to live comfortably afterwards. But I was bothered and could not sleep. Although I could easily justify losing the case, I had misgivings about how this would affect my newly renewed relationship with the Lord.

So I decided to consult my family. Over supper I told my wife and three children of this chance of a lifetime. My eldest son, joined by the rest, commented: "Dad, God has been so good to us all these 28 years, why spoil it now? I can't eat from out of that money nor can I face my friends knowing that my father succumbed to a bribe."

The remark hit me like a thunderbolt. It jolted me back to reality. The spirit of the CLP rushed back to me and without regret, I rejected the offer. Satan must have been so sad.

This experience taught me to see things beyond. I learned that the true measure of a person's wealth is his value after he has lost all his money. If he is left with nothing but God, he will find that God alone is sufficient. Like Job who suffered but remained faithful to Him, God restored him what he had lost and even more. Like Tobit who encountered reverses but kept his faith, God restituted him abundantly.

We need to always strive to walk our talk, to put our faith into actions that will bear fruit for the Lord. And by so doing, we will grow, change and prosper both materially and spiritually.

*Phil. 4:19*

ON  
JUSTICE  
and  
INTEGRITY

...  
Wisdom  
1:1-7

### Stony Tasks

"A little boy from the city was spending his first summer in the country and was asked how he liked running around barefoot. 'At first, I could hardly walk,'" he said. 'But the rocks got softer every day.' Adults who work at hard tasks find much the same thing is true."

Kleinkecht, Gems of Thought Encyclopedia



**Business Case No. 3**

**THE OFFICE RUMOR FACTORY**

Josie, personnel manager, has known for some time of the penchant of the company's employees to gossip and 'chismis' but she had considered it a harmless outlet for petty frustrations. But now she is the subject of their conversation. She believes that they are subtly criticizing her for her refusal to join their 'chismis' sessions. Josie is hurt and discouraged by the things being said about her, and she is afraid her work efficiency will be affected if the situation continues.

How would you advise Josie if she came to you for help?

Some Scripture Passages: James 4:1-3; 1 Thess. 5:12-15; James 1:2-4; 1 Tim. 5:1-2; Rom. 12:14-21; Phil. 2:3-4; Prov. 15:1-4.

*Note: This business case is the third 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*

**BUSINESSMAN'S PRAYER**

*Lord Jesus Christ,  
Accept my act of opening for business  
As my way of exercising Evangelism.  
Grant that I may treat each one well,  
And go about my business for  
the profit  
of each body and soul I deal with.*

*Help me also contain my temper  
for it was You who said: "Judge ye  
not; so ye not be judged."  
I therefore entrust all the judging  
to You.*

*Above all this, let my conduct today  
be a kind of language that illustrates  
fluently Your being just,  
Your generosity and Your concern  
for all mankind ...  
... to be bettered only by  
my conduct tomorrow. Amen.*

Contributed by Jun Soriano, Makati Chapter

**Labor**



Republic of the Philippines  
**NATIONAL STATISTICS OFFICE**  
Manila

	1980	1988	1989
Population 15 yrs old & over (Th)	28,967	35,856	36,916
Male	14,386	17,772	18,252
Female	14,581	18,084	18,665
Labor force population	17,308	22,937	23,058
Male	11,181	14,383	14,528
Female	6,126	8,554	8,532
Urban	5,252	8,451	8,617
Rural	12,056	14,485	14,441
Employed in agriculture industries (%)	51.4	46.3	45.2
Employed in non-agriculture industries (%)	48.6	53.7	54.8
Labor force participation rate			
Male	77.7	80.9	79.6
Female	42.0	47.3	45.7
Employment rate	95.0	95.8	96.1
Unemployment rate	5.0	4.2	3.9
Underemployment rate	20.9	n.a.	n.a.

	1971	1985	1988
<b>Income</b>			
Ave. family income (P)	3,736	31,052	40,408
Urban	5,867	46,127	60,330
Rural	2,818	21,875	28,284
Average family expenditures (P)	4,479	26,865	32,521
Urban	6,810	39,134	47,299
Rural	3,474	19,397	23,529
Main sources of family income (%) <sup>1</sup>	100.0	100.0	100.0
Wages & salaries	44.3	40.3	44.8
Entrepreneurial activities	36.9	40.9	38.8
Others	18.8	18.8	16.4
Distribution of family expenditures (%)	100.0	100.0	100.0
Food	53.7	51.9	50.7
Housing	9.4	11.4	11.7
Fuel, light & water	3.6	5.5	5.2
Trans. & comm.	2.9	4.4	4.7
Clothing, footwear & other wear	6.2	3.6	4.2
Education	3.7	3.5	2.9
Medical care	1.8	2.1	1.7
Others	18.7	17.6	18.9

Prices	1980	1989	1990 <sup>a</sup>
Consumer price index <sup>2</sup>	138.9	443.5	486.4
Food, beverages & tobacco	132.9	429.5	467.2
Clothing	144.2	470.4	511.1
Housing & repairs	137.4	454.6	504.4
Fuel, light & water	173.8	576.2	689.1
Services	152.1	440.2	509.9
Miscellaneous	139.8	420.8	449.4
Purchasing power of the peso	0.72	0.23	0.21
Retail price index <sup>2</sup> in Metro Manila (MM)	145.7	476.6	511.7
Food	135.7	472.0	598.5
Beverages & tobacco	136.6	504.0	549.4
General wholesale price index <sup>2</sup> in MM	140.8	551.5	595.2
Food	133.2	672.7	755.4
Beverages & tobacco	134.6	485.3	511.4
Stock price index <sup>2</sup> for Makati & MM	80.9	142.9	193.0
Mining	84.2	104.0	118.3
Manufacturing	78.1	223.9	256.9
Construction	39.5	10.9	11.0
Wholesale & retail	52.6	69.7	77.3
Trans. & comm.	69.2	256.0	454.6

<sup>1</sup> Refers to number of families. <sup>a</sup> As of July.  
<sup>2</sup> 1978 = 100.

"Good management consists in showing average people how to do the work of superior people."

John D. Rockefeller, Jr.

## HOW TO BRING CHRIST TO YOUR MARKETPLACE

1. Seek out men or women in your professions or office who have a desire to know Christ better and who want to become better equipped, more effective Christians. Identify those in authority who could become effective instruments in changing their respective marketplaces.

2. Put these people on a list and begin praying for each of them, asking God to touch their hearts and give them a desire for Him.

3. Become their friend. Let them see Christ in you.

4. Initiate Christian activities in your workplace: weekly mass, small group bible sharing during lunch breaks, an intercessory prayer group during coffee breaks, and office rosary are just a few suggestions.

5. Invite them as your guest to a BCBP breakfast or luncheon. Don't get discouraged if at first they refuse. Intensify your prayers for them; if it is God's timing, He'll see that they attend with you.

6. Introduce them to BCBP brothers and sisters in similar professions or businesses.

7. Share with them your experiences in the BCBP explaining why it is necessary to have a support group to help you in following Christ.

8. Invite them to the CLP. Help them make it possible for them to attend.

9. Continue praying for them and being their friend.

10. Together with them, begin again Step No. 1.

## I PROVIDE THE TITHE, GOD PROVIDES THE PROFIT

Joey Aranaz, Makati Chapter

Are profits necessary? A basic tenet in the economic justification of a business enterprise is the profit motive. No business will survive unless capital is compensated with a reasonable return on investment. This principle is an undeniable truth that any entrepreneur/businessman has to accept, at least, according to man's ways.

However, I wish to share with you a business philosophy which I know was formed and molded through the leadings of the Holy Spirit. It is a philosophy which has become the centerpoint of my export business.

The profit motive or the bottom line is the area where I would say 99.99% of all

businessmen focus and direct all efforts and resources to. I propose that, for once, focus your attention to serving the worker/laborer. Think in terms of how to generate business

not for your return on investment, but for ensuring that you would be in a position to provide a just, decent and above average wage to your work force. Focus your pricing and costing objectives with one basic factor: "Will it provide the decent wages that your workers need not only to survive and support a family, but most importantly to be able to have some reasonable degree of surplus."

Do not indulge yourself in worrying about labor costs and how they contribute to your total cost structure. Do not think about how to lower costs by lowering wages or laying off workers. Concern yourself with improving the quality of life of your employees.

I price my products cheaply enough to make sure that I would be competitive in the export market while at the same

time assuring that decent wages are paid to my workers. This usually leaves me with very little for profit. I know I may sound idealistic and some of you may say that I am a lousy businessman breaking the rules of good business sense, but I wish to proclaim that the Lord has provided me with a decent share of the fruits of my labor. He taught me to follow His way and I strive to follow Him. I provide decent wages and He provides the profit. This has happened so many times it is no longer coincidence. He also taught me to share the first fruits of my labor. I provide the tithe and He provides the profit.

The Lord continues to amaze me in

### Are profits really necessary?

His ever wondrous ways. He is always there ready to provide the needs of the business either by ensuring that

the cash flow really flows or by sending foreign buyers when the order book is beginning to thin out. He is the perfect C.E.O. that any business can have.

I challenge you all to at least look into this approach. I do not claim to be a perfect businessman. God knows my weaknesses and my failures. But I also know that if you build your business on faith He will not fail you.

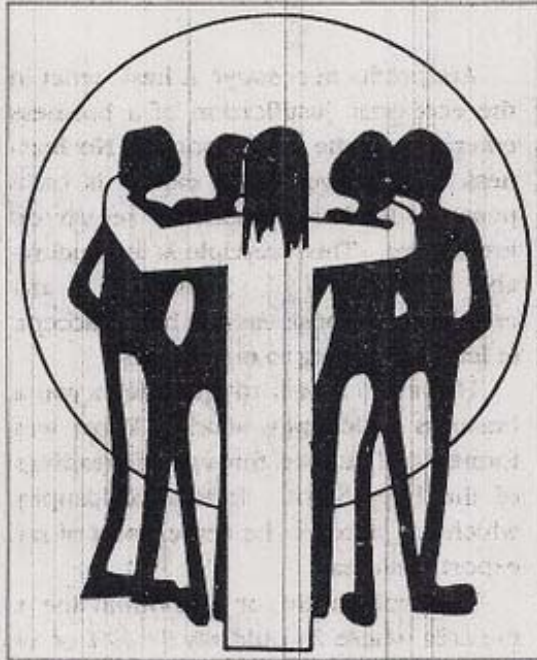
Remember that God's bottom line is not return on investment, but service to people, most especially the least of your neighbors. Money and financial security are only by-products of this service. Try God and you will be pleasantly surprised. I did, I was and I am continually being surprised by God! Praise God the Provider!!

*He who does not look ahead remains behind. Spanish Proverb*

# FOLLOWING CHRIST'S EXAMPLE

## The Sacrament of Holy Orders in Today's World

*This article on the seventh sacrament, Holy Orders, continues our series on the Sacraments. Last issue we reflected on "Answering the Call of God: What Is God's Plan For Me". One option in answering the call of God is the priestly vocation. There is a pressing need in the Church today for more priests and religious in order to bring the Catholic sacramental life and Christianity to those in need. May these thoughts on Holy Orders inspire in us the desire to encourage our children and the youth of today to consider Holy Orders as an exciting challenge to become Christ to others in the world today. - Editor*



Have you ever stopped to reflect on the fact that in His great love for mankind, for us, God has given to us the sacraments to enable us to experience His Presence in our lives...and that it is through the Sacrament of Holy Orders that we are enabled to receive Him in and through the sacraments of the baptism, confirmation, reconciliation, and

anointing of the sick. But most importantly it is the priest who makes Jesus present to us in the Eucharist and in the proclamation of the Word.

The priesthood affects our lives in every way. He is there for our entrance through baptism into the family of God; he is there to witness our marriage vows; he is there when we are sick, or in trouble, or in sin. He is there as a father, to advise, to direct, to encourage, to pray for us and with us, to lift us up when we fall down. The priest even affects those people who do not go to church as he prays daily for all the people of the church, for the conversion of sinners and for reconciliation of all peoples.

Jesus selected and set apart the apostles conferring on them the singular responsibility to carry on His mission and ministry with Peter as their head (Matt. 16:18-19; John 21:15-19). He personally taught them, molded them and showed them by His example how to be

*cont on p. 13*

## WE NEED MORE PRIESTS!

The Philippines is a Catholic country and yet we have so few priests. We need to encourage priestly and religious vocations among our children and the youth of today so that, at the very least, the increase in the number of priests will keep up with the population growth.

The Philippines, being the only Christian country in Asia, should be the center of evangelization for Asia. For this we need more and more and more priests.

And we, the laity, need to give our priests our full support not only in terms of financial support, but also in terms of our prayers, our time spent in willing service in the parishes, and in our encouragement of our children to a religious calling.

Did you know that...

- Manila, with a population of 7.8 million people of which 93.7% are Catholics, has 150 parishes. This is about 52,000 people per parish.

- In Manila there are 1024 priests. This is one priest for every 7,650 people in the city or one priest for every 7,178 Catholics.

- 96% of Cebu's 2.3 million population are Catholics.

308 priests serve in 106 parishes. Therefore one priest ministers to 7,467 people.

- Bacolod has 183 priests in 46 parishes serving a total population of 1.8 million people, or one priest for every 9,836 people. Only 82% are Catholics.

- The ecclesiastical territory of Jaro (Iloilo) with a population of 1.4 million, 86.9% of which are Catholics, has 72 parishes and 225 priests. This is one priest for every 6,222 people.

- Cagayan de Oro has 42 parishes and 72 priests. With a population of 754,000 this means that there is only one priest for every 10,472 people. 87.8% of the people are Catholics.

- And then we have Jolo with 12 priests in 9 parishes ministering to 450,000 people at the proportion of one priest to 37,500 people! Only 33% are Catholics.

(Statistics taken from the 1986 Catholic Directory of the Philippines. Places referred to are the Ecclesiastical Territories, not merely the city named.)

His priests. The apostles ensured the continuation of the leadership of the early church by setting apart others to exercise the same authority that Jesus had given them (Acts 6:5-6; Acts 13:2-3; 2 Tim. 1:6-7; 2:1-2). And so the sacrament of "holy orders" or ordination was begun.

By the middle of the second century A.D. a three-tiered structure became the accepted pattern for church leadership - bishops, presbyters and deacons. This structure has remained basically the same in the Catholic Church today.

## What Is Ordination?

Ordination to the church's ministry involves the convergence of seven areas of importance in a man's life: vocation, approval of the people of God, personal commitment, incorporation into the body, designation, consecration, and sanctification. Only in understanding these seven areas can we seek to grasp the true meaning of the sacrament of Holy Orders.

A work of the Holy Spirit must be evident in the man's life endowing him with the graces necessary to embrace a priestly vocation. This grace of vocation makes it clear that his call has come from Christ and not merely from his desire to serve God's people. Approval of the people, especially his bishop and religious superiors, must be clearly expressed. He must be firmly and sincerely committed to serve God and his fellowmen through the specific ministry or religious order that he has selected.

Ministry is not a personal gift but one that must be incorporated and exercised in the church according to the specifics of the ordination (i.e. episcopal, priestly, diaconate ordination). All the ordained are then designated according to their religious order for a leadership role in the church and in the prophetic and priestly mission of Christ, be it evangelization, preaching, instructing, encouraging, or otherwise communicating the mystery of Christ to our world. Finally, ordination is an act of sanctification by which a person receives further em-

powerment of the Holy Spirit to be able to live a life of dedicated service in the church.

To be ordained into the priesthood is



to accept God and one's calling as a challenge to live out one's faith, bring the hope of life and salvation to the people, and radiate Christ's love for fellowmen.

## Is Celibacy Necessary?

Why must our priests be celibate? Why do most religious orders demand celibacy? Some 'modern-thinking' people say that celibacy should be optional or perhaps done away with and they point to the increasing number of priests leaving the priesthood to get married. And yet Jesus Himself showed by example and through his teachings that He greatly valued celibacy (Matt. 19:11-12). Paul in his letter to the church in Corinth (1 Cor. 7:6-7, 32-35) makes it clear that celibacy is a gift, not given to everyone, that enables a person to be free to devote himself fully to the Lord.

The Church has time and again confirmed the value of celibacy for religious orders and the priesthood for the primary reason of imitation of Jesus Christ. It is also a form of witness to the world of one's wholehearted commitment to Him. Men called to celibacy consecrate themselves to a spiritual fatherhood and life of service.

As lay people, we can help our priests live out their commitment to celibacy and the priesthood by witnessing to them the seriousness of our own commitment. In his homily during our silver wedding anniversary, Fr. Dave Clay said that when he sees two totally different people come together and stay together in marriage, he is encouraged to continue in his commitment to the Lord. He said that if a married couple can live out their marriage commitment which involves three persons (husband, wife, God), he should be able to live out his own commitment which involves only two persons (himself and God).

## Why Call A Priest "Father"?

The priest is our spiritual father, the father of the faith-family. As a father he must see to it that, like an ordinary father-parent, he loves, forms, corrects and leads his children, providing for their spiritual needs, guiding them in matters of morals and feeding them, his children-parishioners, with the Word of God and the Bread of Life.

Some Christians object to calling a priest "father" saying that we have only one Father, Who is in heaven. The Catholic understands that Jesus' teaching in Matt. 23:9 is that we must give to no human being the honor and respect that we must reserve for God the Father. We call priests "father" in the Pauline sense; Paul says that he became the father of the early Christians "in Christ Jesus through the gospel." (1 Cor. 4:14-15; 1 Thess. 2:9-12).

## What About Women Priests?

Jesus had many women followers and disciples and He recognized the dignity of women in contrast to the existing cultural restrictions at that time that treated women as little more than slaves. And yet He did not select a woman for one of his twelve apostles. In the years of the early church women deacons and other influential women Christians are men-

*cont. on p. 14*

tioned in the New Testament and Christian writings. But there is no mention of any women priests then or in later years.

The Catholic Church has continued in this early tradition of ordaining only men to the priesthood. This does not mean that this practice could never change, but certainly it would take a mighty work of the Holy Spirit to lead the elders of the Church to overturn a practice that is so deeply rooted in early tradition and in the scriptures themselves.

The role of women in the Catholic Church is recognized and affirmed in many ways. God chose to use a woman to bring Jesus into the world. Jesus appeared first to a woman upon His resurrection. For His own reason, God then chose man to bring the Lord to his altars. Why? His thoughts are now our thoughts, His ways not our ways. God chooses according to His plan for us.

## What Can We Do When We Don't Like Our Priest?

Some Catholics expect certain things from their priest - a pleasing personality, good speaking voice, learned homilies, comforting presence, etc., etc. - without perhaps realizing that no one is perfect or made to a certain mold. I used to get irritated when we attended Sunday mass and either I couldn't understand the homily, or the priest mumbled the liturgy. But then I realized that we shouldn't go to a certain mass or a particular church just because we like the priest. We go to mass because we are meeting Jesus in the Eucharist. It is Jesus Who is important, much more important than the priest!

If we complain about our priest, aren't we complaining about a God-given gift? Nobody has a right to the priesthood; it is God's call, His gift (James 1:17; Romans 12:29). When we look at a priest we see his obvious strengths and weaknesses, shouldn't we also 'look beyond' to see that the Lord, in His great love and faithfulness to us, has molded that person with a priestly vocation so that he, as our priest, can help us grow closer to God?

I still get irritated sometimes but now instead of finding other things to occupy myself with (what people are wearing, or doing, or the menus for the week) I pray for the intentions of the priest. I pray for his vocation, for his ability to communicate the Word of God, and for his gift of bringing God to the faithful. And I thank God for giving us His Son through the gift of vocation of this priest. Once I do this, the mass becomes all the more meaningful and Jesus becomes truly Real in the Blessed Sacrament.

## EDITHA

# Christmas In October

*Gil Abejo, Greenhills Chapter*

Her father, Martin, stayed with my family during my entire elementary grades. Martin's family had provided us shelter during the darkest days of the Japanese occupation, high up there in the mountains in Claveria, Misamis Oriental.

I never met her, nor even knew Martin had sired her, until a few

*Remember  
This December  
that love weighs  
more than gold!*

years ago when she suddenly showed up in my office, in tears and tatters, with a man she introduced as her husband, so haggard, and two little girls, their children. They had run away from both the military and the rebels. If I could tide them over until he found a job. I did.

Later, Martin himself showed up with her, his front teeth gone, imploring me for a "capital" to start a business because he could no longer go back to the mountains in safety. Her husband came back again, and again, obviously swallowing his pride for whatever little help I could offer him.

Last October 16 she showed up in the office, this time with a frail woman she introduced as her mother Vicentina, both of them looking very hungry. So, this was Martin's wife. I gave them my

sandwiches and all the cookies I had for their lunch, with creamed coffee. How refreshed they looked after eating. I gave them P150 and P100 respectively, and all the cookies and candies I had in the office, and asked them to come back.

And come back they did. At 1:00 p.m. it was obvious they had not taken their lunch (they said they even borrowed their fare). I gave them sandwiches and soft drinks and all the Paciencias from my favorite bakery. She needed capital for buying and selling vegetables, because her husband was earning only P117.00 a day and their two children go to school with hardly any decent clothing, most of the time hungry. P1,000.00 was ideal but P500.00 would be fine. I gave her P500.00 for capital, her mother P50.00 and them both P25 for fares. Then we walked down to my car and I gave them what Letty, Didi and I had prepared for them: a traveling bag filled with used clothing (Letty's Joy's and Didi's), a big carton filled with Letty's and Didi's old shoes, bags and slippers, a grocery bag containing 6 shirts, 2 T-shirts, 2 pairs of pants of mine, and rice, and cookies and candies for the children.

I could see the glow in their eyes. They were very happy in expressing their thanks to me.

But I was happiest of all. Time stood still during that uplifting moment. There was an inner glow in my heart. And some tears came rolling down my cheeks. I had met our Lord in Editha. Christmas had come early this year!

## SOME WAYS TO PUT CHRIST INTO CHRISTMAS

We keep goodies in the car or close at hand to be given to any child who asks. We also distribute food among the poor children in our neighborhood. This has helped me keep my perspective on the season and has helped me to enjoy being a gift giver instead of just a receiver. - **Tisha Lloren**, Cebu Chapter

"Rejoice in the Lord always. I say it again. Rejoice." (Phil. 4:4) We have always kept the tradition of attending the first Simbang Gabi to start the joyful season. Now our focus is centered on the birthday celebrant - our Lord Jesus Christ. And I check over my commitment card...did I live well these covenants? This is the time to take a closer look at my relationships with the Babe born in a manger, with my wife and my children. - **Sadi Saguisag**, Cebu Chapter

I put Christ into our Christmas celebration by remembering the true essence of Christmas which is more than just gifts and toys, Santa and Rudolf, Christmas carols and Christmas trees. I remember that it was on that day Jesus came to give us the greatest gift of all -- HIS LIFE. -**Ning-Ning Sering**, Alabang Chapter

We ask our children to make a promise written on a chart, where a tree is drawn. The promise involves some good works or sacrifices to do during the season. For every good work, the doer is merited an apple or a star on his name printed on the tree. **Dennis Deveza**, Alabang Chapter



I will put more love this Christmas to my family. The little love I have shown them deserves more. **Elmer Lorica**, Dagupan Chapter

I just put Christ first in anywhere and in anyway I can. Wherever I am He is there with me. I honor Him as this is His Birthday (as I try to honor Him every day of the year). We celebrate it by sharing the very love He has given us to everybody. **Bing Clado**, Quezon City Chapter

Both personally and as a family, I try best to instill the spirit of oneness during Christmas. Oneness with myself and with my family should, however, go beyond what is skin-deep and should transcend

seasonality. More important, though is the need to maintain my oneness with Christ from whom all love, harmony and kindness emanate. **Claro Contreras**, Quezon City Chapter

I will look for an acquaintance or friends who look sad and make them smile, by smiling myself and exchanging pleasantries. **Raffy Villamil**, Dagupan Chapter

We focus our kids' attention on Jesus by putting up a 'belen' as the center of our decorations. We ask the children what gift they could give to Jesus. We go to confession as a family and also to Church. We pray a novena to the Christ Child to end on Christmas Eve. **Mana Isabel Fernandez**, Dagupan Chapter

# WHAT CHRISTMAS MEANS TO ME

## CHRISTMAS MEANS LOVE

Christ chose to be born of humble yet upright, virtuous and god-fearing parents. Christmas for me then is not only a celebration of Christ's birth, it is also a celebration of the family.

The Nativity scene shows us Mother Mary and St. Joseph protectively surrounding the Baby Jesus who is in a manger. The three signify the central, nuclear family. The shepherds with their sheep and the three wise men with their gifts signify to me the extended family or, we could say the rest of the world.

So if we remember that Christmas means love, both Christ's love for all people, and family love, then I guess we will be that much closer to knowing the meaning of Christmas.

Jesie M. Sala  
Cebu Chapter

## CHRISTMAS MEANS ...

As a child Christmas meant gift receiving from relatives, ninongs, ninangs and friends. And as I grew older Christmas was gift giving to nephews, nieces and godchildren. For a time Christmas was equated to Santa Claus.

But after my renewal Christmas is to me a remembrance that God became man as our personal Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to save all those who would believe in Him...and may have eternal life.

Marte Sarenas  
Makati Chapter

## BRINGING OUT THE BEST IN US

The holidays have always been my favorite time of the year. The season holds a special magic, that I always look forward to it even as early as New Year's Day. When I was younger, it meant gifts, Santa Claus and lots of food. It brought so much joy in my childhood - treasures that I have kept until now.

Now that I am older, the magic that had me spellbound is even more beautiful. It seems that Christmas brings out the best in us - not only our best clothes, our best pair of shoes or our best haircut but also our best love. We seem to radiate with so much love that we feel we have to share it with those around us. Giving gifts is the most evident symbol of our love. Presents in

beautiful, gaily decorated packages say more than we realize.

We become more selfless during this season, we are so eager to share what we have to those who are less fortunate. We show more concern to those brothers and sisters whom we seem to neglect during the greater part of the year.

We become more Christ-like during Christmas. That is why I wish that every day would be Christmas Day. The Lord is alive in us not only in words but also in actions. We have become the fulfillment of God's promise.

Bunny Caminade  
Cebu Chapter

## IN THE EYES OF A CHILD

It seems that every year I discover another meaning for Christmas. Me, I enjoy every minute of Christmas - spending time with the people I love, the food, the singing, and the presents. I may sound like a child but everyone is a child in the eyes of the Redeemer.

Many light years ago when I was a very, very young child, I remember watching my artistic mother and brother decorate our home and asking questions. Like the Who, What, Where, When, How and Why's of it all. I helped place the Baby Jesus statue in the manger. I asked "Why is Jesus always placed in the middle?" "Because it's his birthday and it's only fit to put the celebrant where every one can see Him."

"Are we invited to His birthday?" I

questioned. "Yes, everyone's invited to His birthday, the whole world even the animals, that's why you see animals in the manger," they answered. I marveled, "And to think every year He celebrates His birthday and never forgets to invite everyone. Now I understand why the three kings were there to offer good tidings to the Messiah. This is the season for offering."

This Christmas I'm preparing myself for my offering to Him on His birthday. And I offer all my praises, my faults, my gratitude and everything that He gave me especially my life. I offer my life to my Savior as He did to all men.

Bembot Fortich  
Cagayan de Oro Outreach

*I live in a very small house, but my windows look out on a very large world. - Confucius*



## SHARING THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

Christmas to me is remembering that God loves me. It is the time of the celebration of our faith for it signals the birth of Jesus Christ. Christmas also reminds me to simply and foremost share both my celebration and whatever I have to the least of the brethren ... not only on Christmas but throughout the year.

Susan Olarde  
Makati Chapter

## WHAT CAN I OFFER JESUS?

It should always be remembered that we ought to offer something to God not only during this season but every day of our life. But because it is His birthday, we should be particularly concerned about what we can offer Him during this season. If the three kings offered gold, frankincense and myrrh, what is left for us to give? Nothing ... there is nothing but our Sin.

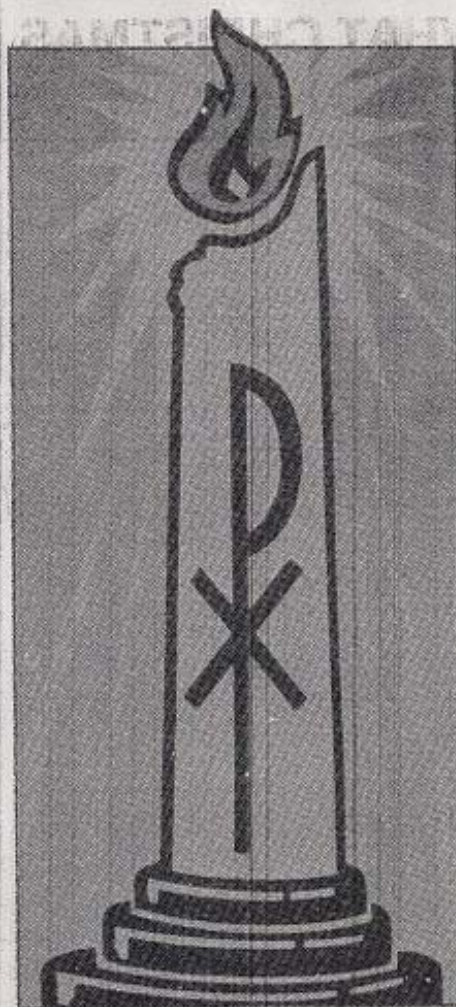
Sin belongs to us and can be truly called our own. We must strip ourselves from sin in the sacrament of reconciliation and do penance. With this act of humility we are then reconciled to God. This is what He has been waiting for - for us to give up our sins and be back in His arms again. With this, Christ is pleased and our Christmas will be full of joy, happiness and peace. To me, this is the real essence of Christmas.

Olimpiades L. Almonia  
Cagayan de Oro Outreach

## TO GROW DEEPER IN LOVE

Christmas always meant Love, Joy, Sharing, and Forgiving, aside from all the glitters and colors that make it beautiful to behold. However, this Christmas means a reorientation of myself to the above real meaning because of the loss of a loved one. The challenge is to grow deeper in loving the way God loves us.

Fabs M. Gorospe  
Cagayan de Oro Outreach



## BUILDING THE CHRISTMAS TREE

When asked to write these few paragraphs on the meaning of Christmas to me, I reflected and realized that although I enjoy the carols, the food, the gift wrappers mysteriously arranged in my mother's room, family reunions and all the other activities - the real meaning of Christmas to me is in the building of our Christmas tree.

Why the Christmas tree? Well, actually it's my Dad. He has been helping me build the fifteen-year old tree of ours. And it was the building process and the time I spent with my Dad building the tree that mattered. I didn't care if the tree was colorful or not, whether the lights all lighted up or not. All that mattered was that my Dad and I built our tree together, happily and whole-hearted-

## THE FULL REVELATION OF GOD

As a child, I looked forward to the celebration of Christmas because of the gifts I would receive. Then, when I was of school age, instead of expecting only to receive, I learned how to give. Now, as an adult deep in my commitment to the Lord, Christmas has taken on a different meaning.

Of course, the "magic" of Christmas of my childhood days is still there - the decorations, the early dawn masses, the giving and sharing of gifts, the caroling, the Midnight Mass... But in this age of earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, coups, murders and the seeming hopelessness in this world, Christmas means not only the coming of Jesus Christ into the world but is the full revelation of God in the person of His Son. By sending His Son into this world, God overwhelmed a sinful suffering humanity with LOVE.

The best Christmas gift I can give anybody is to be able to bring him or her to Jesus Christ because all human beings need to hear the TRUTH, that "the light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it" (Jn 1:5). No matter how dark life may be, the light of God is stronger, and it is available to anyone who will call out for it. We who have experienced this truth must share it wherever we can. The LIGHT of the world has come, Praise Him!

EJ Polotan  
Cebu Chapter

ly. And my Mom was always there, too, carefully watching the unusual sight. And she smiled. That is our family at Christmas!

After all, it wasn't what we built, but how we built it -- as one family to commemorate Jesus' day.

Yummy A. Raypon  
Cagayan de Oro Outreach

## REFLECT ON THE YEAR PAST

More than the traditionally festive aspect of Christmas, I consider it to be an apt opportunity to reflect on the year past. Being the commemoration of the start of God's fulfillment of His promise of salvation, Christmas should make us remember the reason behind Christ's birth and what we have done to deserve his entry into the world, his passion, death and resurrection.

Claro P. L. Contreras  
Quezon City Chapter

## THE BIRTHDAY!

It's our Lord Jesus Christ's birthday! It is the fulfillment of the promise of God.

Bing Clado  
Quezon City Chapter

## LIVE CHRIST 365 DAYS A YEAR

Generally, Christmas is synonymous to worldly things. Giving gifts, receiving gifts, adorning places, buying new things, abundance in food, celebrating events, partying here and there, but the real meaning of Christmas is hardly remembered, that is, to live in Christ and spend 365 days like the true Christmas day.

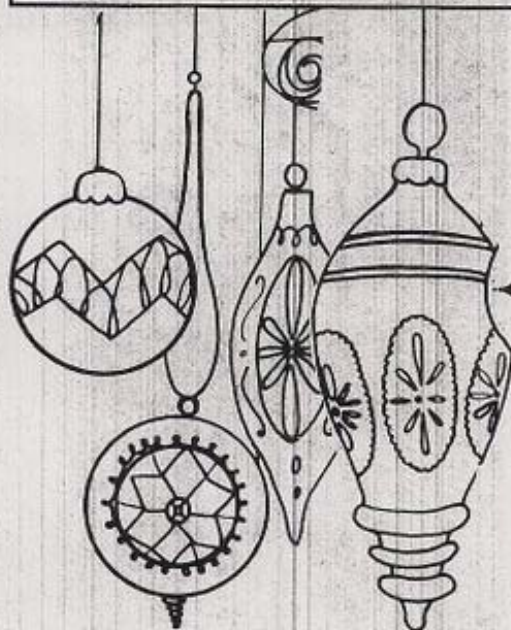
Oscar Oca  
Quezon City Chapter

## A TIME OF JOY

Christmas is a time of joy, giving and sharing but most specially it is a time to reflect on all the good things that we experience in the presence of the Lord.

Paul Antonio  
Quezon City Chapter

## WHAT CHRISTMAS MEANS TO ME



## THE LOVE THAT LIVES

*Every child on earth is holy,  
Every crib is a manger lowly,  
Every home is a stable dim,  
Every kind word is a hymn,  
Every star is God's own gem,  
And every town is Bethlehem,  
For Christ is born and born again,  
When His love lives in hearts of men.*

W.D. Dorrity

## CHRISTMAS - A WAY OF LIFE

Christmas is that time of the year where people decide to be kind to each other even for a few days. Unfortunately, I find this sad, because people have failed miserably to see the true meaning of Christmas. Kindness and concern for each other should not come with the season or time of year. It is something that ought to become a way of life. A permanent foundation in every person's life. A striving to live life the way Jesus taught us: to love one another as He loved us.

Joey Aranaz  
Makati Chapter

## CHRISTMAS IS WHEN...

Christmas is when you receive a Divine Appointment and find yourself heading a breakfast service team responsible in opening doors for all businessmen and professionals and leading them to Jesus Christ.

Christmas is when you are already past fifty and normally no longer considered productive in the business world, and you suddenly find yourself being given a major assignment considered an entry point for CLP candidates.

Christmas is when you are selected from among so many.

Christmas is when you fell, you needed "pala" in the BCBP.

Christmas is when you receive as a gift from your brother like Jun Valencia, a cohesive team "na uma-andar na" as "pamana".

Christmas is when you find approval and support from your wife.

Vic de Veyra  
Quezon City Chapter

## MEANINGS

The meaning of anything is much like a light passing through a prism. The richer, cleaner and clearer the prism the more the light has a chance to show its kaleidoscope of color, its beauty, its truth.

For me, a new member of the BCBP (CLP 17), the process of cleansing is admittedly being experienced. Slowly but surely, an event like Christmas which had been treated more in its secular context is now anticipated with a jubilant explosion of colors that would both please the Giver and the receiver.

Ramon Galte  
Makati Chapter

## MORE NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS

Strengthen my prayer time by giving it more meat and by making it more meditative and contemplative. To be true to this resolve, I will try to be more aware of my prayer time the whole year through. **Jun Esposo, Greenhills Chapter**

I resolve to learn to take a positive, optimistic attitude toward every problem. And believe that God is with me; God is helping me and God is guiding me. **Ramon Palaganas, Dagupan Chapter**

Improve my service to the Lord through the community. **Rica Bacugan, Dagupan Chapter**

My resolution for 1992 is to intensify my spiritual preparation and prayer not only during Christmas but throughout the year. I will go more frequently to mass and have a regular visit to the Adoration Chapel. **Elsa Braganza, Dagupan Chapter**

As far as I can remember I haven't made any New Year's resolutions during the past years and I have no plans to do so this coming year. I face life as it comes, finding a good solution to problem and concentrate on my family life. I believe our Lord has a plan for each of us. But we have to initiate the first move and this is possible through our prayers, trust and faith in Him. I thank the Lord for our parents who taught me a positive outlook in life. I pray for a better country and people come 1992 and the years to come. **Eboy Tirona, Makati Chapter**

To be more expressive of my love for my wife and family and for others. I will try to be more appreciate of what is good in the little things. To respond to the call to a way of life in Jesus Christ. **Berns Jimenez, Dagupan Chapter**

*"Be holy as I am holy." 1 Peter 1:16*

## PUTTING CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS

As a family we put Christ into our Christmas by being a family that P A M P E R S Christ.

P ray  
A dore  
Mingle with brothers and sisters  
P erform the requirements and obligations of the season  
E at our meals together  
R eform  
S haring the materials blessings with those who have less in life

**Angelo "Betz" Singian  
Dagupan Chapter**

It is not so much a matter of putting Christ into our Christmas as of putting Christ into our lives. We thank Him for all the blessings that He is sending us. We renew our commitment we made through the BCBP to develop a better personal relationship with the Lord and to try our best to turn away from all former sins, moral lapses and transgressions. **Ding and Leny Mortel, Quezon City Chapter**

I put Christ into my Christmas whenever I devote time to reach out to my neighbor. I give attention and care to people close or not so close to me. Showing acts of kindness is simply putting Christ into our hearts. Christmas is not one day but all the days of our lives. **Joule Villanueva, Makati Chapter**

We prepare for Christmas with the Advent Wreath Celebration as a family. We

go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation. And we look for ways to share the Lord's blessings with the less fortunate. **Janet Calleja, Quezon City Chapter**

Yuletide is an opportune time to further improve my interpersonal relationship with my supervisors, peers and subordinates. By doing away with my ill feelings, I hope to show them how much I've changed since I joined BCBP. And because the banking business, where I'm now into, has taken so much of my time during the year, I think I will take time out to be with my children more often and enhance my relationship with my wife, Cynthia, this season. I'll also try to overcome petty arguments. **Noli Castro, Greenhills Chapter**

As a family we spend Christmas Day distributing old clothes and toys plus a little cash gift to needy families. These families are those of our household help who have been with us even when I was a child. This is a tradition handed to me through my mother. **Edita Singian, Dagupan Chapter**



## New Evangelization WHY EVANGELIZE?

*Tita O. Cerdania, Alabang Chapter*

I don't often hear from my only sister, so it was a pleasant surprise to get a call from her the other day with the exciting news that her daughter, an only child, had passed the auditions and will be appearing in a Repertory play. I knew how hard my niece worked for it, so I happily passed on the news to her cousins, my sons.

A close friend of one of my sons called: He just passed the bar exams and wanted me to be one of the first to know. He knew I had been praying for him.

"It's a boy!" came the good news from the hospital. Another grandson for us.

And so it goes. When something good happens, after the initial jumping up and down, the next immediate thing to do is to tell someone about it. Good news is something that has to be shared, as soon as possible. It's the most natural thing to do!

On the other hand, when something bad happens, in the family for instance, one's tendency is to try putting off telling others about it. I would find myself mulling the situation over and over, rehearsing the precise words that would somehow lessen the impact. Again, it's human nature, we say.

### Is Jesus Your Good News?

Let me ask you a question: Is Jesus the Good News for you? If so, are you telling others about it?

If you are not yet proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ, there can only be one valid reason why you're not: He has not been Good News to you yet!

So, one reason we evangelize is: It's a natural consequence to His being the Good News in our lives.

*"Finally, the person who has been evangelized goes on to evangelize others. Here lies the test of truth, the touchstone of evangelization. IT IS UNTHINKABLE THAT A PERSON SHOULD ACCEPT THE WORD AND GIVE HIMSELF TO THE KINGDOM WITHOUT BECOMING A PERSON WHO BEARS WITNESS TO IT AND PROCLAIMS IT IN HIS TURN (Emphasis ours)." (Evangelii Nuntiandi #24)*

But a more compelling reason to evangelize is the fact that IT IS NOT AN OPTION on our part BUT A COMMAND straight from our Lord Jesus Christ.

*"Full authority has been given to me, both in heaven and on earth. GO THEREFORE AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS. Baptize them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to carry out all that I have commanded you. And know that I will be with you until the end of the world." (Mt. 28:18-20)*

A homilist once summarized the whole of the Christian mission in two words: "Come" and "Go". Call and Mission. Invitation and Command. Discipleship and Apostleship. Jesus first called His disciples together ("Come, follow me") then He sent them off with the command to "Go and make other disciples". One Master, one Teacher who called disciples, taught them, drilled them, formed them, molded them and sometimes even pummeled them into the vessels He wanted

them to be. Then He SENT them. An apostle is one who is "sent". Unless one is "sent", no one will be saved.

*"...for everyone who calls on the Name of the Lord will be saved. But they will not ask His help unless they believe in Him, and they will not believe in Him unless they have heard of Him, and they will not bear of Him unless they get a preacher, and they will never have a preacher UNLESS ONE IS SENT." (Rom. 10:13-15).*

For almost 2000 years, apostles are sent to make disciples, disciples become apostles and so on down the line until today, as we near the end of the second millennium, we find ourselves carrying the ball. And we realize we can't just dribble that ball and keep it to ourselves; we have to pass it on if we want to score!

"The presentation of the Gospel message IS NOT AN OPTIONAL CONTRIBUTION, for the Church. It is the duty incumbent on her by the command of the Lord Jesus, so that people can believe and be saved." (Evangelii Nuntiandi #5).

The Church is us. The Church, as implied, exists to evangelize. And if She (we) does not evangelize, She has no right to exist. Strong words? Vatican II documents do not equivocate regarding our true vocation as followers of Christ: "It is upon the Church that there rests, by divine mandate, the duty of going out into the whole world and preaching the Gospel to every creature (Lumen Gentium)." "The whole Church is missionary and the work of evangelization is a basic duty of the People of God (Ad Gentes)."

Now all good Christians understand that God does not issue commands merely to throw His weight around, i.e. assert His authority just to show everybody who's the Boss. His laws are always for our own good; something like, "Don't play with matches." So when He commands us to share what we have been privileged to receive from Him in the first place, the Good News that is, telling us that it is meant for us alone, you can bet there's something in it for us.

### What Is Your Vision?

By way of example, let me share this observation with you: In the course of my nine years in the Renewal, I have had occasion to speak to prayer groups (parish, office, etc.) The usual complaints: dwindling attendance, insipid prayer meetings, lackluster worship, and very little spiritual growth both individually and as a group. My first question usually is: "What is your vision?" Prayer groups with no vision soon degenerate into holy huddles where people go to feel good about themselves, even pious perhaps. On the other hand, groups and communities who have appropriated the eternal vision of "one flock, one Shepherd" devote their energies and resources to reaching out to others, i.e. evangelizing. These are the vibrant, Spirit-filled groups one finds around, and spiritual growth is the natural manifestation of their fullness of life. The Lord continues to multiply their number and consequently their capabilities to extend the boundaries of the Kingdom.

In His infinite wisdom, God put two seas in Palestine and in so doing, delivers His powerful message:

There are two seas in Palestine.  
One is fresh and there are fish in it.

Slashes of green adorn its banks.  
Trees spread their branches over it, and stretch out their  
thirsty roots to sip of healing water.  
Along its shores the children play, as children played  
when He was there.  
He loved it.  
He could look across its silvery surface when  
He spoke His parables.  
And on a rolling plain not far He fed the five  
thousand people.

The River Jordan flows on south into another sea.  
Here is no splash of fish.  
No fluttering leaf,  
No song of birds.  
No children's laughter.  
Travelers choose another route, unless on urgent business.  
The air hangs heavy above its waters.  
And neither man, nor beast, nor fowl will drink.

What makes this mighty difference in these neighbor seas?  
Not the River Jordan: It empties the same good  
water into both.  
Not the soil on which they lie.  
Not the country round about.

This is the difference:  
The Sea of Galilee receives but does not keep the Jordan.  
For every drop that flows into it, another drop flows out.  
The giving and receiving go on in equal measure.

The other sea is shrewder, hoarding its income jealously.  
It will not be tempted into generous impulse.  
Every drop it gets, it keeps.

The Sea of Galilee gives - and lives.  
The Other Sea gives nothing.  
It is named the Dead Sea.

There are two kinds of people in the world.  
There are two seas in Palestine.

Finally, we evangelize because we possess the "Pearl of Great Price" (Mt. 13:45-46), our Lord Jesus Christ. Nothing that the world has to offer, even if you put everything into one great pile, can compare with this Pearl. Every evangelizer puts his absolute faith in this truth; otherwise he has no business evangelizing. Even to doubt it is to reject it. We can only echo with Peter's plaintive response to the Lord's questions: "(If we reject you, Lord,) where else can we go? You have the words of eternal life." (Jn. 6:68).

Jesus Christ, the Pearl of Great Price. Ano pa nga ba ang hahanapin mo?

*This article is the third in a series on New Evangelization. Tita O. Cerdania, a member of the BCBP Alabang chapter, is a master trainer for CLAYE (Catholic Lay Evangelization Program) and enjoys an active teaching ministry at the National Training Center for Catholic Evangelists.*

## FOR THE SAKE OF THE GOSPEL

*Ronnie Caballero, Makati Chapter*

I had just received one of my earliest cards for the season from a Christian former employee and friend who had recently given up a lucrative merchant marine career to be with his wife on board a "Mercy" Ship, the M/V Pacific Ruby, a ministry of Youth With A Mission (YWAM). The ship is a Christian outreach in the Pacific rim carrying dental and medical teams and more importantly the Gospel to the communities among the islands.

Before Christmas about a year ago, he had sat at my desk asking for advice as he was currently engaged as one of our merchant marine officers with a bright future. He was pondering whether to proceed with Discipleship Training School as preparation for joining the Mercy Ships. With a heavy heart, I could not lie to myself and say that I did not believe he was into a worthy cause. I was not into the habit of recommending people into Christian missions at the cost of losing our own talented men. But sensing his zeal for the Gospel locking with my own desire for discipleship all I could manage was a half-hearted suggestion to find a mission right here in our country. I knew I could not in conscience attempt to dissuade a victorious Christian who was ready to give up all for the sake of the Gospel:

"But how shall we draw down grace upon us? By doing what is pleasing to God, and obeying Him in all things. In great houses do we not see those domestics in favor, who do not regard their own interest, but with all zeal and alacrity promote their master's, and who not from the compulsion of the master, but from their own affection and good disposition, order all things well? ... And

*cont. on pg. 22*



*For the Sake of the Gospel . . . from page 21*

if he who in worldly concerns prefers his master's interests to his own, does not really neglect his own interest, but rather advance it more; much more is this case, the case in spiritual matters.

Despise thine own concerns, and thou wilt receive those of God. This He Himself wills. Despise earth, and seize upon the kingdom of heaven. Dwell there, not here. Be formidable there, thou wilt be formidable not to men, but to demons, and even to the devil himself. But if thy dependence is on worldly wealth, thou wilt be contemptible to them, and often to men too. Whatever be thy riches, thou wilt be rich in servile things. But if thou despisest these, thou wilt be radiant in the house of the King." St. John Chrysostom (Patriarch of Constantinople, 345-407)

With Christmas around the corner, we focus our attention to the significant persons who lived out the will and call of the Father in increasing their yield and bearing fruit (John 15), giving humble and wholehearted service to God. Beginning with the Blessed Virgin whose openness to the will of the Father, has borne us a Savior. To Jesus Our Lord, the fruit of the womb, whose obedience to the Father to the very end has meant everlasting life and sanctification to all believers. To the disciples and saints, whose works and sacrifices bore fruit to what the Church is today, moving greatly to make disciples of every nation. To every BCBP servant consumed and invigorated by the values of the gospel, an opportunity and challenge to share in the delivery of God's grace in renewing the face of the earth.

This is the call of that humble birth in a manger in Bethlehem. This is the call to everyone in mission to the BCBP to give birth and bear fruit in discipleship to Jesus for the sake of the Gospel.

# MAPECON

C E L E B R A T E S

# 30

Y E A R S

OF GOD'S ABUNDANT BLESSINGS,  
PUBLIC TRUST & CONFIDENCE,  
AND EFFECTIVE STEWARDSHIP

## MAPECON'S PINATUBO SUNDAY MISSION

With God's blessing showering us, MAPECON wishes to serve victims of the Pinatubo calamity, as well as our less fortunate brethren — the urban poor and other residents of Metro Manila and other key cities of the Philippines.

MAPECON, working hand in hand with agencies like the National Council for Urban Pest Control, The Earth Savers, Inc., Friends and Customers, will undertake "Sunday Missions" to Pinatubo evacuation centers every other week from October to December, 1991. We will render pest control services, distribute solicited goods, as well as bring them the Lord's Good News. You are welcome to throw in your share or even join us our Sunday Missions.

But going even farther, we also hope to generate jobs and hire the employable among them in MAPECON's various business concerns — pest control — sanitation, green charcoal, air and water purification, etc.

In order to do this, we need your support. The generation of these job opportunities will be chiefly determined by the success of our ongoing business projects, the main one of which is our "block campaign". It is a full-blast education, ap-

preciation, implementation for pest control service, use of green charcoal and activated carbon on a community (block) — wide scale. This is the more economical but more effective way — the best way.

Aside from donating much-needed goods, you can also extend a hand to a brethren affected by Pinatubo and poverty in a special way by being . . .

### MAPECON "CHANGE" AGENT

Introduce a whole new concept that incorporates the values of unity and cooperation to your neighborhood. Call us now and our well-trained Account Executives will be happy to see you and conduct a free campaign in your block. He/she will show you and your neighbors how to enjoy a community life better with more effective and economical pest control, alternative solid cooking fuel, and odor/air and water purification. We also conduct "MAPECON CHANGE AGENTS" seminars every Monday and Wednesday, 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. starting October 30, at our office. Call us for more details.

## Thanksgiving Prayer

Almighty God, our Loving Father, Lord Jesus Christ, our Saviour, Lord, Master, Teacher and President (Eph. 1:10)

- ... once again we call on you with praise and thanksgiving in our hearts ...
- ... for granting us thirty (30) years of abundant blessings and graces
- ... for bestowing upon us 30 years of public trust and confidence
- ... for 30 years of guidance and direction towards becoming good and faithful stewards of your dominion
- ... for 30 years of serving the Filipino with 38 patented products -effective, affordable and "sariling atin"
- ... for thirty years of protection and encouragement to go on and grow despite the adversities and trials
- ... for people you have sent to support, work and serve with us faithfully, honestly and conscientiously.
- ... for the ongoing spiritual growth and maturity among our brethren
- ... for the Holy Spirit's guidance and help in teaching us to read, live, and share the word of God
- ... for the various Catholic Charismatic Communities (Brotherhood of Christian Businessmen and Professionals, Elin Community, Pag-ibig sa Diyos Catholic Community, The Lord's Flock, Sacred Heart Community) and parishes to which our members belong and which have helped us greatly in our journey to know You and to love You more
- ... for our beloved Mama Mary, our model, our inspiration, our intercessor
- ... for the prayers of the saints, the saved souls, the priests, religious, bishops and His Holiness, the Pope
- ... for Archangel Michael and all the Holy Angels, who by the precious Blood, Body, Soul and Divinity of Christ, truly present in all tabernacles, and by Your word and our prayers bind and cast out all evil spirits from every MAPECONian, every Filipino, every Asian, every man.

Hear, Oh hear, O Lord our praises and thanks as we proclaim your Honor, Power and Glory as we pray ...

"My Almighty's Plan to Edify Christ Operates Now!"

- ... through MAPECON by the Power of the Holy spirit ...
- ... AMEN

## ON NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

The matter of making New Year's resolutions had never really merited much thought and interest on my part. If ever, I did try doing it just for the sake of trying and merely in the spirit of fun, listing down as many as possible in leisurely competition with friends. We would then further amuse ourselves with the naughty thought of gaining saintly perfection should we be able to observe at least one half of them.

I was, therefore, unprepared when asked for my New Year's resolution for 1992. It had always been my feeling that such resolutions were only meant to correct one's faults and eliminate unwanted habits. But where was their purpose? What about making a commitment to do something positive instead?

So my New Year's resolution for 1992 is "to further enhance and strengthen my personal relationship with God, and to nurture this relationship in faith and prayer always." By God's will, I intend to carry this as a commitment and not as something that is bound to lapse and die. In making this resolution, I have asked God to bless and give it the persuasive force that will strongly urge and encourage me on. I will allocate more time for my scripture reading sessions and for my personal prayer time.

I am certain that He is the source of all good things and I believe that I am nothing without Him. For indeed, to seek His kingdom and His righteousness first should be the positive basis for any New Year's resolution we make.

Tony R. Espedido  
Alabang Chapter

Every man's life is  
a fairy tale written by  
God's fingers.

Hans Christian Andersen

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## I REMEMBER CHRISTMAS AT HOME

*Carmen Quintos, Alabang Chapter*

I love to recall the happy Christmases we had when we were kids. It didn't matter that we were many (I had 13 brothers and sisters) and that the financial resources were spread out thinly. We managed nevertheless to have joyful moments during the Yuletide season.

Papa and Mama saw to it that Christmas would always be special without being expensive. Sometimes, I believe that Papa did this not just to make us happy but because he enjoyed it himself. I remember the nights we would sit around him and sing Christmas carols. He would sing the solo portion of "Oh Holy Night" with gusto and at the wave of his hand, we would join in at "Fall on your knees..." Our choir singing was far from harmonious to say the least, but to us it was perfect and we were proud of ourselves.

Our repertoire of Christmas carols included only those which were relevant to the theme of the Nativity. Papa considered songs like "White Christmas" and "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer" spiritually and culturally irrelevant. Mama taught us Christmas songs in Spanish like "Nacio, Nacio Pastores" and a short Spanish Christmas operetta which we learned with gusto and sang every season.

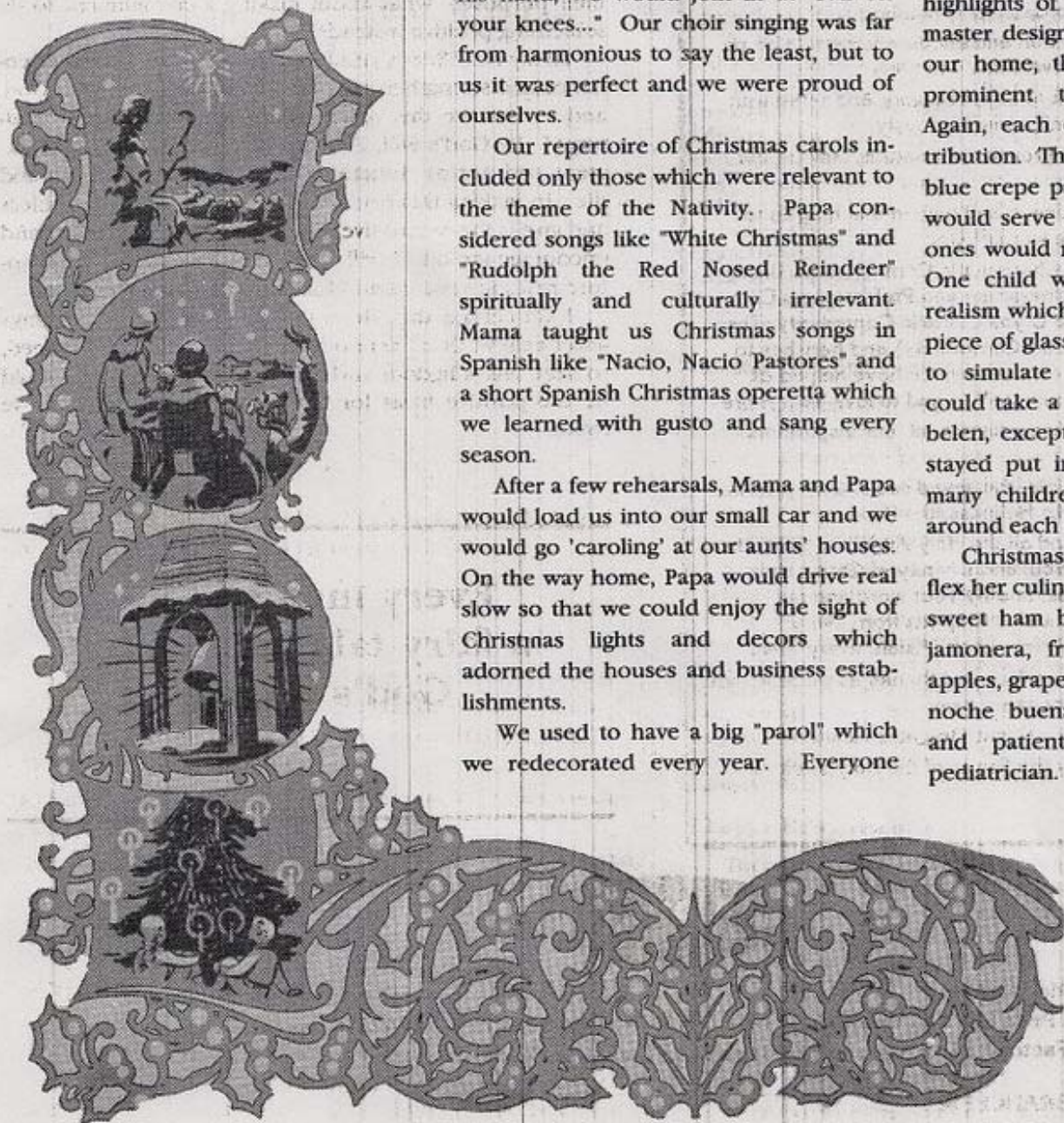
After a few rehearsals, Mama and Papa would load us into our small car and we would go 'caroling' at our aunts' houses. On the way home, Papa would drive real slow so that we could enjoy the sight of Christmas lights and decors which adorned the houses and business establishments.

We used to have a big "parol" which we redecorated every year. Everyone

took part in cutting frills made of Japanese paper to paste on the lantern. It didn't matter whether the frills were jagged, too thick or too thin. Quality control was almost non-existent. The important thing was that we were having fun, the lantern was completed and we were mighty proud of it. It was always Papa's task to take care of the electrical aspect and when the bulb went on, we'd go "ye-hey!" cheering ourselves for a job well done.

Setting up the belen was one of the highlights of the season. Papa was the master designer during these events. In our home, the belen was always more prominent than the Christmas tree. Again, each of us made our own contribution. The older ones would tack the blue crepe paper against the wall which would serve as the sky and the younger ones would merrily paste stars on them. One child would add some plants for realism which another would set a round piece of glass from an old picture frame to simulate a pond where the horse could take a drink. The figurines in our belen, except for the Holy Family, never stayed put in one place, what with so many children who kept moving them around each day.

Christmas was the season for Mama to flex her culinary muscles. We usually sweet ham baked in our old fashioned jamonera, fruit salad, spaghetti, callos, apples, grapes and castanas. Much of our noche buena were gifts from relatives and patients of Papa who was a pediatrician. I remember how we would try to suppress, usually unsuccessfully, our glee when someone would knock at our door with a leg of ham or a basket of goodies. We'd shout "wow" and "ye-hey", our eyes popping out and grinning from ear to ear. Christmas was the time when each of us could eat



*cont. p. 25*



I REMEMBER. . .

from p. 24

more than our usual share of fruits and a whole bottle of Coca-cola.

There were no lavish gifts or expensive toys on Christmas. Cash gifts were promptly turned over to Mama for safekeeping and were to be spent strictly for necessities like shoes or clothes. I don't recall turning green with envy when our friends showed us the walking dolls or battery operated toys they received for Christmas. I will always remember though, the joy we got out of opening the gifts from our Tita Solita. She was one aunt who always remembered each of us, wrote our number, and made sure we all had a Christmas gift from her. No wonder, she was undisputedly our favorite aunt.

Every Christmas eve, the whole family would attend the midnight mass. No matter how sleepy we were, we made sure we were dressed before Papa would start barking "Vamos! Vamos!" and blow the car horn waking up the whole neighborhood. Feet scurrying from all directions, we would hurry downstairs, pile into the small car huffing and puffing as Papa drove off.

I'm not sure if Papa and Mama had consciously intended to teach us the joys of giving, sharing and loving on Christmas. I am more inclined to believe that all they intended to do was to make us feel happy and loved. I think they actually enjoyed having many children and sharing joyful moments with them.

Mama and Papa didn't allow the fact that we were poor get into the way of our happiness. In fact, they used the situation to full advantage. Had we been rich, we would not have had the fun of redecorating our dilapidated Christmas lantern, beautifying our belen or appreciating the small and simple joys of life. To us, being poor was no big deal. We were happy anyway.

# ONE MINUTE MEDITATIONS

Fernando de Larrazabal

(1)

"I have singled out that he may direct his sons and his posterity to keep the way of the Lord, by doing what is right and just..." (Gen. 18:19)

Are parents abdicating their parental role? Children in their adolescence stage go through difficult times. They are moving on from a period of dependency on parents to one where they have to start making decisions and discover for themselves the outside world and its pitfalls. It is at this stage where they need most the guidance and patience of parents. This is the danger period when unguided and unsupervised youngsters start getting into trouble. It is at this time when they may start experimenting with drugs, alcohol, skipping classes, fighting, choosing wrong friends, etc.

This period is also difficult for parents. It is at this stage when children start defying their authority. It is at this time when parents begin to worry about them and it may be too late by then. Parents must start looking after their children way before these danger signals appear. Remember, you reap what you sow.

(2)

"All scripture is inspired of God and is

useful for teaching - for reproof, correction and training in holiness." (2 Tim. 3:16)

Most parents go through any length to make available opportunities for their children to study and learn. They sacrifice themselves to send them to the best schools they can afford, but fail to teach them the so important Christian values they need to learn. It is not surprising to see young people getting into trouble. Parents also fail to teach children the pitfalls of premarital sex. We see young girls getting pregnant. You would figure at this day and age, children would be aware of the moral and biological consequences of illicit sex. God, pregnancy and social censure is something the youth many times ignore, until it's too late.

But parents are also to blame. It is as if purity and chastity are virtues inborn in children and need not be taught. Many parents are squeamish about bringing up the subject of sex and fail to teach and protect their children. God, morality and the virtues are subjects that need to be taught, need to be seen and experienced in the home. Children normally carry on the same standards they see in their parents. If your children turn sour, you are probably to blame and will also have to suffer the consequences.

*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.*

## HOPE FOR THE NEW YEAR

Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,  
The flying cloud, the frosty light:  
The year is dying in the night;  
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.

Ring out a slowly dying cause,  
And ancient forms of party strife;  
Ring in the nobler modes of life,  
With sweeter manners, purer laws.

Ring out false pride in place  
and blood,  
The civic slander and the spite;  
Ring in the love of truth and right,

Ring in the common love of good.

Ring out old shapes of foul disease;  
Ring out the narrowing lust  
of gold;  
Ring out the thousand wars of old,  
Ring in the thousand years of peace.

Ring in the valiant man and free,  
The larger heart, the kindlier hand;  
Ring out the darkness of the land,  
Ring in the Christ that is to be.

Alfred Tennyson

# LIGHTER MOMENTS

For a large part of the world, eating with fingers comes more naturally than eating with spoons, forks or chopsticks. But there are many more stories behind the way people use their flatware than the way they use their fingers.

For example, why do Americans hold their fork in the right hand, while Europeans hold it in their left? In colonial times, Americans followed their European cousins. With the American Revolution, people switched the fork to the right hand, first as a secret signal to one another of their political leanings, and eventually as a public proclamation.

Meanwhile, those who remained loyal to the English had to switch from left to right for fear of being identified as enemies of the Revolution.



Why are "chopsticks" so called? In Chinese, they call them "kwai-tzu," meaning "fast ones." Translated into Pidgin talk, it became "chop" (meaning 'quick'). Hence, "chopsticks."

Chopsticks were in use nearly 2,000 years before Christ. And Chinese emperors were said to possess silver chopsticks, which discolor if dipped into poisonous food.

\*\*\*

"An informed Christian should have a bible in his right hand and a newspaper in his left," intoned the teacher.

"What, is this a case of the right hand not knowing what the left hand is doing?" exclaimed the student.

\*\*\*

The charismatic who expects instant miracles all the time should be labelled "charis-magic"!

\*\*\*

Woman to Banker: I'd like to open a joint account with someone who has money.

\*\*\*

Did you hear about the neighborhood gossip? She went for a vacation to the beach; when she returned, her tongue was sunburned!

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF  
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LETTERS, PICTURES AND ADVER-  
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*MAY THE LIGHT OF BABY JESUS SHINE IN OUR HEARTS!*

How manifold are your works, O Lord!  
In wisdom you have wrought them  
all--  
the earth is full of your creatures;

They all look to you  
to give them food in due time.  
When you give it to them, they gather  
it;  
when you open your hand, they are  
filled with good things.

If you hide your face, they are dis-  
mayed;

if you take away their breath, they  
perish  
and return to their dust.

When you send forth your spirit, they  
are created,  
and you renew the face of the earth.

May the glory of the Lord endure  
forever;  
may the Lord be glad in his works!

Psalm 104:24, 27-31

"Fear not, my children; call out to God!  
He who brought this upon you will  
remember you.

As your hearts have been disposed to  
stray from God,

Turn now ten times the more to seek  
him;

For he who has brought disaster upon  
you will, in  
saving you, bring you back enduring  
joy."

Baruch 4:27-29

"And if my people, upon whom my  
name has been pronounced, humble  
themselves and pray, and seek my  
presence and turn from their evil ways,  
I will hear them from heaven and par-  
don their sins and revive their land."

2 Chronicles 7:14

## GOD CREATED THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH...

This morning we went to mass at St. Anthony's Church in Singalong. As we parked our car in the church yard, that doubles as a school yard, a larger-than-life painting showed a blue sky, with a multi-colored rainbow embracing green mountains and valleys. On a large table platform in front of the mural was a village with real miniature houses, farms, and villages. Towering in majesty above all this rose the Risen Christ superimposed over a large white cross.

In bold letters was the message: "God created the heavens and the earth. He looked at everything he had made and he found it very good." We entered the church feeling good, too, as we thought about the many miracles of nature that God has given us to enjoy.

As I knelt in the pew to pray, my feeling good came to an abrupt halt. For the message emblazoned across the front of the church was: "And then, man destroyed what God had made." At the side of the main altar was an old table flanked by two dead trees. On the table were remains of a nature that had been polluted, destroyed and killed by man. On the table was a single vigil candle, its feeble flame flickering and casting shadows on the piles of rubbish.

### *And then, man destroyed what God had created.*

God created the earth and said, "Let the earth bring forth vegetation: every kind of plant that bears seed and every kind of fruit tree on earth that bears fruit with its seed in it. ... God saw how good it was." (Gen. 1:11-12) And then, man cut down the trees first for firewood, then for illegal purposes causing erosion of the topsoil, flash floods, destruction of the water table, and climatic changes.

God created the seas and said, "Let the water teem with an abundance of living creatures. ... God saw how good it was and blessed them." (Gen. 1:20-22) And then, man began to catch the fish for food, then dynamite fishing followed, and mass destruction of the whales and other sea creatures.

God created our country and blessed it with many natural resources. And now, after many years, we are experiencing droughts, red tides, floods, unseasonal weather, polluted air and clogged water ways. Farm land that once was fertile has become sterile. Fields of grass and stately trees have been replaced with towering concrete fortresses of progress.

God created the heavens and the earth. "The Lord God then took the man and settled him in the garden of Eden, to cultivate and care for it." (Gen. 2:15)

As we enter the Advent Season and wait in joyful anticipation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, should we not reflect on the state of the world that Jesus will find when He comes? Have we been good custodians and stewards of the land He has given us? How well have we cultivated and cared for the earth and all that is in it?

Have I cared for my own little part of the world as He would want me to care for it? Will I be proud to show my world to Jesus when He comes this Christmas?  
N.R.C.

## MY CHRISTMAS LETTER TO GOD

Dearest God,

It's Christmas once again and I'm still here on earth, thanks to you - thank you for sustaining me and my parents to go through all the trials and temptations we encounter. Thank you very much Almighty Father for strengthening us during these days. Thank you for testing our faith in you.

We thank you for your countless blessings and graces. Thank you for making us realize your presence in our lives. Thank you, dear Father, for your love for us, and for giving us another Christmas when we can commemorate your Son's birth amidst all humanity.

This prayer of mine I offer for those people who need you but are drawing away from you. Dear Lord, please make them realize your Holy Dominion over us. I pray, Lord, that you allow us all to share whatever blessings that we have and will receive. I pray that you awaken those who have slept long enough and do not acknowledge your presence in their lives.

And since it's Christmas, Lord, I pray that you will help us all to realize that YOUR SON, JESUS CHRIST, is what this and every Christmas should mean to us all.

Amidst the political turmoil, the calamities of typhoon and volcanic eruptions, the emotional struggles and psychological doubts we have, the financial needs, the identity that we always seek to find and most of all, when all else in this world seems to crumble, we pray, Lord, that we be there to assist those who are in need, our helpless brothers and sisters, those who are victims of the material world that we live in.

Make our faith stronger by being of service to all those in need. Make our hearts to pardon those whom we have not forgiven, make our hearts be yours, O Lord. Make our actions speak out Your Glory.

Dear Father, we have seldom thanked you for your Son, and now, I would like to renew the gratitude. Lord, thank you for keeping Him among us as our Shepherd! May we continue to keep His presence with us by making Him the very reason for every deed we do. May we keep Jesus' presence among us by sharing, giving, loving and praying for those who need Jesus to be shared with them, those who need to be given a piece of Him, those who need Jesus' love and those who have not even known your Son.

It is Christmas once again. It's another season of remembering Jesus' birth. May we always keep within us the actual birth of Jesus by renewing our deepest gratitude to You, our Father, for sending your Son to us -- for HE is the real meaning of my Christmas.

Your daughter,

*Yummy*

Yummy A. Raypon  
Cagayan de Oro Outreach

