

# Kapatiran



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60 BCBP brothers and sisters and first-timers listen to sharers Ferdie and Jo Baena from BCBP Alabang during Iloilo's joint breakfast, Dec. 14.

## BCBP SOWS FIRST SEEDS IN ILOILO

October 19, 1991, was the beginning of the Men's Breakfast in Iloilo. Organized by the Bacolod Outreach in coordination with the Alabang Chapter, 30 first timers and 12 brothers from Bacolod BCBP attended the breakfast held at the Amigo Terrace Hotel. Initially held biweekly, by December the breakfasts were on a weekly basis. Regular breakfast meetings are now held every Saturday morning at the Amigo Hotel at 7:00 a.m.

The Iloilo CLP No. 1 commenced last January 11, 1992, with 10 couples participating. Course leader is Bacolod Outreach mission director Tony Garcia assisted by Toti Diaz. Course speakers are from both the Bacolod Outreach and their "mother" chapter Alabang. Other servants from Bacolod who regularly travel by boat from Bacolod to Iloilo every weekend for the CLP sessions are Toti and Carmen Diaz, Judge Jesus and

*Continued on page 25*

### QUALIFICATION STANDARDS FOR CANDIDATES FOR PUBLIC SERVICE

Guidelines for Election/Appointment of Government Leaders  
Complete checklist and guidelines for Selecting candidates to vote for on p. 16, 17.

*Justice and judgement are the foundation of your throne; kindness and truth go before you. Psalm 89:15*



## VOTER'S PRAYER

*Father, Lord of our lives and our history,  
 You empower us to choose by our votes  
 those whom You wish to govern us.  
 Soon we shall once more  
 use our sacred right to vote;  
 grant our voters the grace  
 to choose wisely the people  
 who will be entrusted with public office.  
 Make us choose persons of high moral integrity,  
 honest, competent and unselfish,  
 who love the poor and promote the common good  
 in a spirit of service,  
 persons who will lead us  
 to unity and progress as a people.  
 Give us the courage and the strength  
 to resist and overcome those  
 who intend to use guns, goons and gold  
 to win these elections.  
 Grant us to be honest and not to sell our votes.  
 Make us brave and not allow ourselves  
 to be intimidated.  
 Unite us so that we may together overcome evil.  
 Thwart the plans of corrupt persons  
 who intend to use dishonorable means to win.  
 Make them fail and fall in shame.*

*May these coming elections  
 be peaceful and orderly  
 and show that we are a mature people  
 who stand on the side of justice and truth.*

*United with Mary, we ask You this  
 through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

*(From a Sunday Missalette)*

The BCBP is a non-profit, non-stock corporation duly registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission of the Philippines (S.E.C. Reg. No. 105182) on June 7, 1982. The BCBP is also a registered Donee Institution (B.I.R. Certificate of Registration No. 906) under BIR-NEDA Regulations No. 1-81 and is eligible to receive fully tax deductible contributions or donations.

## THE WAY OF THE CROSS

*(New Form)*

The Way of the Cross is a traditional devotion commonly prayed in a church or chapel where there are Stations. If this is not possible, it can be done anywhere. Reflecting prayerfully on the passion and death of Christ, we are reminded that our sins have caused him to suffer and die, and that his passion continues today in suffering humanity. Although a popular Lenten devotion, the Way of the Cross is an excellent method of meditation at any time of the year.

The new form of the Way of the Cross approved for use several years ago by the Church gives the Stations a better liturgical and biblical foundation. It expresses the Paschal Mystery more fully, since it not only emphasizes the significance of the passion and death of Jesus but also points out that he rose from the dead.

The stations of the Way of the Cross are given together with selected bible verses for meditation. These have been taken from a 1992 Christian Family Calendar printed by St. Paul Publications.



**Station 1:** Jesus eats the Last Supper with his apostles. Mt. 26:17-35, Mk. 14:12-26, Lk. 22:7-38.

**Station 2:** Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. Mt. 26:36-46, Mk. 14:32-42, Lk. 22:39-46.

**Station 3:** Jesus is brought before the Sanhedrin. Mt. 26:57-68, Mk. 14:53-65.

**Station 4:** Jesus is brought before Pilate. Mt. 27:11-26, Mk. 15:1-15, Lk. 23:1-15, Jn. 18:28-19:16.

**Station 5:** Jesus is scourged and crowned with thorns. Mt. 27:27-31, Mk. 15:16-20, Jn. 19:1-3.

**Station 6:** Jesus accepts his cross. Jn. 19:16-17.

**Station 7:** Jesus is helped by Simon. Mt. 27:32, Mk. 15:21, Lk. 23:26.

**Station 8:** Jesus speaks to the women. Lk. 23:27-31.

**Station 9:** Jesus is stripped and nailed to the cross. Mt. 27:35-37, Mk. 15:24-27, Jn. 19:23-24.

**Station 10:** Jesus speaks to the thief. Lk. 23:32-34.

**Station 11:** Jesus entrusts his mother to John. Jn. 19:25-27.

**Station 12:** Jesus dies on the cross. Mt. 27:45-56, Mk. 15:33-39, Lk. 23:44-49, Jn. 19:28-30.

**Station 13:** Jesus is buried in the tomb. Mt. 27:57-61, Mk. 15:42-47, Lk. 23:50-53, Jn. 19:38-42.

**Station 14:** Jesus rises from the dead. Mt. 28:1-15, Mk. 16:1-20, Lk. 24:1-45, Jn. 20:1-29.



## BCBP

### MEN'S BREAKFASTS

- Wednesdays **MAKATI** : Aling Asiang's, Greenbelt  
 Thursdays **GREENHILLS** : Club Filipino, Greenhills  
 Fridays **MAKATI** : Malacanang Canteen,  
 Malacanang  
 Saturdays **ALABANG** : Ayala-Alabang Country Club  
**BACOLOD** : Rollie's Drive-In 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 **DAGUPAN** : Pinkee's Restuarant,  
 Saturdays Dagupan City

### 6:15 FELLOWSHIP

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

### JOINT BREAKFASTS

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

### LADIES' BREAKFASTS

- 2nd Saturdays **BACOLOD** : Cafe Negrense, Bacolod City  
**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



*Makati fathers and sons assemble as they begin the day's activities during the chapter's Father and Son Campout, Dec. 27 and 28, 1991, in Ternate, Cavite.*

### Makati Chapter

## FATHERS, SONS CAMP OUT

The Makati chapter of the BCBP held its second Father and Son camp out last December 27-28, 1991 at Ternate, Cavite. The outing was not only part of the chapter's fellowship activities but also was in line with the children's formation activities. The two-day weekend was initiated by the chapter's mission team.

Twenty-five members with their sons joined the camping under the leadership of Johnny Calixto, the camping coordinator. He was assisted by Rico Tirona and Mike Reyes.

Other than the usual night-out activities, the fathers and sons joined hands in tree planting, mountain hiking, bonfire and barbecue activities. Topping the weekend, an outdoor teach-out on insects and their usefulness and destructive qualities was conducted by brother Jun Catan.

The participants discussed the possibility of having a mother and daughter camp-out in conduit with the third father and son camp out to be held in late 1992. It is planned, God willing, to have the next camp-out at the beach.

As part of the fellowship program of the Makati chapter, the activity encourages working fathers to take time out for strengthening their one-on-one relationship with their sons in a relaxed environment. Jess Manalo, mission head for business, said that "most significantly, it is a special time devoted to the value formation of the future heads of Christian families. Not only do the sons learn from their fathers but, in more ways than one, we fathers, too, learn to see new things in our sons."

*Sing to the Lord a new song!  
 Psalms 149:1*



Makati Chapter

## CLP 18 GRADUATES 60

Pre-Christmas commitment ceremonies marked the end of the Makati chapter's Christian Life Program #18. 60 participants graduated and joined the Brotherhood as regular members of the Makati chapter on December 18. Course leader Joe Ferreria congratulated the group even as he encouraged them to make this Christmas season a truly meaningful one through their growing personal relationship with Jesus.

The new graduates form a new unit in the Makati chapter under Cheng and Lucy Legaspi as the unit leader couple. The action group leaders in the new unit are: Jun/Beth Ginete, Babes/Milalin Javellana, Mike/Mee Reyes, Eli/Emily Evangelista, Andy/Odette Nanagas, and Rico/Honey Tirona.

## WELCOME CLP 18

Egay/Gina Narvaez  
 Ric/Nitz Gaa  
 Fe Cunanan  
 Lourdes Galacio  
 Mari/Dina Maravillas  
 Nonoy/Edith Nanagas  
 Rey/Benjie Rivera  
 Emmy/Esther Tagunigar  
 Mel Roque  
 Alvin/Elvie Benitez  
 Louie/Diane Evangelista  
 Pechie/Norin Pangilinan  
 Danny Silbor  
 Mike Lopez  
 Lyle Arcaya  
 Lulu Cano  
 Oca/Floren Ballares  
 Benjie/Eve Segui  
 Johnny/Ising Taroy  
 Noel Hernandez  
 Brenda Lacerona  
 Remy Figuracion  
 Lyn Dicen  
 Rudy/Cora Flores  
 Larry/Ellen de Vera  
 Ben Cabanas  
 Choy Segui  
 Roy/Debbie Babia  
 Tana/Amie Gutierrez  
 Dading/Carie Lampa  
 Mon/Gemma Nilayan  
 Topy/Susan Vasquez

*Continued on page 5*



*Top: Lucy Legaspi (back to camera) conducts the Makati Carollers in four-part harmony during one of their 'a cappella' numbers.*

*Bottom: The carollers' instrumental section keys up in preparation for an evening of joy and song.*

Makati Chapter

## SINGING FOR JOY

Last Christmas the chapter's music ministry headed by Cheng and Lucy Legaspi gathered together 25 enthusiastic and joyous members for Christmas carolling during the season. Their repertoire included a wide selection of songs celebrating the holiday season and the birth of the Infant Jesus. Singing, playing various instruments and dancing their way into the hearts of their listeners, the group raised funds for additional musical instruments for the music ministry at the

same time bringing the Christmas spirit to the homes they visited.

The BCBP Makati Carollers included Chito/Cisa Constantino, Mike/Mee Reyes, Rico/Honey Tirona, Butch/Pinky Placido, Butch/Inday Pilapil, Eddie/Inday Go, Burt/Cheryl Favorito, Edwin/Grace Figuracion, Alex/Esther Uychoco, Fred/Virgie Carino, Nanding Reyes, Rico Robles, Mon Gaité, Chito Zabarte and Cheng and Lucy Legaspi.



## Greenhills Chapter

**BREAKFAST  
SHARERS LISTED**

The January sharers at the weekly men's breakfast of the Greenhills chapter of the BCBP were Mon Martillano on Jan. 9, Eddie Go on the 16th, Ben Madrono on the 23rd, and Trino Nervez on Jan. 30.

February sharers will be Nilo Sta. Maria on Feb. 6, Gerry Izada on the 13th and Joven Endaya on Feb. 20. Sharers for the last week of February and for March have not yet been confirmed.

The Greenhills men's breakfast is held every Thursday morning at 7:30 a.m. Club Filipino in Greenhills.

**CLP 18 . . . from p. 4**

Danny Escama  
Linda Capistrano  
Grace Garcia  
Grace Ilano  
Ely Javier  
Lino/Diane Mejorada  
Rody Miranda  
Dodie Reyes

## Makati Chapter

**MALACANANG BCBP BREAKFAST:  
DOORWAY TO CLP**

Breakfast head Ric Galing of the Malacanang (or sometimes called Mendiola) BCBP Breakfast reports that, with God's help over the past three and a half years, the breakfast has been responsible for leading many brothers and sisters into the CLP and thus into the BCBP. Among those who took CLP 15 were: Trophy/Polly Lino, Bobby/Claire Rodulfo, Roger Manalang, Ric/Edith Galing (all of Quezon City) and Manny Plopeno and Brando Mabute of BCBP Makati.

Others who came to know the BCBP in the Malacanang breakfast and who took later CLPs in their respective chapters include Gener Sampang (now serving in the Alabang Breakfast), Moning Empelido (Greenhills); and from Quezon City, Noli/Shirley Almazan, Augusto/Puring Cembrano, Felix/Julie Disierto, Ino Galing, Oski Oca, Boy

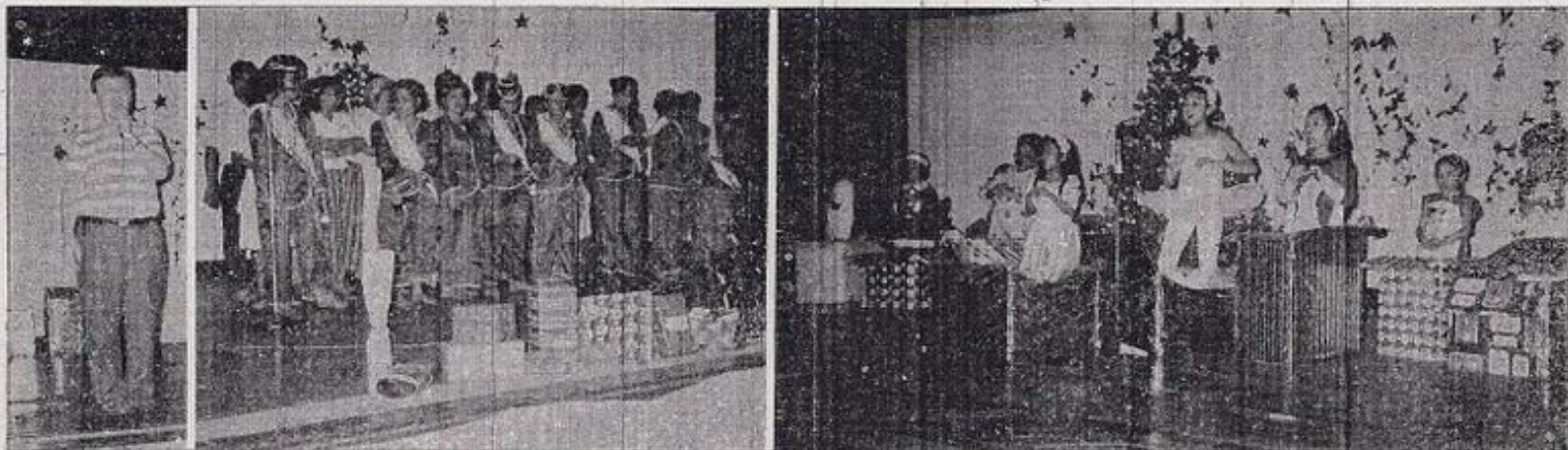
Ocampo, Ave/Lily Santos, Cesar/Agnes Teng, Rico Vasquez, Jes/Amor Zapata, Rene Eban, and Del Pingoa.

Presently serving in the breakfast are Dir. Joey Angeles (Alabang) and Atty. Nonoy dela Pena (Q.C.) as emcees. Engr. Jansen Bautista (Q.C.) is in charge of music and sharers. Taking charge of physical arrangements are Manny Plopeno and Brando Mabute of Makati chapter, assisted by Atty. Noli Almazan and Engr. Oski Oca of Quezon City. Discerners are Gen. Lazo and Justice Abejo of Greenhills chapter.

The Malacanang breakfast group meets every Friday morning for breakfast at the Malacanang Canteen. Sharers come from various chapters. Ric Galing invites those BCBP members and their friends, especially those in downtown Manila, to mark every Friday morning on their calendar as a date with the Lord.

**BCBP Makati Celebrates Christmas**

*Left to right: Fr. Herb Schneider, spiritual director of the BCBP, addresses the Makati chapter members during their Christmas celebration, Dec. 21, at the Philippine Columbian Association, Plaza Dilao, Paco. After lunch, the program included a dance and musical presentation by the chapter's La Naval Cavite Outreach (center), and a Christmas musical play "The Best Gift I Can Give" presented by the children and directed by their mothers. The afternoon ended with lots of games for both the adults and the kids, and a raffle that gave almost everyone something to take home with them.*







*Top: BCBP Quezon City members enjoy one of the games during the chapter's annual Family Christmas Breakfast, on Saturday, Dec. 14, 1991; at the Holy Family School in U.P. Village, Quezon City. Food was pot luck. As an additional feature clowns and mascots livened up the occasion with their antics.*

*Bottom: The single women of the Q.C. chapter gather for a moment together during the chapter's Family Christmas Breakfast.*



#### *Alabang Chapter*

### AN AFTERNOON WITH THE SMOKEY MOUNTAIN KIDS

To add more meaning to the celebration of Christmas, Alabang chapter members and their families opened their homes to more than 200 young adults from Smokey Mountain last December 28. What a better way to spread the joys of Christmas than to share a meal with them, have fun and laughter through songs, dances and games.

Later in the afternoon, the kids were

treated to more fun and excitement with free rides at the Big Bang sa Alabang carnival. At the end of the day, each one received a small package of food, a T-shirt and toy from the foster family for the day.

Two years ago, the same invitation was extended to Smokey Mountain children ages ranging from 3 to 10 years old.

#### *Greenhills Chapter*

### TEACHING MINISTRY FORMED

The Greenhills chapter of the Brotherhood of Christian Businessmen and Professionals (BCBP) has formed its Teaching Ministry in response to membership clamor for a support mechanism that would enhance the spiritual growth of chapter members.

"We received some feedback on the need for more regular talks to help the members in living a truly Christian life," Manolet Siojo, who heads the new group, says.

The ministry aims to provide support to the membership in their commitment to live out true Christian lives, in rendering service for the Lord in any capacity, and in being evangelizers in the family and business milieu.

To achieve this, the Teaching Ministry has identified three strategies: designing and implementing a teaching program to address the needs of the general membership in the areas of spiritual formation, Christian service, and evangelism training; providing assistance to action group leaders in the conduct of their action group meetings by making available alternative gospel sharing formats and topics; and identifying and developing members who have the gift for teaching and involving them in the Teaching Ministry.

Siojo says the ministry plans to hold year-round activities, among them the leadership development program for potential chapter leaders, culture talks, and a series of teachings to be held once a month.

The first batch of culture talks for 1992 was held last January 11 at the Xavier School in Greenhills. The activity was attended by graduates from the chapter's Christian Life Programs (CLPs) 16 and 17.

The ministry's formation was agreed during the chapter planning session participated in by unit leaders and service heads in December last year.



Cebu Chapter

## NEWS BRIEFS

**CLP NO. 7.** The Cebu chapter's seventh Christian Life Program began last January 13 and will run until February 29. Sessions are held every Monday and Thursday at the Sacred Heart School for Boys, audio-visual room. At least 30 couples and 10 single professional women are participating in this CLP.

**BCBP CEBU'S 4TH ANNIVERSARY.** Plans are underway for the celebration of the 4th Anniversary of the BCBP in Cebu. Activities are being scheduled for February 29.



*Some leaders of the Quezon City chapter listen intently to chapter head Benjie Quinto during their planning weekend held in November 1991. During the daylong workshop, chapter activities were reviewed and the new year's activities scheduled.*

Greenhills Chapter

## NEW BUSINESS EVANGELIZATION APPROACH PRODUCES RICH HARVEST

The "one-venue approach" to the Life in the Spirit Seminar (LSS) is producing a rich harvest of highly-committed and responsible members for the BCBP Greenhills chapter's mission team.

This was revealed by Eric Teotico, Greenhills mission director, who said the modified scheme -- inviting employees from different offices to undergo the LSS at the Center for Peace located at the Facilities Center in Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong -- proved to be very effective in the four Business Evangelization missions his team held in 1991.

"We adopted this approach to remove the employee participants from their respective office cultures and maximize the limited human resources of our team, which was initially composed only of four couples," Teotico said.

"We now have an average attendance of 60 active members out of the approximately 120 who have participated in our LSSs," he continued. "The remaining 50% have very valid reasons for not being able to commit to our regular activities.

"Practically half of the membership are now serving in the various ministries which they formed: music ministry, prayer warriors, registration, physical arrangements, and other administrative matters," Teotico said. "Moreover, many

are already tithing and realize their responsibilities as community members. In fact, the old members are already clamoring for deeper commitments. In response, we formed them into action groups."

"The more mature ones, on the other hand, are tapped as assistant discussion leaders. Some will even be discussion leaders already by LSS 5," he averred. "I don't know how to term it, but the evangelization process here is 'snowballing.'"

Teotico said that after the four-day LSS, the new graduates are taught the Bibliarasal (seven-step bible-sharing method), which they can subsequently implement by themselves. The new members use this method to evangelize their officemates.

Then graduates go through the Basic Christian Maturity Course, after which they are given leadership formation training. "We realized the leaders must come from within the membership. Eventually, the people from the Mission Team, which has increased to eight couples, will have to go back to 'Life.'"

During the first LSSs, the team "faced all sorts of harassments," Teotico said, "We needed to be strong and supportive of each other as much as possible. The team found strength in prayer. That is

why we relied a lot on intercessory prayers. We sensed His presence and His support in all our activities. In fact, we could see His hands during the early stages when we did not know what to do...when the team was just groping.

"Aside from spiritual weakness, we knew we were also weak in manpower. With the one-venue approach, we were able to contain and utilize our strengths and focus them on our vision."

Refusing to credit the success of the approach to the team, Teotico said, "Success can only come from God. Anything that is not from Him will not bear fruit. The gauge of success is the changed lives that we see in all our members; their zeal and commitment to serve God," he said.

"We expect more enthusiastic members as we go on," Teotico continued, saying the team plans to have four more LSSs for 1992 -- one each for the last week of the first month of every quarter. "Hopefully, all discussion leaders will be LSS members and that the membership will be the size of a chapter.

"I strongly feel 1992 is the Year of the Harvest," he opined. "And I dream that everyone in the Brotherhood and the LSS who have been called will be the laborers."



## LEARNING FROM GOD'S LITTLE ONES

*Didit Lazatin, Alabang Chapter*

A mother of two boys and a girl ages 9, 7 and 4. A housewife most of the time and a preneed counselor some of the time. That's what I am.

And on every 4th Saturday, I learn from God's little ones, our children in the BCBP Alabang chapter's Children Formation. This is now my second year and together with my other committed brothers and sisters in the Brotherhood, my children and I haven't gotten bored attending the Formation's regular and occasional special sessions.

Every session is opened with a prayer and hymns of praise, thanksgiving and supplications, like an action group meeting. Guided by selected Scripture readings, the children share how they have experienced God in their lives and how they live out the teaching in the Scripture passage.

When they speak and share, I listen and learn. I myself get my lesson for the day straight from God through the hearts and mouths of these little ones. They are bold in sharing. And you should hear them pray!

Their young faith is not merely talked about, they try to live it. The children's formation group visits orphanages, does various charity work, and participates in other value-oriented activities.

I see this formation of our children as a stepping stone, an exposure to the Brotherhood's way of life. It is an answer to the nagging of our children about the time we spend in prayer meetings, assemblies or CLP sessions. It is also a good deterrent to the present hedonistic ways of the world - drugs, bad companions, peer pressure and fraternities that creep into even grade schools.

As renewed parents, we must work to ensure the salvation of our family. And

supporting the Children's Formation activities is one step in the right direction. The Lord has given us time, talent and wealth. Is it too much to ask for us to share one Saturday morning a month for the sake of God's little ones?



*Children in the Formation took fun rides at Tagaytay Ridge.*



*Children and Parents of the Formation in one of their enriching activities - a visit to the Las Piñas Bamboo Organ.*

## YOUTH

Youth is not a time of life; it is a state of mind; it is not a matter of rosy cheeks, red lips and supple knees; it is a matter of the will, a quality of the imagination, a vigor of the emotions; it is the freshness of the deep springs of life.

Youth means a temperamental predominance of courage over timidity of the appetite, for adventure over the love of ease. This often exists in a man of 60 more than a boy of 20. Nobody grows old merely by a number of years. We grow old by deserting our ideals.

Years may wrinkle the skin, but to give up enthusiasm wrinkles the soul. Worry, fear, self-distrust bows the heart and turns the spirit back to dust.

Whether 60 or 16, there is in every human being's heart the lure of wonder, the unfailing childlike appetite of what's next and the joy of the game of the living. In the center of your heart and my heart there is a wireless station: so long as it receives messages of beauty, hope, cheer, courage, and power from men and from the Infinite, so long are you young.

When the aerials are down, and your spirit is covered with snows of cynicism and the ice of pessimism, then you are grown old, even at 20, but as long as your aerials are up, to catch waves of optimism, there is hope you may die young at 80 or 90 or even, God willing, at 100.

-Anonymous



## WELCOME CLP 19

Edito/Ella Abiera  
 Levi Alcantara  
 Fred Aldaba  
 Irineo Bautista  
 Alben Castaneda  
 Franklin/Ching Catabian  
 Digna Cuevas  
 Elena Oranto  
 Hester/Yoly Espinas  
 Freddie/Tootsie Estrella  
 Sallie Magdangal  
 Jaime/Purichi Marquez  
 Cris/Jo-Ann Masunsong  
 Chi-Chji Mercado  
 Arni Merto  
 Franz/Ning Nadela  
 Cynthia May Navarro  
 Santi Tanada  
 Corky/Miles Tendencia  
 Teresa Ty  
 Mila Veniegas  
 Rey/Jen Villagarcia

## CLP 19 THANKS SERVICE TEAM

The newly graduated CLP 19 BCBP members (Q.C.) had only thanks and appreciation for the CLP service team headed by Ben/Lyn Madronia, assisted by Rey/Raquel Tansio. Discussion leaders were Boy/Pia Alina, Jun/Bing Capacillo, Jojo/Weng Odina, Fritz/Virgie Nadela, Oscar/Helen Ongkiko and Chuchay Floresca. Assistant discussion leaders were Ric/Butchie Ricafort, Gerry/Lolet Ocampo, Gerry/Virgie Jimenez, Vic/Lita de Veyra, Paul Antonio and Alice Gutierrez.

The secretariat and allied services team included Cary/Mapette Urgino, Helen/Oscar Ongkiko, Alice Gutierrez, Edward/Marivic Pantaleon, Andoy/Joy Tan, Chito/Libay Masayon, and Ricky/Maan Aragon. Music ministry coordinator team were Dodo and Junette Sta. Maria.

*Q.C. CLP 19 music ministry warms up.*

*A CLP 19 discussion group asks themselves: How can we live each day as better Christians?*



*Quezon City Chapter*

## BCBP Q.C. COMPLETES CLP NO. 19

The third and last CLP for 1991 of the Quezon City chapter was completed last January 11, 1992 with the participants making their commitment to the Lord through the BCBP.

Briefly interrupted by the usual BCBP Christmas break, Christian Life Program No. 19 graduated thirty (30) participants composed of eleven couples and eight singles, coming from both the public and private sectors.

Their baptism in the Holy Spirit was conducted last December 7, 1991 at the Scalabrinian Chapel along Panay Avenue with Fr. Cris Violon celebrating the Holy Eucharist.

Commitment day, January 11, 1992 started with a Holy Mass celebrated by Msgr. Agbayani Valenzuela, highlighted by the CLP participants' symbolic offering of their commitment cards during the offertory. Q.C. chapter head Benjie Quinto delivered the talk for the day followed by the formal reading of the commitment card by the participants and regular members renewing their commitment to the Lord through the BCBP.

The event was capped with the various group presentations and individual sharings of the CLP participants and their discussion leaders.

*Worry never robs tomorrow of its sorrow; it only saps today of its strength.*



Eyes of Faith

**DOING OUR FATHER'S BUSINESS - Part II**  
**The Dilemma of the Public Servant**

*Kytt Mier, Las Pinas Chapter*

In Part I of this series, we discussed the Church's view and expectations on its members who are endowed with resources. This guidance from the Papal Letter *Centesimus Annus* tells us about the stewardship of Christians endowed with material resources who are responsible for managing their individual economic niches.

We now take a look at what the same Papal Letter says about another group of Christians whose stewardship may not have anything to do directly with private enterprise concerns, but whose decisions nonetheless profoundly affect the marketplace. These are brothers and sisters who, like this writer, are involved one way or another in public policy making.

**The Role of the State**

John Paul II refers to the role of Christians in public policy by describing the role of the State vis-a-vis society. In this role the State is expected to:

1. guarantee or ensure individual freedom, private property, stable currency and efficient public service,
2. oversee and direct the exercise of human rights in the economic sector by (a) creating conditions which will ensure job opportunities; (b) stimulating activities where such activities are lacking or absent, and (c) supporting business in moments of crisis,
3. intervene when particular monopolies create delays or obstacles to development, and
4. intervene when social sectors or business systems are too weak or are just getting under way and are not equal to the task at hand. (CA No. 48)

**Shaping the Social Environment**

We can clearly see from this Papal guidance that God expects His children to go beyond merely collecting and

managing "what is due to Caesar." Christians involved in public policy are expected to help shape a social environment that guarantees prosperity with justice. They are expected to help ensure the establishment of structures that enhance human dignity, bringing man and woman closer and closer to the Image after Whose likeness they were created.

Going over the above-listed roles, we note that the tasks expected of Christian public servants inevitably impinge upon both the economic and political spheres of social life. It is quite obvious that public policy deals with decisions crucially affecting national life as well as the individual citizen's well being. This explains the high expectations we have for public servants. They are our "shepherds" or "pastors" in the secular or material sense.

This also gives us an idea of the kind of pressures public servants have to deal with in their work. Besides the pressure of public expectations on their performance, they are also, literally, thrust upon the arena of national life to compete with and "do battle" against the forces of evil -- the secularism and materialism of the world, the lust of the flesh and the endless temptations of the devil.

**In the Thick of the Battle**

Christian public servants not only have to struggle to remain competent in their jobs despite below-standard compensation (an injustice arising from defective economic structures), they also struggle daily to keep themselves and their work focused on Jesus and His values.

The biggest challenge for Christian public servants seems to be the need to remain united with fellow Christians in their respective workplaces in the task of building up God's Kingdom on earth. This is why, like their counterparts in the private sector, Christian public servants

**Holidays and Holy Days**

On holidays we run away from duties,  
 On holy days we face up to them.  
 On holidays we try to empty  
 our minds,  
 On holy days we bring ourselves  
 under control.  
 On holidays we try to lift up our  
 spirits,  
 On holy days we attempt to replenish  
 our spirits.  
 On holidays we reach out for things  
 we want,  
 On holy days we reach up for things  
 we need.  
 One brings a change of scene,  
 the other a change of heart.  
 One pampers our bodies,  
 the other nourishes and  
 challenges our soul.

Rabbi Sidney Greenberg

need all the nurturing they can get from a "spiritual support system" such as the BCBP.

**Spiritual Support System Necessary**

The "community life" fostered by the Brotherhood could serve as a source of renewed energy and dynamism for Christian public service. Inputs from the BCBP teaching and formation programs could help keep businessmen and professionals spiritually stable and mentally sane after their daily bouts with dark forces of the world.

Building up the Kingdom of God (doing our Father's business) will be a lot easier and more blessed when Christians from both the public and private sectors of society allow themselves to become effective instruments of the Holy Spirit in His work of salvation in the world. The "spiritual support system" that brings together the public servant and the private entrepreneur facilitates this by nurturing both of them with the Gospel message. Through this "support system", divine guidance and inspiration are channeled from the pastors of the Church to individual businessmen and professionals whose work becomes the means for their own, as well as the nation's, sanctification -- the ultimate purpose of our Father's business.



# ANG MAKULAY NA BUHAY NG ISANG MAYBAHAY

Ni Nene Bundoc Ocampo, Quezon City Chapter

Halos karanggo ko ang mga domestic helper. Luto sa madaling-araw, linis sa umaga, laba bago magmeryenda time, magpapaligo ng bata, magluluto ng pananghalian, hugas ng pinggan pagkakain, sasalubong sa mga estudyanteng nagsipag-aral, magsisilong ng sinampay, magluluto ng hapunan, mamamalantsa ng mga importanteng isusuot na damit, mamahinga habang nagtitiklop ng ibang labada, ilang minutong prayer time. Tulog.

Ang malakiing kaibhan nga lang ay sumusuweldo sila ng dolyar. Ako ay walang pirmihang suweldo at naghahirap pa ang loob kung paano pagkakasyahin ang badyet kapag nagkasunud-sunod ang mga bayarin. At ang mas malaking kaibhan, ako ang amo sa bahay! Ooooww?? smo!

Ang mga domestic helper ay napipilitang magtrabaho dahil iyon ang kanilang trabaho. Kailangan nila ng suweldo, kaya iniwan nila ang kanilang pamilya at nagsasakripisyong manilbihan. Ako ay kusang loob sa pagtatrabaho, masaya habang nagtatrabaho, at pawang minamahal ko ang mga pinaglilingkuran ko.

Nang pinag-iisipan ko pa lang iwan ang aking trabaho, akala ko ay hindi ko makakayang talikuran ang karerang pinagbuhusan ko ng 16 na taong pag-susumikap. Akala ko rin ay pagdurusahan ang pagkawala ng nakagawian nang suweldo sa main job at sa mga secondary job. Pero higit pala sa lahat ng ito ang hangarin mong ikaw na ang personal na mag-alaga sa iyong bunso, ikaw na ang magluto ng kakainin ng iyong iba pang mga anak at ng pinakamamahal mong kabiya ng puso. Hi-tech na ang paglalaba dahil sa washing machine, bakit ibang tao pa ang mag-eejoy sa appliance na ito gayong ang Mahal ko ang naghulog sa koop sa ipinambili nito?

Okey, aminado kaming mag-asawa na malaki ang nawala sa badyet. Pero malaki rin ang natipid sa palabas na badyet. Una, hindi na ako namamasahé at wala na rin akong daily expenses. Pangalawa, wala na kaming suwelduhang katulong.

Pangatlo at mas mahalaga, kontrolado ko na ngayon ang mga pagluluto at paghahain, gayundin ang konsumo ng mga kagamitang pambahay. Sangkatlo lang pala ng ginagastusan ko dati ang talagang nagagamit ng pamilya ko! Ang iba ay naaaksaya lang dahil sa walang malasakit na paggamit. Pati ang bill ng koryente ay bumaba dahil malaki ang nabawas sa panonood ng telebisyon at pagbeentilador.

Sa halip na maupo sa harap ng TV, nililibang ko ang sarili sa pag-awit ng mga salmo at himno kasabay ng pag-aalay ko sa Diyos ng lahat ng aking mga ginagawa. Sa gabing namamalantsa ay ipinapahinga ko naman ang aking ngala-ngala dahil ayokong makaistorbo sa paggawa ng assignment ng aking anak. Bukod doon, ang oras na iyon ang iniuukol ko sa intercessory prayers ko para sa aking mga kasambahay. Kung kaninong damit ang pinaplantsa ko, siya ang ipinagdarasal ko -- ang kanyang hangarin, pansariling problema, mga gusto sa buhay, na malayo sa disgrasya, na malayo sa tukso at marami pang iba. Hindi ka mauubusan.

Unang hindi matutumbasan at hindi kayang sumahin sa kahit anong tatak ng calculator ay ang katuwaan ng aking mga anak na ako ang nagtitimpla ng kanilang kape, na nakakatikim na sila uli ng mga luto ko, na ako ang sumasalubong at kumakarga sa kanila sa pagbaba sa kanilang service jeep mula sa school, na ako ang nagpapakain at kalaro maghapon ng aking

magtatatlong taong si Bibo, at dinaratnan na ako sa bahay ng aking abay pagdating niya galing sa opisina. Dati ay sinasalunuan pa niya ako sa gate ng subdibisyon at nalilipasan siya ng gutom sa paghihintay sa akin.

Sapagkat kami-kami ang magkakatulong sa mga gawaing bahay, very close ang turingan at ugnayan ng isa't isa sa pamilya. Kahit si Haha, na nasa ikatlong baitang, ay responsable sa paglilinis ng mga ginagamit na placemat sa mesa at sa pagwawalis ng buong bahay pagkagaling sa eskwelahan; at maging ang bunsong si Bibo ay marunong nang magsoli ng kanyang mga sapatos at laruan sa kanyang kabinet. Kung sino ang walang ginagawa, siya ang nagbebenta sa aming maliit na tindahan.

At bilang isang ginang, napakasarap sagutin ng tanong na "Ano ang ulam ngayon?" kung ang nagtatanong ay nakayakap sa iyo at pabulong kung magtatanong. O kaya nama'y magugulat ka sa isang halik sa batok habang pakantakanta kang naghuhugas ng pinagkainan.

Tamang nawala ang regular na

*continued on page 12*





## MOMMY, WHERE IS BUCKLER?

Jane Manalo, Makati Chapter

How the Lord provides color into our lives, truly indeed are His mysterious ways. Colors of soft hues and vivid pastels, bright shades, sometimes electrifyingly shocking. Events, experiences, encounters are the Lord's way of providing our lives with color.

And one of these colors was our dog Buckler. Years ago we had had a boxer and since then I had resisted having another dog. But eight months ago I was outvoted. Buckler arrived, a 4-month old German shepherd, energetic, intelligent and full of pranks.

"Change" was a mild word to describe the next few months. Buckler literally revolutionized the whole household and along with it our quiet, predictable lifestyle with his over-enthusiastic greetings, his great dislike of cats, his penchant for barking at passersby and speeding cars.

He learned how to bring us our newspaper every morning, and to fetch almost anything else when asked. Buckler was very particular about his food which had to be only a certain brand; I tried to widen his gourmet horizon without success and after extensive kitchen testing we reached an understanding...I prepared what he liked to eat!

Buckler may have been fierce and vicious to outsiders but to our children, he was always patient and loving. Jomi was

closest to him, Buckler was his protector and gave him courage. Joey liked to pull his tail, step on his paws or even attempt to ride him and Buckler resignedly complied.

When our village became the target of rampant robberies and hold-ups, we always felt secure because of Buckler.

There was one thing we had forgotten though, we failed to include him in our daily prayers. We even forgot to thank God for him and for the color he added to our lives. We failed to realize that



Jomi Manalo poses with Buckler shortly before Buckler's death.

Buckler was not a "thing" but one of God's own creatures.

On the night of October 18 Buckler went to sleep. He took pains climbing up to his empty dog house and laid down straight on his right side. He died with dignity from what was later diagnosed as acid poisoning.

Grief paralyzed our entire household.

Jomi was the hardest hit. My husband Jess talked to him about learning to accept a loss and building up courage as a consequence, but he still cried all the way to school.

That afternoon when the kids arrived from school, we started looking for another dog. Jomi and Marily volunteered some of their savings to help meet the cost. We picked up our new puppy on Sunday night. The following Tuesday

## ANG MAKULAY . . . from page 11

pamamasyal at panonood ng sine sa mga shopping center, per regular din ang aming piknik. Meryenda session kaming buong pamilya tuwing pagkatapos ng misa sa seminaryong pinapasukan ng dalawang tinedyer kong anak kung sila ay weekend-in at pananghalian sa likod ng aming bahay kung sina Toti at Nico ay weekend-out.

Noong minsan, ibig-ibig ko na sanang magreklamo na hindi na natutuyuan ng sabon at tubig ang mga daliri kong dati ay animo nagsasayaw ng boogie sa tiklado ng makinilya. Pero hindi ko pa naisip ang pasakalye ukol dito ay nakangiti na akong tinitigan ng aking co-boss sa bahay.

"Alam mo, Mahal, I cannot recall? other time since we were married that I am happier. Ngayon lang natin 100% na nasarili ang ating bahay. Ikaw, ako at ang mga bata."

Nakangiti ako, pero pasimple kong pinawalan ang aking buntong-hinga para hindi ako maluha.

Bawing-bawi ako sa aking non-monetary suweldo. Ngayon lang yata ako nakatagpo ng trabahong angkop sa akin - ang pagiging maybahay.

he was stricken by a fatal virus and had to be brought to the Animal Clinic.

This time we prayed for his recovery. And all of us, especially Jomi, accept that whatever happens it would be God's will, no longer ours. And we intensified our prayers.

Two days later, he recovered. Our vet was surprised because even full grown dogs seldom survive this kind of virus. We thanked God through Psalm 109: 26-27.

"Mommy, where is Buckler?" Joey asked me. I said, "Remember the movie 'All Dogs Go To Heaven'? He is in heaven now with Papa Jesus."

I should like to think he is truly in heaven now. Thank you, Lord, for showing us the need for prayer even in the colors of our lives. Thank you, Lord, for Buckler and for answering our prayers.



# MARY: HER ROLE IN OUR LIVES

It is sad to see that Mary, the mother of Jesus, who was so loving, supporting and solicitous of Jesus as a child and during His ministry, should now have become a "bone of contention" among Christians. It seems that, instead of leading more people to her Son, the mention of Mary is sometimes a cause for division among us, her Son's followers.

During my adult catechism many years ago before I was married (I grew up as a Methodist and was baptized a Catholic before I was married), I remember having some problems with some Catholic beliefs about Mary. But Fr. Murphy, my catechist, advised me to simply accept Mary as the mother of Jesus and to remain openminded about the various Catholic beliefs and practices. He said that Jesus was the important One to anchor my faith on, but he added that he was sure that over the years, Jesus would help me get to know His mother better and to love her, too.

## Hierarchy of Truths

I learned about the "hierarchy" of Christian truths, foremost of which is that truths about God - the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit - are the central truths of the Gospel message and take precedence and importance over all other beliefs. Some of these central truths are the Fatherhood of God, the death and resurrection of Jesus, the power and gifts of the Holy Spirit, the forgiveness of sins and the promise of eternal life. These we repeat daily in the Nicene Creed, the "I believe".

Official Catholic teaching has never considered beliefs about Mary as being in any way equal to the truths about God. But, on the other hand, the Church



believes that God has given Mary a very special role and place in the heart and life of every Christian.

Mary is never to be "worshiped" or "adored" as a goddess but her role in our salvation history, both past and future, must not be neglected. Vatican II terms these extremes "...the falsity of exaggeration...and the excess of narrow-mindedness" (Dogmatic Constitution of the Church, no. 67).

## Ark of the New Covenant

We first meet Mary in the bible as a young woman set apart by God, visited by the angel Gabriel who announced to

Mary that she was to be the mother of the Son of God, our Savior. Her role had, in fact, been foreshadowed in the Old Testament book of Genesis (Gen. 3:15). The prophet Isaiah referred to this momentous event and even prophesied his name to be Emmanuel (Is. 7:14). Matthew recounts the nativity as fulfillment of this prophecy (Mt. 1:22-23).

As Noah built and "captained" the ark of the Old Testament, keeping the remnants of God's creation alive and saved from the destruction of the Great Flood (the wrath of God), so, too, did Mary keep mankind "alive" by bearing Jesus in her womb. Her initial God-given role was to be the ark of the New Covenant, to bring Jesus into the lives of mankind in a new and special way. Because Mary (like Noah) responded to God's call in complete obedience and trusting faith, man could now see Jesus, touch Him, talk with Him, listen to Him, experience His power and holiness. Being human, we can better relate with Jesus, the Son, Whom we can see, than with God in heaven Whom we cannot see.

Mary's initial role was then expanded to include caring for Jesus in all the ways that a mother cares. She nourished Him materially, seeing that He had enough to eat, that He washed his face and hands before eating, doing all the things that we mothers do for our children. Mary also nourished Him spiritually by encouraging His faith in God, by teaching Him the values and virtues of goodness and godliness and observance of their religious practices. Is this in the bible? Luke 2:52 tells us that Jesus grew in wisdom and favor before God and man. And my mother's heart tells me that Mary, as His mother, was instrumental in this growth.

*Continued on page 14*



## MARY: HER ROLE IN OUR LIVES

From page 13

### Mary's Role as Intercessor

When Jesus began His ministry, Mary's role was given a new dimension. At Cana, as her Son was attending a wedding, she interceded for the celebrants in the matter of wine. And because of her quiet, simple faith in Him, Jesus heard and answered with His first miracle.

Certainly, Mary had a very special relationship with Jesus and this is what we Catholics rely on as we take our concerns and petitions to her. We do not pray to Mary as we do to God, rather we ask her to intercede for us with Jesus, believing that her special relationship with Jesus is effective in calling forth God's response to our needs.



We know that Jesus remains the one mediator between God and man (1 Tim. 1:15-16). He is the source of all God's grace and salvation. But we also learn in 1 Pt. 2:9 that He calls the faithful to share in his priesthood, a fact which author Alan Schreck (Catholic and Christian) says allows and enables us to pray to God for each other. We share in this work. Mary shares in this work. As she intercedes for us, she encourages us to look to Him, listen to Him, and obey Him. Even as she did at Cana, Mary directs our attention to her Son today as she appears to the faithful all over the world.

### Mary As Our Mother

Elizabeth, filled by the Holy Spirit, proclaimed to Mary in greeting, "Most blessed are you among women, and

blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?" (Luke 1:42-43) The Holy Spirit inspired her to recognize that Mary was to be the mother of God. And with this inspired proclamation, Mary's motherhood is presented to us in all its greatness.

But God was not just satisfied to put Mary apart from us as the mother of God. As Jesus, her Son, hung in agony on the cross, He gave Mary, His mother, as a mother to all the faithful, symbolized by John, "the disciple whom he loved." (Jn. 19:26-27) With this beautiful act of love, Mary became our mother ... if not physically, than our mother in faith, our spiritual mother.

We understand that nothing Mary does or can do in herself can give us salvation. But we recognize that because of her special relationship to Jesus and her "motherhood" to the faithful, we should respect and honor her. We also appreciate that part of Mary's greatness lies in her insistence that we understand and draw nearer in love and obedience to her Son Jesus.

How hurt Jesus must be as He hears and sees people ignoring His mother, downgrading His mother from her God-given roles, even insulting His mother! How would we feel if someone did the same to our human mother, who loved and raised us, cared for us and comforted us?

### Mary's Influence in My Life

Some years ago as I was reflecting on the role of Mary in my life which had gradually grown over the years as Fr. Murphy had foretold, I wrote down (as is my practice) a summary of my thoughts. These I would like to share with you as I feel that in a simple way, they put Mary's

role in our lives into clearer perspective.

Firstly, Mary responded to God's call willingly, trustingly and obediently. Do I respond to God's call in the same way?

Secondly, I should imitate Mary in her prayer life. As I tried to picture Mary during the early years of Jesus' childhood, during His ministry, death, and the stirrings of the early church, Mary is always in my mind's eye at prayer. She may be praying while working, praying whenever she can during the day, remaining in a prayerful attitude even in her sleep. And her prayers are mostly for others. How about my prayer life?



Thirdly, Mary was always present when she was needed. She accompanied Jesus during his ministry, she was at the foot of His cross, she waited with the disciples in the

Upper Room. Am I present when I am needed by my husband, by my children, by my friends?

And, lastly, Mary was a woman of great love, a love that reflected itself in her person, her simplicity, her holiness, her concern for others. Her overwhelming love for Jesus kept her near Him in spite of the great trials and sufferings she experienced. Her love was a love from the fullness of her heart, a caring love, a gentle love, a strong and victorious love. Will I ever be able to allow my heart to overflow with such a love as that of Mary?

Nancy R. Catan

*With you we rejoice  
and exult, we extol your  
love; it is beyond wine:  
how rightly you are  
loved!*

- Song of Songs 1:46



ONE  
LITTLE  
CANDLE

Gene Cordero  
Makati Chapter

The Blessed Virgin is a lady in all sense of the word. She is thrilled when we come and ask her to pray for us. And she expects us to honor our promises to her. This I learned during the 1986 February revolution . . .

Our residence is just a kilometer and a half away from Camp Crame and when the hostilities began, I could see in my mind a scenario of a savage bloodbath that would forever alter our nation's people and history. I thought of my children and fear and anxiety enveloped me as I pictured the worst. I was not a renewed Christian then and had no way of discerning that it was the evil one who was punching the fear entry keys into my mental diskette.

It was like drowning . . . wanting to be saved, to be assured from imminent danger. From our bedroom window, I could trace the outline of our garden grotto, something dear to my mother, that now after many years, stood unlit, unkept and unattended. I found myself going down to our grotto at 4:00 a.m. and beginning to pray, imploring the Blessed Mother to pray for the forgiveness of my sins and for a way out of the pending conflict.

Then, maybe out of desperation, a thought coming deep down within me which I can still recall with clarity made me say, "Dear

Mother, you are now our only hope for salvation . . . please save the innocents . . . You are the only one who can save your children who are now making a last stand at Camp Crame . . . please save them and I promise you that we shall always place a lighted candle at your grotto for the rest of our life . . ."

After these words I felt warm all over . . . and so safe and secure. The rest is what we know as history. When all was over I told my family of my pledge. We opted to have a light bulb installed at the grotto as it was more convenient to just flick the switch instead of going down to the yard

to light the candle, especially during rainy weather.

The second evening after the light bulb was installed, I discovered that the bulb was busted so I got a spare . . . solved! By midnight, I was surprised to see the grotto in darkness for the bulb was again busted. The next day I bought several spare bulbs and had a new electric line installed. But it was the same story, all the spare bulbs were used up in less than a week!

Then, I remembered my promise to the Virgin" . . ." that I shall light you a candle every day for the rest of our lives . . ." I had pledged a lighted candle and not a 220 light bulb bought at the hardware store. So we lay in a supply of candles and lighted one every night thereafter. The candles burned brightly, they did not go out!

It was already later when my wife and I joined the Brotherhood that I came to realize that it is the constant communion with the Blessed Virgin that is most important to her; the little act of devotion in lighting the candle rather than the unceremonious act of flicking a switch is to her the highest form of love and respect one can give.

I was unchivalrous, I had forgotten . . . the Blessed Virgin is a Lady . . . and aren't ladies always thrilled and more often swept off their feet by candle lit dinners than by dinner in a well-lighted restaurant? I am sure our Blessed Mother is no exception and that she is always thrilled when we light her a candle every evening.





# Qualification Standards for Candidates for Public Service

## Guidelines for Election/Appointment of Government Leaders

*Prepared by the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV) and by the Task Force on Responsible Voting of the Council of the Laity of the Philippines*

These guidelines are of four general categories: (A) PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES (What He/She is), (B) SERVICE AND PLATFORM (What He/She Stands For), (C) HIS/HER TRACK RECORD (What He/She Has Done), and (D) DISQUALIFICATIONS (What He/She Must Not Be).

To assist in helping you choose your candidates, each category has been given a percentage weight: 40% for A, 20% each for B, C, and D. Realistically, candidates need not rate a 100%, but certainly they should rate above a merely passing grade of 70%, with the one ranking the highest being the one to vote for.

### A. PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES

What he/she is.....40%

#### 1. Man/Woman of God.

This is a person who is above all committed to God's will, who lives the Gospel values (if Christian), who practices his religion faithfully (if non-Catholic or non-Christian). If he is a Muslim, he should follow the Koran faithfully. He or she is not materialistic and sexually promiscuous, but should be a person of strong moral character who can inspire others to be so, too.

#### 2. Service Oriented.

This candidate aspires for public office out of a genuine desire to serve with dedication and selflessness. He/she should show, through personal, family and work life and involvement in public and private associations, his/her disposition to service others unselfishly. This person seeks to use authority constructively, creatively -- to give life and not to

destroy, to heal and not to divide, to serve and not to be served.

#### 3. A Person of Peace, Justice and Love.

He/she is one who reconciles opposing views while maintaining his/her basic principles, who condemns violence and vice in no uncertain terms, but spares no effort in bringing back the wayward to the ways of peace and virtue. He/she dispenses justice for all by listening to all sides prior to conclusion and action, and shows detachment from excessive filial or personal relationships. This person is concerned with the swift and fair administration of justice and enforcement of the law and seeks to temper justice with love, avoiding alienation of the "other person."

#### 4. A Person of Integrity and Transparency.

This candidate is a person who is honest in all his ways, a person of integrity in thought, word and deed, thereby earning the respect and trust of others. His/her honesty and integrity characterize family and professional life, and private and public transactions. This transparency allows and encourages close scrutiny of all his/her acts and decisions.

#### 5. A Competent Person, A Man of Action.

He/she qualifies for the specific position he/she is seeking through academic/work experience and by way of a good mind which can easily grasp and analyze the essential points of a situation and come up with practical workable plans to address said situation. He/she can communicate effectively and has a sense of urgency in getting things done,

although tempering this with acting on the basis of facts and analysis of data. His/her leadership unfolds an aptitude for team effort and a strong sense of community.

### B. SERVICE AND PLATFORM

What he/she stands for . . . 20%

#### 1. Pro-Constitution, Pro-Democracy, Pro-Country.

This person upholds and is willing to defend the Philippine Constitution and democratic institutions at all costs, instilling in others love for country and inspiring them to work together for its development. He/she awakens in the citizenry that sense of nationhood and national pride which go beyond personal, family and regional bonds.

#### 2. Pro-Poor, Pro-People.

This candidate espouses unequivocally the cause of the poor and the underprivileged and animates others, through his/her words, works, witness, towards a commitment to share with and serve the poor, to live simply so that the poor may simply live and to work with and learn from the poor. He/she understands that ownership is not an absolute right but a privilege, a blessing to be utilized primarily for the common good and not just for personal gain.

#### 3. Pro-Life.

A firm believer in the primacy of life, he/she is against all practices of ending, shortening and/or preventing life and seeks to promote an uncompromising reverence for life through working for a society that does not glorify violence, sex, drugs and other forms of abuse to the dignity of human life. He/she concretely manifests his/her pro-life conviction by



working for the dismantling of structures that perpetuate such abuses.

#### 4. Pro-Church.

Whether Catholic or non-Catholic, this person maintains good relations with the Catholic Church in all areas called for and considers members of other religious groups as God's children, under the love of the same Father.

#### 5. Program of Government.

As a man/woman of vision, he/she integrates all the desired qualifications -- maka-tao, maka-bayan, maka-Diyos -- and translates these into a concrete plan of action. As a candidate for President, Governor, Mayor, he/she is guided by his/her vision in coming up with concrete plan of action/program of government considering major political economic and social issues. This plan of action/program of government is articulated in clear goals with necessary support projects and has a realistic and efficient timetable for results. This action plan must work for the empowerment of the people. This candidate must also have the ability to select a competent staff which can work as a team and which shares his/her vision and program of government.

### C. HIS/HER TRACK RECORD

What he/she has done . . . 20%

#### 1. A Tested Leader.

As a tested leader, he/she is one who is guided by all the qualifications herein mentioned, and whose performance is public and private involvements attest to his ability as a leader.

#### 2. He/She displays Good Judgment.

This person is capable of good judgment in sensitive positions, is sincere, open-minded, and has respect for the ideas of others. His/her work experience has presented his/her with difficult dilemmas and shows his/her exercise of good judgment.

#### 3. His/Her Life is A Testimony of His/Her Beliefs.

This person's life, career and lifestyle give clear testimony to what he/she is and what he/she stands for.

## 10 STEPS TOWARD SPIRITUAL MATURITY

*Salvador Estrada, Makati Chapter*

When is a person spiritually mature? I believe that this is when this person's values in life conform with Christ's values, when he lives fully aware of his, and God's, purpose for his creation and existence.

My 79 years of life have been highlighted by my attending the weekly Makati BCBP breakfast meetings for the last 11 years, where I have received continual inspiration to guide me in my spiritual journey, and my 13 years as a member of the Ligaya Ng Panginoon. Let me share with you some truths that I have found in my journey with the Lord.

1. Always remember: God is first; others in need second; yourself third.
2. Love God above all things, and your neighbor as Jesus loved us.
3. Do good and avoid evil.
4. Be guided in your life by Jesus's Golden Rule.
5. Your loyalty to Jesus must supersede all other loyalties.
6. You are a steward of God's resources -- be a good steward.

7. Let your work be a compliance with God's command to help Man survive, grow and develop.

8. Seek to know God and His Will by meditating daily on His Word.

9. Talk to God every day in A.C.T.S. and listen to Him every day.

10. Spread God's Word by deed but more by the witness of your life.

*How well are we fulfilling God's purpose for us?*

Have we ever really asked ourselves in all sincerity: What was God's purpose in creating us, in

bringing us into this existence from absolute nothingness to an existence without end? Did it ever occur to us that we have just 70 or 80 or so years, often less, to accomplish God's purpose in our pilgrimage on this earth? And, of course, the final query: how are we faring on our journey to spiritual maturity? How well are we fulfilling God's purpose for us?

*Condensed from Sal Estrada's sharing, Makati Men's Breakfast, December 1991*

### D. DISQUALIFICATIONS

What he/she must not be . . . 20%

#### 1. Graft and Corruption.

Graft and corruption should not be evident in his/her life as shown by his/her dishonesty and unexplained wealth.

#### 2. Vices.

His/her life should be free of vices as evidenced by shady deals, extravagant spending, riotous living, gambling, womanizing, excessive drinking.

#### 3. Power Hungry.

Avoid candidates who are overly ambitious for power and wealth, who prac-

tice nepotism and/or favoritism.

#### 4. "Yes Man".

The "Yes Man" cannot take a stand or be committed to a cause; he/she looks for the convenient or expedient ways to get things done.

#### 5. 3 G's.

This candidate has a record or reputation for using guns, goons and gold in the electoral processes or in his/her work.

\*\* In "D", Nos. 1 and 5 totally disqualify a candidate!

**VOTE WISELY!**



## **PINOY MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUE ROOTED IN SCRIPTURE**

Lorenzo Judan, BCBP Quezon City, a management practitioner, has evolved a process for Pinoy problem solving and decision making called the GDK technique. GDK stands for "Gusto, Dapat, Kaya". His technique takes the factors of motive, role and power that come from graft and corruption, self-interest, crime, disobedience, poverty and debt and turn them into commitments toward renewal, reform and empowerment.

His vision and ideally the Pinoy's vision are then transformed into the

values of "Malasakit" - integrity, honesty and common good, "Pakikisama" - discipline, professionalism, peace and order, and "Lakas Loob" - self-confidence, competence and sufficiency.

Judan says that the format and content of the GDK technique are designed to reinforce traditional Filipino values and are rooted in the biblical message which commands: "You shall LOVE...with all your HEART . . . . MIND and . . . . STRENGTH."

### **'MALASAKIT'**

Lorenzo A. Judan

#### **ONCE UPON A TIME, in a FAMILY:**

A Mother gives birth to a Child. Both Parents recognize their image in the Child. With self-sacrifice and "MALASAKIT" they struggle to provide for the Child's needs : home, guidance and livelihood. Gradually, the Child learns to respond and reciprocate with "UTANG NA LOOB" by way of becoming obedient and disciplined. Later, this Child becomes a Big Brother to a younger sister. The Big Brother socializes with a flexible "PAKIKISAMA" reflecting "MALASAKIT" for the younger sister and also "UTANG NA LOOB" for the Parents. As a result, there is peace and excellence in the family.

#### **ONCE UPON A TIME, in a COMPANY (ORGANIZATION) :**

An Employer/Manager gives job to an Employee. Knowing how to apply "getting things done through people", the Manager realizes the importance of the Employee. With proper concern for people and "MALASAKIT", the Manager thus prepares for Employee's needs : working conditions, leadership and compensation. In response, the Employee reciprocate with "UTANG NA LOOB" by way of pursuing productivity with discipline and loyal service. Later, the Employee is promoted to Supervisor. He becomes the bridge between the Manager and lower employees (Labor) by exercising positive "PAKIKISAMA" rooted in "MALASAKIT" for employees and "UTANG NA LOOB" for upper management. With such harmonious relationship, the organization enjoys lasting peace and excellence, indicated by stable productivity.

#### **ONCE UPON A TIME, in the PHILIPPINES (Country)**

The government promulgates the rights of every citizen. The elected officials see their source of power and authority in the citizenry. With nationalistic "MALASAKIT", they dedicate themselves to genuine public service covering social services, economic recovery, infrastructures and related activities. In response to government's sincerity, the citizenry shows their popular "UTANG NA LOOB" and vote of confidence to government officials concerned. Other elected officials are expected to demonstrate positive "PAKIKISAMA" by extending "MALASAKIT" to the masses and "UTANG NA LOOB" to top government officials. In this way, there is lasting peace and excellence for the nation.

### **FROM THE MANAGER'S FILE**

#### **How Much Is A Customer Worth?**

Add up all the purchases the customer makes from you in one year.

Total your profit on those purchases.

Multiply the total by the number of years the customer is likely to be buying from you.

The result is what your business would lose if you lose that customer.

#### **Breaking A Bad Habit**

Substitute your bad habit with a good one. The key to remember is that it takes from five to 21 days to replace the bad habit with a good one. Identify one bad habit - like biting your fingernails - then choose a good habit - like smiling - to replace it. Start today to fashion a new YOU!

#### **How To Improve Your Memory**

1. Stop saying that your memory is slipping with age. It might start believing you.
2. Stay mentally active by reading books, studying and discussing complex issues.
3. Be curious and enthusiastic about learning new things.
4. Avoid watching too much television. It only dulls your thinking processes.
5. Ask to have names repeated, spelled or written out. Link the name to something easy for you to remember.
6. Don't neglect those classic aids to managerial memory: the daily calendar, the note pad near the telephone, and your secretary.

*Adapted from various issues of World Executive's Digest.*



AN ENTREPRENEURIAL DECISION

Lito and Inday are faced with the need to look for additional sources of income as their family with three young children plus Inday's mother is having increasing difficulty making ends meet on Lito's salary as a supervisor in a small auto repair shop. Inday is a good cook and wants to put up a restaurant or perhaps manage a fast-foods franchise in a nearby shopping center. Lito has long wanted to have his own repair shop and seems to favor trying to borrow money to start up his own business in his garage in their middle class subdivision.

You are their action group leader and they come to you for advice. How would you advise them?

Some Scripture Passages: Eccl. 5:13-17; Luke 14:28-30; Phil. 2:3-4; 1 Tim. 6:9-11; Prov. 24:3,4; Eccl. 7:14; Prov. 3:9-10; Prov. 16:11; Prov. 13:11; Eccl. 5:19-20; Romans 13:7-8.

*Note: This business case is the fourth in a continuing series that deals with moral and ethical dilemmas a BCBP member might meet in his marketplace. 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*

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**DECISION-MAKING:**  
Lateral Thinking

A powerful Arab sheik lost one of his horses during a long desert journey. To replenish his caravan, he directed his subalterns to requisition a good horse from the next town. Finally, two horses were brought to him, accompanied by two reluctant owners who didn't like the idea of losing their horses, both arguing that their horses were too old and too weak to meet the sheik's high standards.

"Very well, then, let's race them," the sheik decreed, "and I'll take the winner."

"But Your Highness," whispered a subaltern, "we won't find out which horse is faster, because their owners will not push them to win."

"Ah, but they will," smiled the sheik. "Order each man to ride the other man's horse!"

Wealth is...

...a good servant but a bad master.  
HENRY G. BOHN

...a universal passport to everywhere except heaven and a universal provider of everything except happiness.  
WALL STREET JOURNAL

...a blessing that is of no advantage to us excepting when we part with it.  
AMEROSSE BERCE

...the sixth sense which enables you to enjoy the other five.  
WILLIAM SOMERSET MAUGHAM

...not an end of life, but an instrument of life.  
HENRY WARD BEECHER



## ONE MINUTE MEDITATIONS

*Fernando de Larrazabal*  
BCBP Exec. Director

(1)

*"We shall all stand before the judgment seat of God; each one shall give an account of himself to God." (Rom. 14:10)*

Open up any newspaper and there staring at you is someone's tragic death. It could be a child, a young person, or someone who already had one foot in the grave. Death is no respecter of age, nationality or creed. If you dwell on this subject long enough, the matter of your own future life will surely come up. You will die, it may be anytime during the next few days or a hundred years from now, but surely you will die.

I remember a saying that comes to mind, "Only death gives you the right perspective on life." How very true. It is in the awareness of death that our inspirations of life should be considered. We should bring to focus the consequence of the life we presently lead. God will judge us by how we have lived this life.

We all buy insurance to protect our family, our homes and maybe our place of work, but rarely do we invest or pay the premiums to protect our own eternal life. A day will come when you will stand before the judgment seat of God and give an account of your life. Are you ready now if this should happen today? Think again!

(2)

*"It is not those who say to me, 'Lord, Lord', who will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father." (Mt. 7:21,22)*

Quite a few Christians believe that the acceptance and acknowledgement that Jesus is Lord is sufficient to be saved. They must remember that Judas, one of the twelve apostles, not only acknowledged and believed in the lordship of Christ but also was by his side learning and working with him. At the end he



*Have you forgiven  
those who have  
hurt you?*

### LORD, REMEMBER THE MEN OF EVIL

*A Prayer Written on the Wall of a Nazi Concentration Camp*

*O Lord, when I shall come with glory into your kingdom  
do not remember only the men of goodwill,  
remember also the men of evil.*

*May they be remembered not only for their acts of cruelty (in this camp),  
the evil they have done to us (prisoners),  
but balance against their cruelty  
the fruits we have reaped under the stress and in the pain:*

*the comradeship, the courage,  
the greatness of heart,  
the humility and patience*

*which have been born in us and become part of our lives,  
because we have suffered at their hands.*

*May the memory of us not be a nightmare to them  
when they stand in judgement.*

*May all that we have suffered be acceptable to you  
as a ransom for them.*



turned traitor and sold Jesus for thirty pieces of silver. Personal ambitions changed him.

Acceptance of the lordship of Jesus requires doing the will of the Father. Doing the will of the Father is not a one-shot affirmation but a way of life. You will be tested time and time again and each time will be a choice of doing your will or the will of the Father.

The idea that Jesus died once for all for our sins, in no way gives us a license to continue to sin and hope to be saved

simply because we have accepted and acknowledged the lordship of Christ. The only assurance of salvation is to live by the standards and teachings of Jesus Christ all throughout your lifetime.

*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.*



## THE TWO CALVARIES

A Lenten Meditation by Fr. Guido Arguelles

CALVARY is attractively relevant today - especially today. The shadow of the Cross looms evermore persistently midst the neon lights of our cities...

The city of man cannot quite dissociate itself with the Christ of Calvary.

The city of man is the new site of Calvary - of many calvaries - of two calvaries:

The Calvary without Christ

and

The Calvary with Christ

### THE CALVARY WITHOUT CHRIST:

- the calvary of pleasure that produces nausea.
- the calvary of materialism that produces emptiness.
- the calvary of sex that satiates without satisfying.
- the calvary of noise and sounds that creates hollowness in the heart.
- the calvary of the neutron bomb that is supposed to hold off war but threatens the lives of all.
- the calvary of progress that is progress only for those who benefit from it, not those unjustly exploited.
- the calvary of the crowd that only punctuates the loneliness of each person.
- the calvary of action that does not spring from prayer.
- the calvary of prayer that falls short of action.
- the calvary of hard drinks that leaves the soul dry.

To all these calvaries, Christ offers his own:

### THE CALVARY WITH CHRIST:

- the calvary of asceticism that makes man inwardly free.
- the calvary of life in the spirit that produces a longing to be

with Him.

- the calvary of purity that enables one to live in love.
- the calvary of weakness that serves as the basis for community.
- the calvary of non-violence that wears down its foes.
- the calvary of insight that one must bear in loneliness.
- the calvary of solitude that results in an all-encompassing community.
- the calvary of prayer that becomes a divine restlessness to do something for Christ.
- the calvary of parents' love that is unrequited by the children.
- the calvary of action that creates a hunger for prayer.
- the calvary of prophet's voice unheard and unheeded in the wilderness of sin and greed.



Thus - Calvary is not a choice between having it or not having it.

It is rather a choice of crucifixion without Christ or crucifixion with Christ. But crucifixion there will be.

There is a calvary for those who accept the cross.

There is an even greater calvary for those who reject it.

By all means - to be crucified but with Christ -- and thus be crucified unto salvation.

Or insist on being crucified without Christ and thus be crucified unto damnation.

The world -- Popes and Bishops, Presidents and Kings, husband and wife, children and parents, capitalists and

laborers, communists and socialists, black and white, Easterner and Westerner -- all of us are thus faced with a question that is also an answer:

Will you choose to be crucified with Christ or without Him?

Remember: The painful solution you refuse to accept TODAY will become the pain without a solution tomorrow.



## Evangelists of the South . . .

from page 34

out the wide windows and see the rolling landscape of the Alabang golf course, you could as well be at the Metro Club. Except that everyone was in casual attire, unlike at Metro Club where almost everyone was formally dressed for the office. The only exception at Alabang was the sharer, who was almost always in barong.

But with "free spirit" emcees like George Najar and especially Rey Datu, the Alabang breakfast soon started to innovate and improvise, in the process acquiring a special ambiance of its own. This did not go unnoticed by the elders at Central. Soon we in Alabang were being referred to as the "deep South" of the BCBP with all its historical implications.

Among our more conspicuous regulars at Alabang during those early days was former Vice President Emmanuel Pelaez. Before Alabang, he had also been a regular at the Greenhills breakfast. But he had just moved into his new home at Ayala Alabang so the Alabang breakfast became his new "watering hole."



### Introducing The Kapihan And Christ Acts

The year 1985 was a pivotal year for the country under martial law. Public opinion was being crystallized and polarized as never before under the Marcos regime through various fora, one of which was euphemistically, albeit appropriately enough, called "kapihans."

With Manny Pelaez as the moving spirit, the Alabang breakfast soon doubled up as a "kapihan" of sorts. But

first Pete Padre made sure to draw a dividing line between the breakfast and the kapihan. The breakfast had first to be officially closed, and the final hymn sung. Then the brothers were free to move out to the veranda for the kapihan. The majority of the brothers usually stayed on for coffee and talk.



The Alabang kapihan spawned the birth of ChristActs, acronym for "Christians in Action." This was during the height of the Negros famine in 1984-85. The brothers in Alabang wanted to do something, but the BCBP at that time was not geared for such

organized social action. So the brothers organized the ChristActs Foundation with Manny Pelaez as chairman. Relief goods were collected and brought to Negros by a team of Alabang brothers. ChristActs later also become involved in Smokey Mountain in Tondo through Father Ben Beltran, SVD, who was then an Alabang breakfast regular.

### Other Activities Flourished

When the Dagupan Brotherhood

breakfast was started with Manny Pelaez as the inaugural sharer, the Alabang brothers chartered a bus and joined Manny for the trip up north. The trip was made memorable by an incident in Car-

men, Pangasinan. Our bus was following a huge crane as we crawled along a detour road to a temporary bailey bridge (the Carmen bridge had been partly washed away during a recent typhoon). Just a few meters before the bridge, our driver suddenly swerved to overtake the crane and made it to the bridge ahead of the crane. We thought then it was a somewhat risky and unnecessary move by the driver.

But when we reached the other side of the river, we looked back and saw that the crane was stuck in the middle of the bridge, which had partly collapsed from the weight of the crane. We immediately saw the hand of God. Traffic came to a standstill on both sides of the bridge, which remained impassable for several days afterwards until the crane was towed out. Had our driver, in a moment of inspiration, not made the "unnecessary" move to overtake the crane, we would surely have gotten stuck on the bridge ourselves. Needless to say, we took another route back to Manila that evening.

During its early years, the Alabang breakfast had two "blockbuster" affairs that packed the grand ballroom of the

*continued on page 23*



## Evangelists of the South . . .

from page 22

Alabang Country Club.

The first was shortly after the EDSA revolution when we had then General Fidel Ramos as guest sharer. At that time, this was a big "no, no" in the Brotherhood. The strict standing rule then was that only brothers who had taken the CLP and were active members of the Brotherhood or its "Partners in Mission" could be invited to share at the BCBP breakfasts. Alabang, however, stood true to its "deep South" reputation. That rule has since been allowed to fade into history.

The second big affair was a testimonial for Manny Pelaez after his appointment as Philippine ambassador to the United States. This was done in the best tradition of "honoring" which is very much a part of the Brotherhood culture.

## Now A Full-Grown Tree

In mid-1987, the BCBP leadership decided that the time had come for Alabang to be finally made into a full chapter. The breakfast was healthy and alive, averaging 100 brothers every Saturday. After serving the Alabang breakfast its first head for three years, Pete Padre turned over the breakfast leadership to Rey Datu.

Benjie Montemayor was designated head of the newly constituted South Chapter. At this time the chapter engaged in the expansion of membership through CLP's while at the same time devoting time in the organization of service ministries to attend to its growing needs.

In 1988 Romy Encarnacion took over as chapter head giving Benjie time for his other responsibilities in community. The chapter now had three large units, each unit having a minimum of five action groups each. At this time Fr. Herb

*Continued on page 25*

# OUR MILLION PESO BABY!

Joe Ferreria, Makati Chapter

Who can ever outdo the Lord in his generosity! In July of this year (1991) He gave me and my wife a P1,000,000 American baby boy!

In June my wife, my mother-in-law and I planned to travel to the United States where my wife and I would attend an important business conference in New Orleans. Nannette was only six and a half months pregnant at that time; all our four children had been full termers and so we felt it safe for her to travel.

Space in the KAPATIRAN does not permit me to detail the exciting story of our travel preparations. In brief, we were initially denied U.S. visas and had to reapply complete with two bags of documents; we were granted single entry visas after my wife reasoned with the consul for one hour.

As if being denied and going through that emotional stress was not enough, Mt. Pinatubo erupted the week of our departure. A mountain of ash closed down the airport and we went back and forth to the airlines office begging to be booked on the first plane out. On the 23rd of June we were listed as chance passengers and had to wait for seven hours from 10:00 in the evening in the airport which was, by then, a total disaster area of sweating, angry passengers and testy airline employees.

When we were finally ready to board, we were handed our boarding passes and passports. The passes were complete, but my mother-in-law's passport was missing. Mayhem broke loose. The airline manager was called in and tempers shortened. One of my companions located the missing passport under the computer terminal five minutes before the plane was scheduled to take-off.

As the plane was delayed, we did not have any layover in Japan for my wife to rest. We had to continue on for another 17 hours to the U.S. Nannette began to



complain of contractions early during the flight; I began to pray as they became more frequent. 30 minutes out of Los Angeles I told the stewardess that the contractions were frequent and regular. The pilot radioed the tower and when we touched down, an immigration and quarantine officer came on board to process our documents. Two paramedics from 911 were with them and in a matter of minutes we were off to the nearest hospital in downtown L.A.

By 2:00 p.m. four hours later, the contractions subsided and the doctors told us that we could continue onwards to New Orleans. Since our connecting flight was at 1:00 a.m. the next morning, we proceeded to the airport and waited. By 10:40 that evening the contractions started up again! I was already at my wits end. I had not slept for almost two days. I was worried sick. I felt like I have offended God so severely that He does not listen to me anymore. I never felt so alone in my life. The only thing that kept me going was my wife whispering to me to "pray to the Lord...to pray to the Lord

*Continued on page 24*



## Our Million Peso Baby . . . from page 23

with all my heart."

What do you do in a foreign country, in the middle of the night with nobody around willing to help? You pray. And I did. The thought came to me to call 911, just like they do in the T.V. program. The paramedics arrived in less than five minutes - 10 of them, including 6 firemen! One of the paramedics, when he saw us, said, "I just brought you to the hospital this morning, and here we are again on the same trip. Just make sure you don't do this again tomorrow, okay?"

Nannette gave birth to Joshua, a four pound baby boy, as soon as she reached the hospital.

Like most Filipinos, the first question that comes to mind is "How much?" The doctors said \$3,000 for the delivery and approximately \$1,000 a day for the baby. Joshua, born prematurely, was supposed to stay in the hospital for the next two months.

"Lord," I said to myself, "what did I get

myself into? Where will I get the \$30,000 to \$40,000 to pay the hospital?"

God works in mysterious ways, and true enough, He does! A friend of mine once told me, "God is never early, God is never late, He is always on time - His time, not our time."

God tests our willingness to turn to him in time of trouble. He never abandons us, instead we often are the ones who abandon him by relying on our own abilities to get ourselves out of problems. God is faithful in spite of our unfaithfulness. He is a loving God Who pours blessings upon blessings from the heavens.

My son stayed in the United States with Nannette for two months. Most of that time he was in the hospital being cared for in the best possible way. He had to overcome irregular breathing spells and a heart murmur. He gained weight steadily and was discharged from the hospital with a staggering medical bill of \$30,000 or almost a million pesos.

But God came to our rescue! A social worker came to us to inform us that only

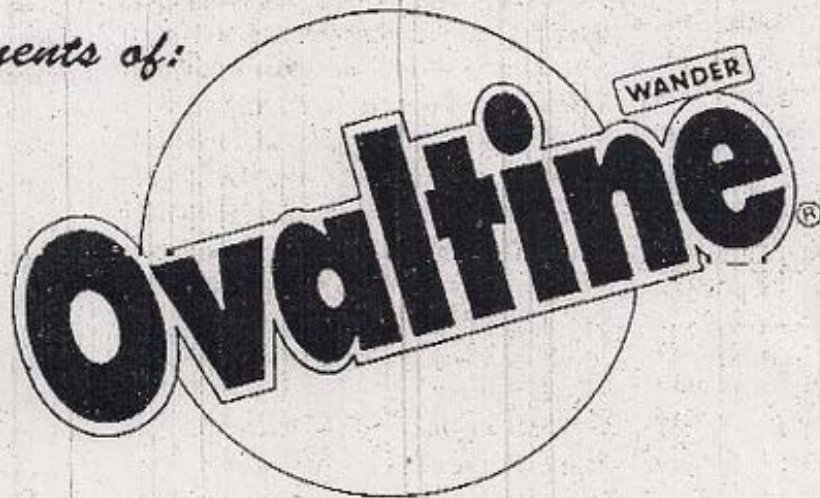
last April 5 a new law took effect in the state of California providing that any emergency childbirth would be covered by medical benefits provided by the state. All our medical bills, professional fees of the doctors and hospital bills were paid in full by the state of California!

As if this blessing was not enough, I traveled with my wife to Michigan where my relatives and sister reside. They brought us to big shopping centers and paid for everything that we wanted to buy to the point that I was already embarrassed by their generosity. We brought back nine balikbayan boxes filled with gifts from these relatives that I had not seen for more than 10 years.

How can you ever outdo the Lord in His faithfulness, in His love and in His blessings! There is no problem yet conceived that God cannot help us with if we only learn to turn to Him in our times of distress. I can only praise His greatness forever!

*Psalm 111*

*Compliments of:*



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**Evangelists . . . from page 23**

Schneider, the BCBP's spiritual director, called the Brotherhood to a period of discernment to really seek from the Lord His will on the mission and thrust of the Brotherhood. The South chapter played a major role in the formulation of the process and the questionnaires to make the discernment orderly and effective.

The discernment process confirmed the mission of the Brotherhood of "bringing Christ to the marketplace" and led to the creation of a two-pronged functional direction for the BCBP chapters with the responsibility for community care under the chapter head and evangelization activities under a mission director.

**Bearing Fruit**

The South chapter, or Alabang chapter as it was sometimes called, took off with the fire of the Spirit. The initial mission team led by Louie Morales, Rey Datu and Jimmy Castro laid out a plan that saw the Brotherhood almost simultaneously opening up breakfasts and CLPs in Cebu, Bacolod, Tarlac, Puerto Princesa, and Malacanang. Special CLPs for business groups like the Asian Institute of Management, Philippine Advertising Counselors and the Media were held.

After the South chapter's CLP 13, there were five units and service groups that were "veterans" in proclaiming Christ in the marketplace and in bringing the Brotherhood to some national prominence. At this time Romy had to take a foreign assignment and Louie Morales was tasked with the responsibility of taking care of the chapter on the fast track.

The work of the Alabang brothers continued to be blessed by the Spirit as the outreaches continued to grow with the Lord and, following the example of their evangelizing "mother" chapter, began to conduct their own CLPs, BCMRs and Men's and Ladies' Breakfasts.

The South chapter under the guidance and direction of the Brotherhood's ExCom began the preparations for the spin-off of a new chapter, the Las Pinas chapter. This split would provide for better management and growth opportunities for members of both of the chapters. The new chapter would be headed by Manny Banigan. With this split the South chapter would now be known as the Alabang Chapter.

**Evangelism Within And Without**

The evangelists of the south, the Alabang chapter, continued to introduce innovations, this time in the community life of the Brotherhood. They began formation programs for children, youth and parents. They also streamlined their teaching tracts. Simultaneously the chapter continued to reach out to evangelize businesses and the marketplace.

The Alabang chapter stands for so many things to so many of its members and the hundreds of brothers and sisters that they have reached. Like John the Baptist, the Alabang chapter brings Christ's message to the "wilderness" and prepares the way for the Lord. The Alabang brothers and sisters believe that "it is impossible for us not to speak about what we have seen and heard" (Acts 4:20) and so they look forward to proclaiming the Good News as dedicated evangelists of the Lord and the BCBP throughout the southern Philippines.



*The Quezon City chapter governance body held a family Christmas party at chapter head Benjie Quinto's residence during the holidays. In a rare moment, the children all quieted down long enough for a picture-taking session.*

**Iloilo . . . from page 1**

Amor Ramos, Michelle and Glo Villaraza as discussion group leaders and Roland Yulo as head of the music ministry. The CLP No. 1 will end on February 15.

September 1991 marked the start of the weekly trips made by Iloilo Coordinator Tony Garcia and his team, having been given the mission to conduct a survey and start the breakfast in

Iloilo. For the next one and a half months, they contacted and met those who responded to the invitation to assist the Bacolod brothers in organizing the breakfast.

Permission was also given by Archbishop Piamonte, not only to start the breakfast, but for the eventual conduct of Christian Life Programs.

Those brothers and sisters serving as speakers and sharers in the breakfasts and the first CLP include Alabang chapter head Louie and Lilli Morales, BCBP Exec. Dir. Fernando de Larrazabal, Jess and Nelly Sayoc, Archie Inlong, and Willie and Tess Vergara of Alabang; from Bacolod Digoy Montalvo, Art Legarde and Ray Garcia will handle some of the talks. Ferdie and Jo Baena from Alabang were the first sharers in Iloilo's first joint breakfast on Dec. 14.



*Louie and Lilli Morales chat with some of Iloilo's CLP 1 participants while waiting for the session to begin.*



New Evangelization

# WHY CHURCH?

Tita O. Cerdania, Alabang Chapter

In the last three articles, we shared, in layman's terms, what the Good News is, what is this new life (eternal life) that it brings about, and why it is imperative for us to share it with others. In this part four, we present the logical progression of evangelism from ourselves into the Body of Christ, into the Church.

## Implantation of the Church

If I had a glass of water and I shared half of it with you, naturally I'm out half a glass of water. But when I share the Good News, something wonderful happens: I don't lose anything; on the contrary, I gain something, or, more accurately, I gain someone. The beginning of "Church".

This is actually what happened with the very first proclamation of the kerygma (the Good News as originally proclaimed by the Apostles). Remember the scene? The first Pentecost - apostles and disciples fearfully huddled in the Upper Room obediently waiting for the descent of the Holy Spirit which Jesus had promised them - the tongues of fire - the transformation of Peter into a powerful speaker - his thundering proclamation of Jesus, crucified and risen, as Lord and Christ - the conversion of 3,000. (Acts 1, 2)

And thus the Catholic Church celebrates its own birthday on Pentecost. As we see in Acts 2, its birth was ushered in by the proclamation of the kerygma by the Apostles (rooted in the initial evan-

gelizing activity of Jesus). Conversion comes first of all from hearing and the Church is the "normal, desired, most immediate and most visible fruit of this (evangelizing) activity...linked to evangelization in her most intimate being." (Evangelii Nuntiandi #15).

## What is Church?

Let us not confuse the "sambahan" (building) with "simbahan or sambayanan" (People of God). The Second Plenary Council of the Philippines



defines Church as a "community of disciples". The Roman Catholic definition of Church: "All baptized persons, united in the same true faith, the same true sacrifice, and the same true sacraments, under the visible Head who is the Pope, in communion with all bishops and priests, with Christ as its Invisible Head." Thus, the Church is the "visible sacrament (sign)" of Christ's presence here on earth.

We now see the link between the evangelizing activity and the implantation of the Church.

## What is Catholic Evangelization?

Catholic evangelization is a process which begins with the initial conversion to Jesus Christ.

*"For in its totality, evangelization - over and above the preaching of a message, consists in the implantation of the Church, which does not exist without the driving force which is the sacramental life culminating in the Eucharist." (Evangelii Nuntiandi #28)*

In this respect, Catholic evangelization is a far cry from the "God and me only" evangelization of others. Catholics evangelize individuals always in the context of the Church. Take our Christian Life Programs in the BCBP, for instance. We, or rather, God through us invite individuals into our evangelization program called the CLP, not just to establish a relationship with them individually, but with the end in view of inviting them into our community, the BCBP, which is a branch of the bigger community, the Church. We put individuals into the right relationship with God so that they can in turn be in the right relationship with others. As one Christian writer puts it, "true sanctity always reaches out to others."

What he is saying is that if all is right between God and me, "God will always send me to you." And as shown in Acts 2:37 ff., this personal proclamation of the Good News is followed by baptism, i.e. the sacrament, therefore Church.

In the program I am involved in, the Catholic Lay Evangelization Program (CLAYE), emphasis is on personal follow-up of every person evangelized. A follow-up mechanism is built into the program. As far as the Catholic evan-

Continued on page 27



gelizer is concerned, his task is not complete until the person evangelized is safely in the hands of the community or Church, where the pastoring and nurturing process begins in earnest. In the words of St. Paul,

*"I did the planting, Apollos did the watering, but God made things grow. Neither the planter nor the waterer matters, only God..." (1 Cor. 3:6-7)*

Cardinal Jaime L. Sin puts it more colorfully: He calls the evangelizers the "Marines of the Catholic Church who make the first assault, followed by the army of catechists and other formators." This is faithful to the process in Scripture.

Let us look at the initial 3,000 converts again (Acts 2:42 ff). After their baptism, they formed a community, broke bread, prayed, shared together. No "lone ranger" Christians were they; they were a community --- Church! And because of their witness, they in turn brought others to Christ.

## The Evangelization Process

Catholic evangelization is faithful to this same basic process as initiated in the early Church: conversion leading to incorporation into the Body.

The conversion process consists of direct witnessing and faith experiences that lead people to a personal encounter with the Lord. Peter started it on Pentecost. Today we have person-to-person evangelization, Life in the Spirit seminars, Christian Life Programs, retreats, Marriage Encounters, etc., where an individual is led to experience God in a very real and personal way.

The second part of the conversion process are regular teachings. No matter how many CLPs we attend, the experience will die a natural death unless regular teachings and deepening are received, which can either be accepted or rejected.

Thirdly, the conversion process provides living out mechanisms through which the newly-evangelized person is able to actualize his conversion experience. Hence a proper environment

*"Evangelizers are the Marines of the Catholic Church who make the first assault, followed by the army of catechists and other formators."*

*- Cardinal Jaime L. Sin*

should be available where he can get the necessary support and pastoring.

## Incorporation Into The Body

The fourth step in the evangelization-conversion process is to enter the Body, the Community or Church. For most Catholics their faith life begins here. It is not too farfetched to say that most of our Catholics are evangelized to the Church, not to Christ.

Fifthly, sacraments, more teachings and pastoring inject the life-blood from the Church, the Body, into the new Christian to enable him to grow into full maturity.

Lastly, in the Catholic evangelization process, the evangelizer becomes evangelized. The fully mature Christian is now capable of direct witnessing and bringing others to their own Jesus or Faith Experience (Step #1) and the cycle continues.

In short, new evangelization is supplying the missing link (Steps #1 to #3).

## Are We Dieting Catholics?

Catholic evangelization is rooted in these basic convictions:

- 1) We cannot claim to love Christ but not the Church;
- 2) We cannot claim to listen to Christ

but not the Church;

3. We cannot claim to belong to Christ, but outside the Church. (See Evangelii Nuntiandi #16)

Our authority for this is Jesus Himself, who said, addressing His disciples:

*"Anyone who listens to you listens to me; anyone who rejects you, rejects me, and those who reject me reject the one who sent me." (Lk. 10:16).*

This was further underscored by St. Paul: *"Christ loved the Church and sacrificed Himself for Her." (Eph. 5:25).*

This should give our so-called "smorgasbord Catholics" pause. These are the ones who just pick the morsels they like from the heavenly banquet of doctrinal truths, dogmas, traditions, sacraments, rituals, etc. that the Lord continues to spread before us in His Church, and reject the rest.

Christ is the Head, we are the Body. I certainly can't see myself serving a decapitated Christ, choosing either just the Head (like those who call themselves "Just Christians") or just the Body (unfortunately, most of our Catholics are evangelized only to the Church). We have an "all or nothing" God (see Mt. 12:30, Mk. 9:49, Lk. 9:50, Rev. 3:16-17). Let us not make the error, though, of thinking we are better than other Christians. Imagine two men each with a TV set: one could only pick up one station; the other was capable of picking up all the stations around. The first made full use of his one station. The other, with all that capability, stayed glued to only one, rejecting the others. The Bible-only Christian, or the Rosary-praying, novenas-only Catholic?

The Lord tells us, *"I came that you may have life and have it to the full" (Jn. 10:10).* Do we reply, "Thanks, Lord, but I'm on a diet!"

*This article is part 4 in a series. 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.*



Top:

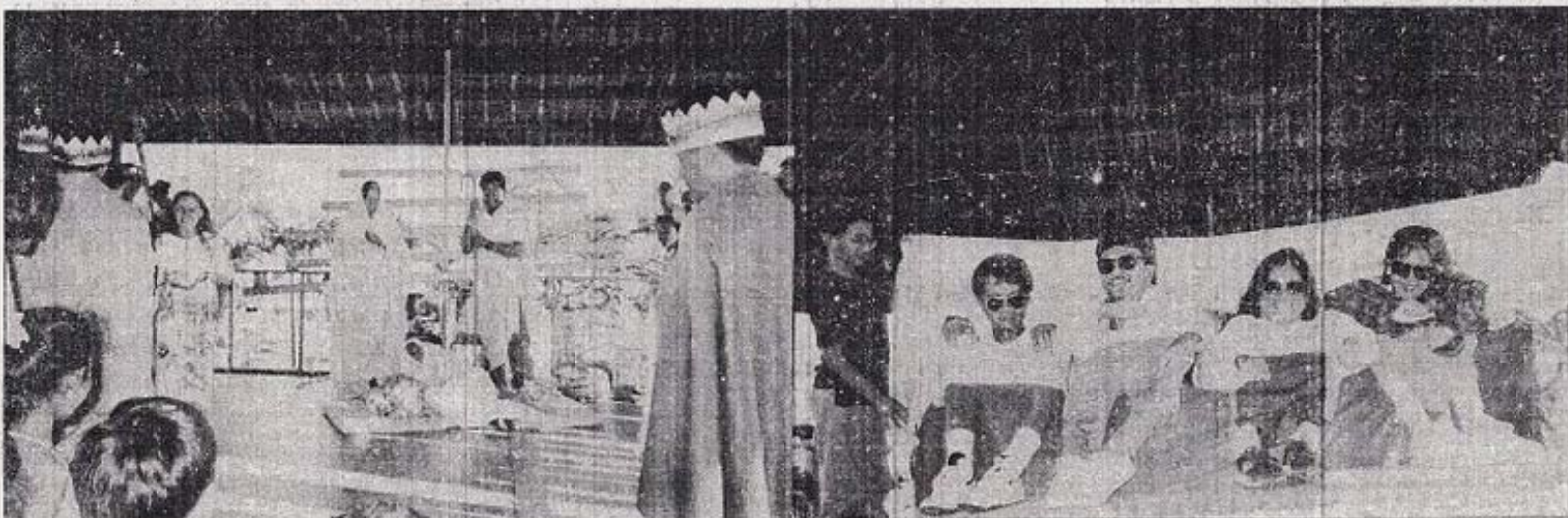
The Las Pinas chapter's governance body held a weekend planning conference last November 8 to 10 at the Development Academy of the Philippines in Tagaytay. Chapter head Manny Banigan, back to camera, is shown setting the goals during one of the sessions.

Bottom:

Mission accomplished! The L.P. governance group is all smiles as they complete their planning weekend.



The Las Pinas chapter members had a day of fun and frolics as they observed their chapter's combined Family Day and Christmas Party at Nasyon Pilipino on Nov. 30, 1991. Shown in the pictures are a nativity skit and a game/skit/? (picture unlabeled!).



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*A Las Pinas couple renew their vows before God during solemn ceremonies held during the Las Pinas chapter's BCMR, Dec. 13-15, 1991, at Betania Retreat House, Tagaytay.*

## LAS PINAS MONITOR

### Las Pinas CLP No. 19

The Las Pinas Chapter's opening salvo for 1992 was the launching of its Christian Life Program No. 19 which started formally on January 18, at the Alabang Country Club. This is the second CLP organized and conducted by the chapter as an independent unit in the BCBP.

CLP course leaders Milo and Jojo Panlilio are assisted by Frank and Marissa Nuguid. They are supported by head servants Boy and Marilu Martirez. Spiritual protection is assured through the intercessory group headed by Rudy and Puri Eco.

As an innovation to this entry-point exercise, the chapter plans to conduct the Commitment Rites of the CLP graduates only after they have completed all the culture talks that usually follow the CLP.

### BCMR for 18 Couples

Frank and Marissa Nuguid were also quite busy by end of last year when they headed a BCMR for the new generation of chapter members. The retreat was held at the Betania Retreat House in Tagaytay from 13 to 15 December 1991. Eighteen couples graduated from this exercise mostly from graduates of CLP 17. A number of graduates came from earlier CLPS, too.

### Reorganization In Process

Pursuant to the results of its planning conference last November 8-10, 1991, the chapter has started reorganizing its



*The happy couples pose for a souvenir picture after the "Renewal Mass", BCMR, Las Pinas chapter.*

various ministries and service units. Although the chapter does not envision any major "out-of-town" evangelization project for the year, this reorganization effort is deemed necessary in order to address the steadily expanding needs of the young organization.

### Las Pinas Music Ministry Schedule

The chapter's Music Ministry has slated Thursday evenings for its regular practice. Temporary venue is Romy and Nel Oller's residence in Banuyo, San Antonio Village, Makati.

### Palawan CLP

The Palawan Outreach plans to launch a fund raising project by mid-February in order to partly finance another CLP scheduled for March this year.

### CHAPTER SERVICE ASSIGNMENTS

February	Las Pinas
March	Alabang
April	Greenhills
May	Makati
June	Quezon City

1991 Annual Report	Makati
May 1, 1992, Family Day	Greenhills

*Pleasing God lies not so much in performing good works as in performing them well.*

*- St. John of the Cross*



## BACOLOD OUTREACH UPDATE

**BCMR NO. 1.** The outreach's first BCMR was held in Bacolod last August 31 - September 1, 1991, at the Scala Retreat House. Lito Urgino, retreat leader, was ably assisted by Bill and Dindy Gamboa of Alabang, with the latter handling the talk "Christian Wife", since Edith Urgino was in the U.S. at that time.

Servants were plentiful as there were already 19 Bacolod couples who had attended the BCMRs in Cebu. Butch and Nela Ebreo served as the coordinators for the retreat. The renewal of marriage vows became more meaningful with the attendance of the children, who gifted their parents with the song "Welcome to the Family". All in all, 29 couples finished the retreat, including a couple from the Cagayan de Oro Outreach. The 2nd BCMR for Bacolod Outreach is planned for May 1992.

**SINGLES RETREAT.** Twenty-seven single members of the Bacolod Outreach attended a spiritual enrichment retreat September 6, 1991, at the Don Bosco Retreat House situated on the slopes of Mt. Kanlaon. Serving as retreat director

was Fr. James Carmona of the Salesian Order. He was assisted by the singles unit leader Digoy Montalvo and AGL Terry Montero.

In this conducive place for meditation and communing with God, the singles had the opportunity to know each other better, as well as focus on their role in furthering the mission of the BCBP. The retreat culminated with a trek to the "7 Waterfalls of Mambucal", an activity declared as "hazardous to health but advantageous for fostering brotherhood."

The retreat closed with a Mass and a surprise visit of the outreach's elders in a sign of support for their single brothers and sisters.

**CLP 5 GRADUATES 113 MEMBERS.** Before the start of all previous CLP's, having a good turnout was always a concern. CLP No. 5 was different - a week before, about 90 brothers and sisters had their application forms submitted. The first session held on October 12, 1991, saw 140 in attendance, a tribute to the service team headed by

unit leader Monet Kilayko and his chief servant Bodie del Castillo. 113 completed the course last December doubling the membership of the Bacolod Outreach.

**1992 PLANS.** A discernment, evaluation and planning meeting was held by the Bacolod Outreach on January 4 and 5, 1992 at the Scala Retreat House. The live-in conference was attended by the members of the governance body and all action group leaders, totaling 25. The group left the retreat house confident that the Lord had guided them into designating 1992 as the year for consolidation of their outreach, to preserve the gains, so to speak, of the bountiful harvest of the past two years.

1992 plans include a BCMR in the first semester and a CLP in the third quarter. The target set is to have all the major support services of the community to be in place by the end of the first half of the year. During the second half, the outreach will organize various business evangelization activities. For Iloilo, their own outreach, plans project two more CLPs this year to establish the necessary membership base.



*Participants and servants of Alabang's CLP 19 raise their hands in joy and praise as they experience the power of the Holy Spirit during their baptism at the Benedictine Abbey School chapel.*

### *Alabang Chapter*

## 59 Complete CLP 19

Fifty-nine participants successfully completed Alabang chapter's Christian Life Program 19 which was held from August 30 - November 30, 1991, at the Alabang Country Club. CLP 19 course leaders were Orly and Neneng Neri assisted by Teks and Nena Espiritu. Other CLP servants were intercessory leaders Pons and Menchu Preysler, servants Bobby and Charito de la Paz, Rally and Bing Ramirez; the music ministry was headed by Benjie and Nida Alonzo. Unit leaders in charge were Rene and Nonie Cortes.



Alabang Chapter

WELCOME CLP 19

- Ed/Rorie Adriano
- Gene/Florey Caraan
- Rene/Carric Maderal
- Ernie/Suzette Montalban
- Celine Adams
- Connie Lacsamana
- Dicky Sison
- Ed/Mel Cosico
- Benru/Dalins Macairap
- Jojo/Carms Pascual
- Paul/Vicky Ramirez
- Willie/Volet San Diego
- Boy/Gigi Espiritu
- Bobby/Belle Macahilig
- Willy/Arlina Onglao
- Monching/Fe Sunga
- Willie Bobis
- Jo Gonzales
- Herman Penaflorida
- Rose Chan
- Teena Gonzaga
- Thelma Olegario
- Arlene Zuluaga
- Romy Agtarap
- Danny Alviar
- Mandy Alzona
- Bobby Linsangan
- Lito San Mateo
- Linda Abrigo
- Virgie Cid
- Heidi Hernandez
- Cora Raquedan
- Lyd Reyes
- Hedy Uy
- Ferdie Arreza
- Alden Basbas
- Rey Junio
- Jojo Osorio III
- Chummy Morales
- Mitzi Pangilinan
- Annie Pimentel
- Jingle Sanchez
- Liling San Juan
- Monina Milanes
- Peter Bongato
- Ed Igoy



Witnessing for the Lord as a family are (L to R) Charit Sayoc Montalban, Carlitos Carballo, Josie Sayoc Carballo, Angela Montalban, Charlie Carballo, Nelly and Jess Sayoc, Luigi Montilla (partly bidden). Cora Sayoc Montilla and Nick and Carol Sayoc are not in the photo.

Alabang Chapter

JOINT BRAKFAST FEATURES FAMILY SHARING

The November 1991 joint men's and women's breakfast of the Alabang chapter featured for the first time a family sharing, the sharing of Jess and Nelly Sayoc together with their children and grandchildren. At present Jess and Nelly have three of their children plus their respective spouses actively involved in the Brotherhood, plus four of their grandchildren equally active in the chapter's children and youth formation groups.

To begin with Jess and Nelly Sayoc are currently action group leaders. Char-

lie Carballo/Josie Sayoc Carballo are presently head of Alabang chapter's service team; Josie also handles a group of young girls in the Youth Formation. Carlitos and Diego Carballo, sons of Josie and Charlie are active members of the Children's Formation. Angela Montalban, a granddaughter of the Sayocs, is a member of the young adults of the chapter. Cora Sayoc Montilla and son Luigi are also chapter members. Nick and Carol Sayoc are members of the Las Pinas chapter of the BCBP.

Alabang Chapter

MONGOLIAN BBQ VISITS BCBP BREAKFAST

The Alabang chapter celebrated its Christmas breakfast on December 21, 1991, at the veranda of the Alabang Country Club with a Mass officiated by Fr.

*The wives of the three Kings (L to R Celine Adams, Nancy Coe, Maryann Flamenno) complain to Mr. Chuli (Ed Adriano) as waiter Teks Espiritu looks on while Angel (Charlie Carballo) with son Enrique, provide the message that peace and joy is within man himself, to cultivate and nurture provided he turns to the Lord.*

Ben Beltran, parish priest of Smokey Mountain. This was followed by a musical presentation by the Children's Formation group and a hilarious skit done in Mr. Chuli's Mongolian BBQ setting, but otherwise steeped with a very relevant Christmas message. Chapter head Louie Morales capped the Christmas festivities with a short message which is reprinted in this issue of the KAPATIRAN as the Guest Editorial.





# LIGHTER MOMENTS

## Diplomatic Settlement!

A hunter had a bear in his gun sights but the bear waved at him and asked, "Why do you want to shoot me?"

"Because I want a fur coat," said the hunter.

"Well, let's sit down and talk about it first. That is negotiable. As for me, I'm out looking for something to eat."

So they sat down together for a while and both left satisfied. The bear had had a full meal and the hunter was wearing a fur coat.

## A Lesson in Generosity

Mother: Tony, I was hoping you would give your little brother the largest piece of cake. Even that old hen in our yard gives all the best pieces of food to her chicks, and takes only a little piece now and then for herself.

Tony: So would I, mum, if it were worms.

## One Liners Overheard Here and There

- Living on earth may be expensive, but it does include an annual free trip around the sun.

- Why does Christmas come at a time when the stores are so busy? It's so hard to shop for exchange gifts!

- Some Dads need to be as concerned about their offspring as they are about their golf swing.

- Many things can be preserved in alcohol, but Christian character is not one of them.

- A lot of trouble in this world arises from the combination of a narrow mind and a wide mouth.

- Childhood is wasted on the young!

- Definition of "Nothing": a peeled balloon.

- Have you read the latest best seller - "Say Your Prayers" by Neil Down?

- Some people are just like blisters - they appear when the work is done.

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THANK YOU AND MAY GOD'S BLESSINGS BE YOURS!



Guest Editorial

## NEEDED: 1, 100, 1000 JEREMIAHS!

Louie Morales, Alabang Chapter Head

When I was asked to give a Christmas message for the breakfast meeting of the Brotherhood of Christian Businessmen and Professionals, I turned to the Lord for guidance.

Giving messages may seem to be a simple task but it really isn't so. It takes God's blessing to really get across. I originally intended to touch on a traditional Christmas theme, but I paused to ask: Am I in the mainstream of things? The Lord God, I think, led me to the story of Jeremiah, the prophet and I shared his message with the Brotherhood.

Jeremiah, as you all probably know, was plucked from his youth by Yahweh for the purpose of delivering God's message to the people of Judah. The message was for a people's change of heart. God demanded from them not just external conformity but an internal fundamental change. Not just to act right but to be right inside and out.

Jeremiah was initially reluctant but it was work to be done and it was God's command. His mission for this message of change was a lonely one. He was rejected, hunted and condemned by his king and his people. Despite the many disasters that came upon his people, Jeremiah bravely moved on.

What, you may ask, goaded him to go on in spite of all the difficulties? In his heart and mind, Jeremiah knew that divine mercy and fidelity are greater than human sin and inconstancy. He believed that God loved his people so much he would eventually restore them. It was faith that kept him going.

Let us transpose this setting of thousands of years ago and bring it to bear on our world - the Philippines. Our time calls for Jeremiahs. One, a hundred, a thousand Jeremiahs to bring God's message to millions of Filipinos.

Enough of "palabas". Enough of "pakulo". Enough of oppression. Enough of injustice. It is time for a true change of heart. After all, we have had Jeremiah's trials. Floods,



Then . . . .  
and Now . . . .



earthquakes, volcanic eruptions - name any disaster and we've had it and God forbid that we will have them still. Can we blame it all on nature? We must admit that most of the disasters have been brought to us by us, ourselves.

In the midst of all these disasters and the ongoing political hullabaloo, God demands that we be new Jeremiahs. God has put us to the test. All these trials are part of the bigger process of purgation. We call it catharsis and hubris, the overweening of sin, pride and arrogance. Hopefully, we will emerge as brave and positive change agents who will bring a true and genuine renewal to this nation. (Jer. 1:7-8 "For you shall go to all to whom I send you and you shall speak whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you," says the Lord.)

We, as a Brotherhood, have to act on this leading of the Lord (Jer. 29:11-13 "Surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord. Plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me you will find me, if you seek me with all your heart.")

God's promise is a comfort but let us do our part of the bargain. The true essence of change lies in deep repentance, conversion and serious involvement in the restoration of a people.

If we cannot commit to this true battle of change, we should be prepared to suffer the darkness of sin and its devastating consequences - more poverty, more corruption, more natural disasters, and more destruction of the environment.

The only antidote is to act on the Lord's message of hope. Faith is not faith without action. Christmas is no Christmas where sin and deception prevail. (Jer. 31:34 "The fulfillment of the prophecy is in our action.") So, it is time to spread the message. Act now. This Christmas act may yet be your greatest gift.

*(This message was printed in the Philippine Star, Jan. 1, 1992, in Betty Go-Belmonte's column "Pebbles" under the title: "A Christmas Act.")*





## EVANGELISTS OF THE SOUTH

BCBP Alabang's Beginnings and Growth

*Pete Padre and Louie Morales, Alabang Chapter*

The year was early 1984. The BCBP was looking forward to its third anniversary that coming July. Started in July 1981 as a Christian businessmen's breakfast at the Makati Sports Club, the BCBP had since evolved into a structured group with two chapters, Central and North, each with its own weekly breakfast. Central continued with the Makati Sports club breakfast which later moved to the Metro Club in Makati. North started its own breakfast every Thursday morning, at the Club Filipino in Greenhills.

Not long after the start of the Greenhills breakfast, the idea of a separate breakfast for the South (of Metro Manila, that is) came up. Easily half of the regular breakfast goes at the Metro Club at the time were from the Alabang-Las Pinas-Paranaque "golden triangle." A Saturday breakfast would just be ideal for them since there would be less pressure to rush off to office after the breakfast. And the Alabang Country Club would make a perfect venue.

### The Seed Was Planted

A core group was formed to spearhead the "independence" movement, and

the idea was broached to Mike Joseph Sr., BCBP Central chapter head. At first, he was not receptive to the idea. He thought the brothers from the south were not ready for weaning. "In due time, brothers. Let's just leave it to the Lord," he told them.

But the southerners persisted. A canvass was made of how many brothers from the south could be counted on to support a separate breakfast on a regular basis. Over 50 signed up.

Mike finally gave in - but with many caveats: Firstly, no innovations in the

breakfast format and to be subject at all times to the governance of the Central chapter. Secondly, we were not to call ourselves an official "Brotherhood breakfast" but just a Christian Businessmen's Breakfast, until further notice. Thirdly, in addition to our own breakfast, we would all promise to continue to support the Makati breakfast every Wednesday, which meant having to attend at least two breakfasts every week.

We gave Mike the old Boy Scouts sign and the Alabang breakfast was born. Pete Padre was designated the first breakfast head. In turn, he appointed George Najar as the first regular breakfast emcee, with Rey Datu as back-up.

The first breakfast was held on the last Saturday of April, 1984. The main dining room of the Alabang Country Club was full of old familiar faces from the Metro Club breakfast plus a number of first timers.

### And It Grew!

At first, the Alabang breakfast faithfully trod on every single footstep of the Metro Club breakfast. If you didn't look



*continued on page 22*