

NOV. - DEC. 1997

# K A P A T I R A N

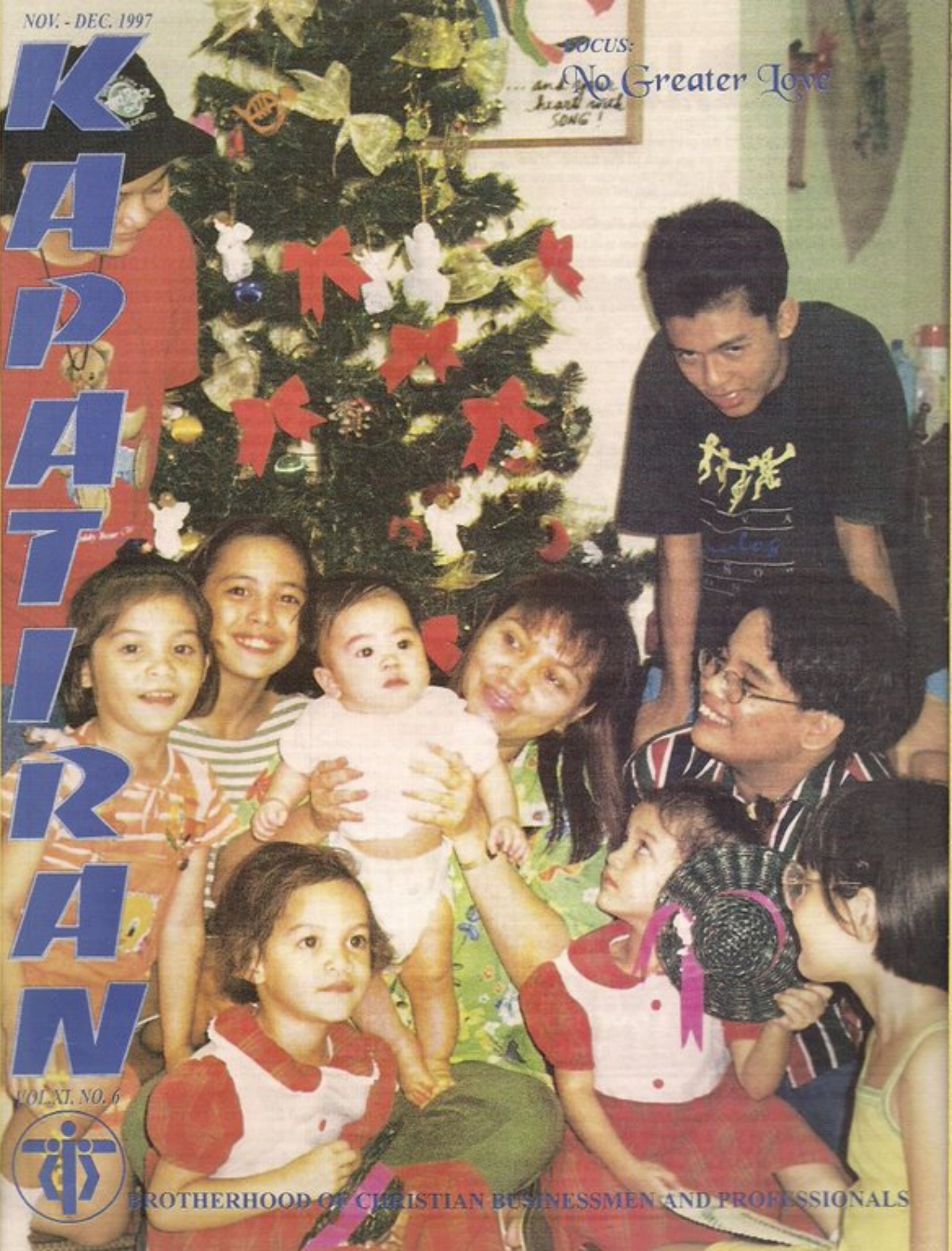
VOL. XI, NO. 6



BROTHERHOOD OF CHRISTIAN BUSINESSMEN AND PROFESSIONALS

FOCUS:

*No Greater Love  
... and by heart with  
SONG!*





## VIEWS

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**A JOYOUS CHRISTMAS**
  
**AND A HOLY SPIRIT-FILLED NEW YEAR**  

**TO ALL!**


KAPATIRAN  
Magazine

VOL. XI, NO. 6 NOV. - DEC. 1997

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## Our Core Values

**LOVE FOR GOD, LOVE FOR COMMUNITY, COMMITMENT TO THE LORD'S WORK**

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*Editor's note...*

Firstly, the KAPATIRAN staff and yours truly send you our warmest wishes for a Christ-centered season and a Spirit-filled New Year.

Our focus this issue is LOVE. To me Christmas is more of a time of love — True Love — than Valentine's Day in February. We see love all around us in this season ... in God's gift of His Son to a rebellious and sinful people (that's us!)...in the shared love during parties and family reunions...in the sharing of ourselves and our abundance with others.

And so we bring you an assortment of articles and sharings that highlight this most beautiful and profound theme. We trust you will enjoy them and be inspired to examine and nourish the sources of love in your own life.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you, BCBP readers, for your encouragement and support in my eight years as editor of the KAPATIRAN. Without your support and God's hand so visibly working in my life, the KAPATIRAN would not be what it is now.

But now I am being called to embrace new areas of ministry and service in my life journey and in the BCBP, so 1998 will see a new editor, Ronnie Caballero (formerly Makati chapter head), for the magazine. I am sure that with his ideas and considerable talents, the KAPATIRAN will dynamically seek new horizons of excellence.

Let us then welcome the New Year with rejoicing and love!

*Nancy R. Celis*  
MANAGING EDITOR

**FOCUS****NO GREATER LOVE****2 No Greater Love**

by Ronnie Caballero

I have found God's love in the most unlikely (or the most likely) places and events in my life. These revelations should serve to inspire us to seek ever new heights and depths of God's love in our lives as Christians.

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**UP NEXT**

JAN. - FEB  
Deadline: Dec. 15, 1997

Issue Focus:  
*Living a life of Prayer*

Readers Survey:  
*What form of prayer do you find most effective?*  
*How much time (on the average) do you spend each day in prayer?*

MAR. - APR.  
Deadline: Feb. 15, 1998

Issue Focus:  
*The Christian at Work*

Readers Survey:  
*What do you do to minimize work stress?*  
*What is the foremost work value that you practice?*





*In the musical "Oliver" the young Oliver poignantly sings the song "Where is love?" This is the time of year that all of us are brought face to face with LOVE — in the Infant Jesus, in the happiness of children receiving gifts, in family reunions and parties. Where is love? Love is wherever God is, wherever we are, in the likely and the most unlikely places around us. This article challenges us to recognize these many sources of love and to share this love with others around us.*

**T**he recent death of Mother Teresa has brought back one of my most profound experiences related to her mission of caring for the poorest of the poor. Last December 1996, probably for lack of a better idea on how to celebrate the Makati Chapter's Christmas party we were mulling on the idea of directing the resources of a Christmas party towards a visit to an orphanage. Even this sounded passe' as most probably all orphanages were so awash with visitors and donations that organizations can barely get a day for their turn. Except maybe for one that stood out among the rest and was unique, Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity orphanage for sick and abandoned infants. Bro. Oca and Sis. Floren Ballares who had been there before assured us that a moving experience was in store for us. Bravely, I approved the suggestion (as Makati chapter head) and arranged for a visit.

December 29 was the day. Weeks previous to this day we had campaigned within the chapter for donations in cash and kind from everyone, even from those who could not make it that day, and the generosity was there. Fully armed with our donations, smiles and our children in tow, we made our way on that Sunday towards the orphanage in Tayuman, Tondo after an early morning mass. Our convoy arrived without delay at the churchyard opposite the orphanage and with eagerness we crossed the street towards the entrance.

To our surprise, we were greeted by a courtyard full of children aged from 3 to 14. Apparently, all of them had arrived at this orphanage as infants and had grown up still unable to find adoptive parents. What I immediately noticed was that parts of their faces and limbs were glistening with this ointment that the nun was hurriedly applying on them as she moved among them in the courtyard. As I peered closer they were all afflicted with open sores which they got from the dirty water as explained by one nun.

Before we could utter another word we were immediately ushered into their chapel to prepare our hearts before the Lord's tabernacle — truly the best way to start the visit. We took off our shoes and knelt on the giant banig which served as a wall-to-wall carpet. I reminded myself of how Mother Teresa would spend three hours daily before the Blessed Sacrament in preparation for daily service. But even before we got settled the nun who was guiding our visit beckoned us towards our real goal for that morning, the children.

# NO Greater LOVE

Ronnie Caballero, Makati Chapter

*Finding God's love in the most unlikely (or the most likely) places*



**W**e live in the reality of the present. But this reality must be rooted in the past even as we look to the future. This fact comes alive for us during this season of the year as we celebrate All Saints Day, Advent, Christmas and New Year's Day.

On All Saints Day entire families, both present and past members, meet at the cemetery; reminiscing past relationships and events while strengthening present family bonds. We all treasure this time of reviewing and renewing our human roots.

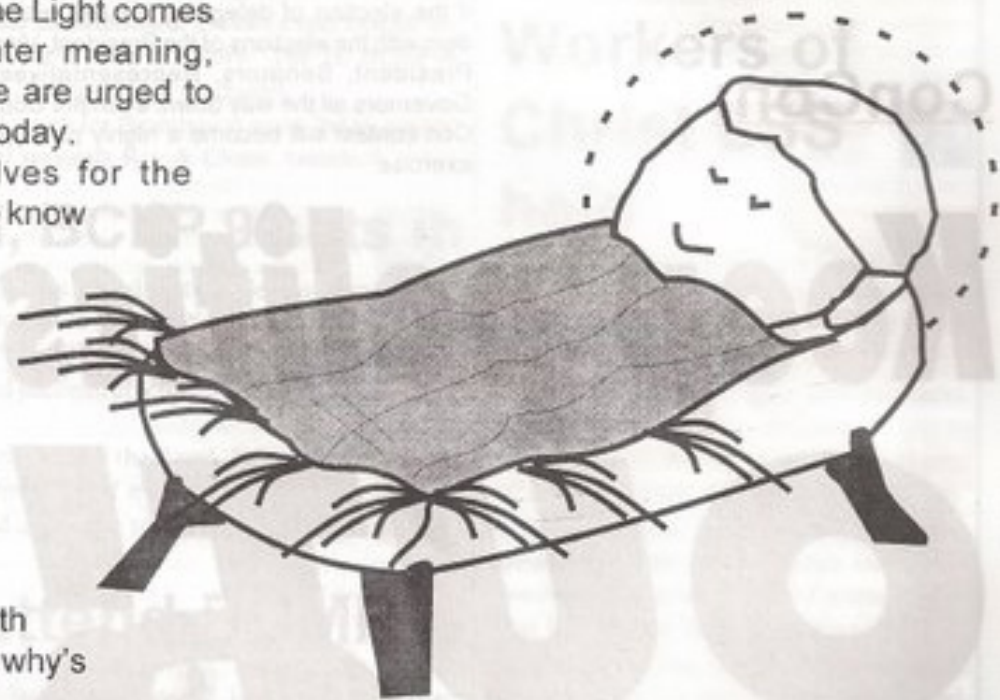
During Advent, we enter a period of anticipation and preparation. The Church liturgy invites us to read Old Testament prophets to rediscover our spiritual roots as a people of God. Each year as we read the familiar scriptures we can see more clearly God's plan for us, our personal niche in the over-all scheme of things.

Then Christmas comes and the Root that God planted in the house of Jesse comes forth as a Babe lying in a humble manger. This is a truly joyous event for every Christian. The Light comes and our own lives take on greater meaning, brightness and responsibility as we are urged to keep His light shining in the world today.

We cannot prepare ourselves for the uncertainties of the future unless we know and accept our past, our roots. Our life's journey began with our parents, with our grandparents and ancestors. We must look back and seek meaning by asking ourselves: "Why was I born to this particular family? What was the purpose of my early life?" Once we uncover this truth, it can energize our life for this truth tells us who we are, what path we are on, and helps explain the why's and what's of our present doings.

We must also ask searching questions about the "NOW" moment in our life. We are no longer in our past but we have not yet entered our future. If we don't know where we are now, how can we have a clear picture of where we will be going? For tomorrow has its roots in today even as it opens up unlimited vistas for 1998 and beyond.

# Renewing our roots as we prepare for the future



By renewing our roots and being aware of our "Now", we can surely look to the future with the expectant faith that in everything, God will work for our good as we answer His call and live according to His purpose for us (Rom. 8:28).

I wish you a Light-filled Christmas season and a Joyous New Year! - Nancy R. Catan



## To My Mind

**A**s an aftermath of the Sept. 21, 1997 rally President Ramos not only backtracked on the Charter change issue. He also agreed that the best way to amend the Charter was through a Constitutional Convention. And moreover he assured that this would take place after the 1998 elections.

Comes now the question: When shall the election of delegates be held? Simultaneous with the national and local election this year or after?

Proponents of the simultaneous polls argue that a separate ConCon election will be very expensive whereas piggy-backing it with the 1998 polls will save the government quite a tidy sum. On the other hand those in favor of separate polls contend that the ConCon is that important to the future of the country that the cost should not be the main consideration. As Philippine Star columnist Max Soliven said: "Saving money by synchronizing the official and the ConCon elections is not the point. The savings will be minimal, the damage to the integrity of the proposed Convention irreparable."

## ConCon:

Beneath the "saving" argument is the hidden agenda of the Cha Cha movers who failed in their bid and would now take a ride on the ConCon. A ConCon election simultaneous with the May polls would give the "graduating" solons an undeserved lease on their political life by giving them a chance to run in the ConCon. Most of them being members of the party in power, they could easily ride to victory what with the huge resources at their command and their mastery of election trickery, including the "dagdag-bawas" formula. With them in the ConCon, woe to the country's constitution!

That's the danger the Convention faces if it is not insulated from the pernicious influence of politics. The ConCon will be better off without them. Anyway, with their accumulated wealth and power they could always run for higher positions. But not the ConCon, please!

Again, columnist Soliven could not have put it any better when he said: If ConCon elections are set to run simultaneously with the this year's polls, 'manipulation' (as Supreme Court Justice Santiago Kapunan feared) would become the order of the day. There is no doubt that if the election of delegates is held in tandem with the elections of the President, Vice President, Senators, Representatives, Governors all the way down, even the ConCon contest will become a highly partisan exercise.



Art Sampang  
San Fernando

By piggy-backing on the Lakas-NUCD campaign band-wagon, the ConCon aspirants selected by the well-funded ruling party would enjoy an overwhelming advantage over all other contenders."

The question is: How can true-blue politicians be stopped from invading the Convention when, like the rest of the citizenry, they enjoy the same rights, including the right to vote and to be voted upon?

Therein lies the crucial role of Congress which will pass the enabling law for the holding of the Convention. Should this job be assigned to the present Congress, it is virtually next to impossible to expect an enabling act that will not benefit them. For, were they not the ones who caused all the political turbulence by their insistence of Chapter change?

The job of passing such a law can be better entrusted to the legislators who will be elected for the first time in next May's polls. Freshly elected, they will be, or at least they can be expected to be oozing with idealism and brimming with enthusiasm to set things aright. On their shoulders will fall the heavy burden of setting the guidelines, the parameters and the criteria for the selection of the delegates to the ConCon.

In the Constitutional Commission of 1986, President Aquino appointed the members thereof. On the other hand, the Constitutional Convention of 1971 was made possible through the passage of Republic Act 6132. That act provided that "no candidate for delegate to the Convention shall represent or allow himself to be represented as being a candidate of any political party or any other organization, and no political party, political group, political committee, civic, religious, professional, or other organization or organized group of whatever nature shall intervene in the nomination of such candidate or in the filing of his certificate of candidacy, or give aid or support, directly or indirectly, material or otherwise, favorable to or against his campaign for election."

Indeed, if we have to have a new Constitution worth bequeathing to the next generation of Filipinos let's do it right. The first step towards that direction is to keep politics and politicians out of the ConCon.#

# Keep politics

# OUT!

*"...if we have to have a new Constitution worth bequeathing to the next generation of Filipinos let's do it right."*







Eddie Mendoza  
Greenhills Chapter

# MOMENTS OF TRUTH

Are we managing our moments of truth so that we are able to convey Christlike attitudes and behavior when we are in the marketplace?



**C**ompanies, especially those in the service industry like restaurants, shops, hotels, airlines, and other professional services, now try to compete on the basis of the high quality customer service. Notice how restaurants outdo one another in many aspects of customer service such as valet parking, well groomed and cheerful waiters and waitress, and so on. Companies try to make the overall experience of the customer with the company one that is memorable and pleasant.

In designing a customer service system, it is usually important to consider all the possible occasions when the customer could gain an impression about the company. These occasions are referred by some practitioners as "moments of truth".

The marketing gurus would say that concept of "service" goes beyond the actual delivery of goods or services that are being acquired, and extends towards the environs wherein the transaction is planned, negotiated, decided, delivered, and consumed. This is often referred to as the "cycle of service", beginning from the moment a potential customer thinks about your company, looks you up in the phone book and calls your firm's office, and so on all the way until he has consumed your product or service, and has gone back for repairs, consultation, complaints, or re-orders.

As far as customer service is concerned, therefore, one needs to map out the cycle of service, enumerate the moments of truth, and evaluate one's performance with regards to specific criteria pertaining to the quality of customer service. The idea is to make sure that each possible contact that the potential customer will have with the company is one that is memorable and pleasant, and one which suggests that it is good to deal with the company.

In the case of our being followers of Jesus Christ, we, Christian businessmen and professionals, should also evaluate our cycle of service — so to speak — and see whether the moments of truth reveal our faith and love for Jesus.



# How do you express your love?



Nita Butas  
Butuan Outreach

*Our love for Christ is only as real as our love for our neighbor. A favorite passage of mine from Gal. 6:10 tells us to use every opportunity to do good to all, especially to those who have faith.*

*Each of us responds to God's calling differently. If I am a Martha, I respond in practical service. If I am a Lazarus, I portray a heartfelt fellowship with God. If I am a Mary, I sit at His feet in adoring worship. If I am Mother Theresa I extend loving care for the sick, the dying and the abandoned. Whatever special gift or talent I have, I should use it for God's glory. St. Clare of Assisi tells us "Love God, serve God, everything is in that."*

*Be imitators of God as his beloved children. And walk in love as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us.*

*(Ephesians 5:1-2)*



*I have found that I need to view my Christian life in perspective and balance my spiritual needs with my material concerns. One should not outbalance the other even while remembering Jesus' teaching to seek first God and His kingdom and then all the other things shall fall into place.*

*Loving Jesus means doing His will. "He who wills only what God wills, possesses all that he desires." (St. Alphonsus Liguori). To me, His will is clear and simple: "Do not be anxious or overly concerned about your own material enjoyment. Rather be concerned with whether or not you (and what you are doing) are pleasing to God. #*

## MOMENTS... from page 5



like behavior in all our dealings. Since much of our waking hours are spent in the marketplace, this means that we ought to be on our best behavior all the time in order that people may see Christ. How many of us can say this about our business life?

The question we ought to ask ourselves therefore is: are we managing our moments of truth so that we are able to convey Christlike attitudes and behavior when we are in the marketplace? Many of us are unfortunately at our Christlike best only when we are attending the Breakfast or other BCBP functions. But when we are back in the jungle of the marketplace, we put on a different self, as if we were living two separate lives.

Let us remember that we are Christians, first and foremost, called to be businessmen or professionals. If there is any place that the light of Christ must be illumined by us, it is in the

marketplace where we have been called.

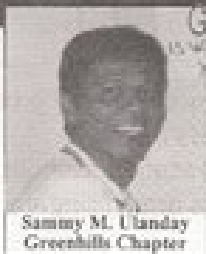
Fortunately, Jesus has left us many teachings about what He expects of Christlike behavior: do unto others as you would want others to do to you; he who humbles himself shall be exalted; do not take revenge on someone who wrongs you; love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you; go and make peace with your brother; do not store up riches for yourself here on earth but store up riches in heaven; do not judge others; don't worry about what you are to wear or what you are to eat instead be concerned above everything else with the Kingdom of God.

These are difficult words, but words of truth which we ought to keep in our hearts and live by on a day-to-day basis, so that during those many moments of truth when we are given the opportunity to reveal the living Christ, we may not be found wanting. #

Jesus's advice to us is plain and simple: "You are like light for the whole world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one lights a lamp and puts it under a bowl; instead he puts it on the lampstand, where it gives light for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine before people, so that they will see the good things you do and praise your Father in heaven." (Matt 5, 14-16)

As Christian businessmen and professionals, we strive towards Christ-





Sammy M. Ulanday  
Greenhills Chapter

# BE THERE WHEN IT HAPPENS!

## *The Iligan Experience and Introducing "BTAP"*

My latest travel took me to the northwestern part of Mindanao, Iligan City on the occasion of BCBP-Iligan's installation as a full chapter of the Brotherhood last November 22: the 17th chapter in the 17th year of the Brotherhood. The installation ceremonies was just like most of the installations I have attended, teeming with colors and trimmings.

But long before all these festivities, Iligan had undergone intense purification. Some of us know what happened to Iligan a few years back, which almost caused its total collapse. If not for the efforts and courage of some members of the Council as well as the dedicated men and women of Iligan and Cagayan de Oro, there wouldn't have been any installation at all. In those days of struggle, especially during the crucial moments of confrontation with the other side, one member of the Council who was there confided to me that he "literally" felt the loving presence of God. The Lord's protection was enveloping them and His wisdom overflowed through their lips as they conversed with the other group. He continued to say that he was and still is totally convinced that in those tenseful moments they were touched by God and it made all the difference.

As a "resurrected" outreach, Iligan really liberated itself from the clutches of its troubled past. And one could see the enthusiasm and excitement of the members as they moved around, in and out, up and down to address each and every aspect of the activity, led by Bobby Borromeo, the to-be installed chapter head.

The installation proper was truly a solemn one, especially graced by some members of the National Council, and with Most Rev. Emilio Bataclan, Bishop of Iligan celebrating the Mass. Unmindful of the smoke coming from the roasting calf nearby, the guests enjoyed the colorful presentations by different groups particularly BCBP-Cagayan de Oro, the sponsoring chapter, Ozamiz, Iligan's outreach, and Iligan chapter itself.

From all that took place during the celebration, I am certain that the members of the BCBP Iligan are truly grateful for the love and graces that God has given them. The trouble was over and the membership has increased substantially since then, there have been reconciliations among some members, their spirituality is steadily on the up beat. Happiness was written on the faces of the members - for God had touched their lives with His love. Congratulations BCBP Iligan!

## Shifting Gears

At this point, please allow me to shift to another gear. I'd like to bring up a topic that I've been wanting to tackle, hopefully to serve as an inspiration to many of us in the Brotherhood.

I am truly amazed at the way many, if not most, of the brothers and sisters in the Visayas and Mindanao respond whenever a gathering or an occasion to be together for a BCBP activity comes. The participation from the chapters and outreaches is simply inspiring. I have been privileged to see this for myself for in the last three years, I have had the opportunity to be there when it happened. In the recently concluded Iligan installation for instance, at least 85% of all the chapters and outreaches from the Vismin region were represented. And yet they have to cross seas, fly through the sky and travel long hours on land just to be there.

The quarterly Vismin conference is another example. Here, not only the chapter/outreach heads are required to attend. Even the mission and chapter life directors, treasurer, secretary, heads of the different service ministries are most of the time accounted for when asked to attend.



Bishop Emilio Bataclan celebrates Mass during BCBP Iligan's installation.

The anniversary is another example. In Cagayan de Oro last April, there were over a thousand delegates, most of whom were from the Vismin areas. During the 16th anniversary celebration in Ateneo, BCBP Iligan sent around 50 delegates wearing uniform T-shirts, compared to not even ten members from some Metro chapters. Yet this was a national anniversary held in Metro



## NO GREATER LOVE... from page 2

First, she thanked us for our donations but she gently suggested that the better contribution was to be with a child that morning and try to relate with him or her or at best make them feel important and loved. She even extended an invitation and challenge to join them in their mission of loving the poorest of the poor. She asked us to follow her for a tour of the facilities, dormitories and wards. They were swept clean but as the tour progressed the place silently impressed upon you one thing: WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Our hearts sank further as we were brought to the critically ill ward. There, the infants lie in varying degrees of suffering, some with a deep, lost and wandering look that one cannot easily forget. We were all moved as one to raise our hands in a pray-over for healing. After that, everyone was silent.

Somehow, I groped for something to say and I declared, "Brothers and sisters, Christ is in each and every one of these children. So, why don't we let the Spirit move us towards a child and spend the rest of the morning with this child." Everyone agreed and we silently dispersed to choose a child we could relate to.

As I reentered the courtyard I eyed this little figure who seemed to have a fix on me as well. It was a little boy of 4 who was determined to reach me as he headed for me in a wobbling manner hardly able to support his upper torso. As he approached, I saw his face glistening with the ointment which protected his bright red face that was covered with sores. Upon reaching me, he gleefully embraced my right leg burying his face, ointment and all, into my clean beige trousers!

Even with the sight of his innocent smiling face, I stepped back, a bit revolted. But as the moments ticked by something started happening deep inside of me, something profound, something sacred. It was the gentle realization that God was looking straight into my heart and seeing all of my lack of compassion and love.

At the same time, God made me look into his heart bringing me again to every moment of my life when he had looked into my own sore-covered soul as I asked forgiveness and mercy ... and without hesitation, without stepping back, He would take me into his arms filling me with his heavenly, fatherly love.

Jolted back into reality by the tight embrace of the child on my leg, I knelt down and embraced him, giving him what love I could as a human, knowing very well how God continues to love me despite my failings and weaknesses.

God never fails to look into our hearts. Only He sees our real condition more often than we can imagine. So, how can we muster the vigilance to be always honest before God as we deal with the different life situations we are faced with?

***Spiritual poverty!***  
***What better way to keep our hearts***  
***focused on God's love and focused***  
***on loving others.***

I believe that Mother Teresa hit the bull's eye when she dedicated herself to a mission of serving the poorest of the poor, since therein really lies an answer. "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of God." (Mt 5:3) Spiritual poverty! What better way to keep our hearts focused on God's love and focused on loving others.

Reflecting on our own personal salvation history whenever we share at a breakfast should lead us to the proper perspective about our own spiritual bankruptcy and how God unconditionally loves us despite our sinful condition. This is what I like to call the joy of our salvation, a personal salvation history that we must constantly relive in our prayer time to replenish our zeal to love God and others.

Zac Poonen, a Christian author, relates in his book, "Beauty for Ashes", that "...when a person gives his entire life to God, he is not doing God a great favor. No! He is openly returning to God what he had stolen from him. If I were to steal a man's money and, later convicted of my sin, were to return it to him, I would certainly not be doing him a great favor. I would go to him as a repentant thief. That is the only proper attitude in which we can approach God when we give our lives to him. God has purchased us. When we recognize that, we arrive at the only proper basis for consecration."

Imagine what an awesome realization it is for one even as holy as Mother Teresa to live out this spiritual poverty. To constantly keep in one's heart how helpless we were until God came into our lives. This I believe is the best vehicle in heading towards a life of loving service to God and others.

One evening, after a long meeting with some BCBP brothers and sisters had just concluded at our house, this realization came to me for the first time. We were awaiting

### Cover Story

## The Eyes Tell the Story

A new baby in the family makes Christmas - or any occasion - a joyous event. Love, joy and wonder come alight in the children's eyes as they welcome the newcomer to the family. As for little Abe, firmly held by Marla, his Mom, he appears to be thinking ahead of all the fun he's going to have with his cousins (l to r) Bianca, Boni, Bea, twins Bernice and Bridgette, Bez, Bryan and Jayvee.





the arrival of the husband of one sister. It was late and this sister was heavily pregnant, obviously exhausted. We suggested that she join the last group leaving so she can rest easy in their house. We would tell her husband when he arrived that she had gone ahead.

It was already past midnight when we had given up waiting and decided to retire. About an hour later, I was awakened by a phone call. It was the village security. There was a man in their custody who wished to speak to me as I was his only acquaintance in the village. True enough, it was the husband whom we were waiting for. The security people explained that there was a big problem and that I should come over.

While I was getting into the car I had this gentle prodding in my head .. "Put it on my account." I did not understand it but I proceeded just the same. Upon arriving at the security headquarters, I came to grips with the stormy situation which was ahead.

The husband approached me, very intoxicated, immediately pleading for my help. Apparently, he had driven by the house and seeing no lights on, proceeded to exit the village. As he turned a corner, he collided with a parked vehicle right in front of the security headquarters. He panicked and drove towards the exit. The guards, having been alarmed by radio, put down the barrier in front of a car just ahead of him. He collided with that one too. True to form, he shifted his van into reverse and backed into another car. Then, he was arrested and brought to headquarters. I was jolted back to my senses when a stocky man, one of the aggrieved, shouted, "My mother-in-law was killed in a hit and run accident. This guy is not getting away." He threateningly showed his Highway patrol badge assuring me of the maximum penalty for my friend. I

***I had this gentle prodding in my head  
.. "Put it on my account."***

stared at my friend, a mere acquaintance a few weeks back. He was totally helpless, barely able to stand up straight. The angry man butted in again, "The only way this guy is getting off tonight is if you pay for all the damage he caused because you're the one who knows him."

I was starting to get a headache regretting that I had ever gotten up to answer that telephone call. But the gentle prodding was coming back, "Put it on my account." Then, I remembered the story of Peter the Great, Czar of Russia. He had a general who had embezzled a lot of money from the army and was calculating in his tent all he had stolen. He came to the final total and he wrote under the amount, "Such a great debt, who can pay it?" After that he held his revolver in his hand and contemplated killing himself. But in the course of contemplating, he fell asleep revolver in hand. Peter the Great who was taking a stroll chanced upon the sleeping general. Upon reading the note, Peter bent over and wrote under the question "...who can pay it?" his name, Peter.

page 10 ➤

## Readers Survey

*How has God  
touched your life  
with His love?*



*God has touched me through service. When you evangelize, you will also be evangelized. Through service, God has made me a better person. -Rudy Flores, Makati*

*God's love touched my life when I finally realized that everything I learn must be shared with others. -Bong Ladera, Las Piñas*

*He provides for my continuing spiritual education. -Rommel Tillah, Parañaque*

*Every day I come to the realization that God is in control of our lives from our schedules to the solution of our daily problems. -Babes Javellana, Makati*

*His love has allowed me to accept my sinfulness and go back to Him. -Ipserrer, Quezon City*

*Through the many blessings and trials that I receive and experience every day. -Pons Fallarnc, Jr., Las Piñas*

*His love makes me love my neighbor as Christ loves us. -Alex Betita, Parañaque*

*God is providing for my needs at the right time, not too early and not too late. -Linda Z. Santos, Las Piñas*

*His love has touched me in my outlook on life, in the love and care for my family, in saving my wife in near death experiences but most importantly because of His love for me, everything that happens in my life is no mere coincidence but I know it is according to His plan and design. -Willie M. Pelino, Greenhills*

*God saved me from death when He revived me from 12 hours of complete unconsciousness and miraculously pulled me out 30 hours later from the rubble of Nevada Hotel that had completely collapsed due to the Baguio killer earthquake on July 16, 1990. -E. M. Dansing, Jr., Parañaque*

*He gave me a business which provides my family with modest income and a way to evangelize the people I have. -Ed Ponce De Leon, Puerto Princesa*



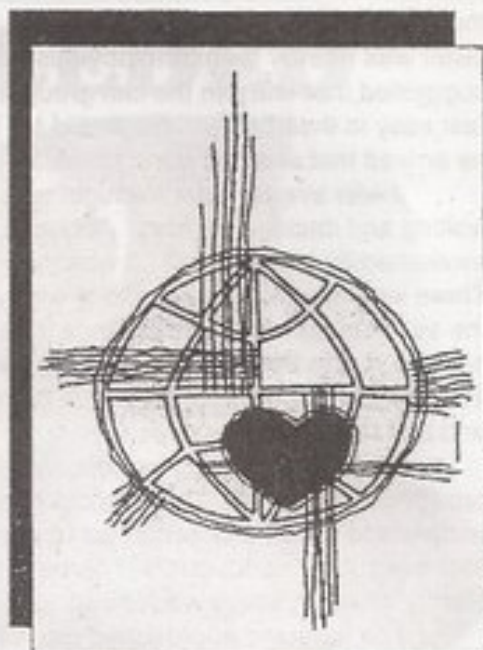
NO GREATER... from page 9

Then I realized it was the Lord who was sending this gentle prodding. "Put it on my account." So, immediately, I said "All right, give me a piece of paper and draw up a document that will satisfy all of you. And I will sign it!" This just totally defused the boiling situation. The angry man suddenly became as meek as a lamb and was like a long lost relative. He even firmly reminded me, "Don't let your friend drive, he must be taken home."

To me, this just brought home my own spiritual poverty, front and center. Realizing that I had my own life full of great debt in sinfulness with

no capability of redeeming myself, I could not help but appreciate the magnitude of God's grace. And there I found an all-merciful God already signing his name under my life's biggest question "who can pay it?" JESUS! The joy of our salvation!

Another shining example of unconditional love is one I found in Sis. Rosanne Romero. She had been afflicted by multiple sclerosis the past seven years when she made her teaching tape, "God in the Desert". In that tape, where she described her incredible suffering in this incurable, debilitating disease, she anguished at the thought some people had that she had no desire to be healed. Of course not, she says. She and her family lift



up prayers of healing daily for her. But the misunderstanding really comes from her own pleasant, shining glow when you see her, from a deep peace that you sense by looking at her.

The answer lies in her own declaration that when she prays it is no longer from a desire to be good so that God will bless and heal her, but because God by himself is worthy of praise, being sought after and loved simply for love's sake. What is so humbling (for many of us who are in good health) is that she states that although healing is the very important event which she seeks, the most important is that she seeks the healer more than the healing, to know more about him.

Further she says, "Suffering can be our greatest blessing if it leads us back to God." Doesn't that stun you? It is simply amazing that such a love for God exists. But rather than discourage us it should inspire us to seek and attain the purest personal love we can have for God.

I believe another key lies herein: rather than be dismayed and discouraged at what seemingly unreachable heights of loving that saints are able to achieve, we should take comfort in two things about loving

One, that it has personal dimension. Two, that it is done in the spirit.

The personal dimension comes from God's own initiative. He not only calls us in a personal way through our

# We are His dwelling places

*Pinky Lim, Cagayan de Oro*

So great was God's love that he created man in His image and likeness. In the creative process we see a God who is overflowing with love. God's bountiful love cannot be contained. His creative love cannot be stifled. God takes a deep breath and breathes human life into existence: Thus, we are full of God because we are made in His very likeness. Our life becomes a life reflecting the God-Life.

As He allows His great love to overflow, He takes delight in all of us. The prophet Zephaniah says: "God rejoices over you with gladness and renews you in love..."

God loves us so much that He enters into every struggle of life, transforming and molding us to become like Him. He labors to share His life and love with us.

All the mysteries of Christ's life are mysteries of love — revealing Himself as the "all powerful" who reduces Himself to extreme "powerlessness" in all simplicity and humility. Indeed, Christmas should be a time for simplicity, for being born again to a spiritual childhood, for allowing Him to be born again in us, in my heart and in your heart.

On our journey with God, we are invited into Jesus' experience of self-emptying, to empty ourselves of self-seeking in order to prepare a resting place for God in our hearts. We need to let go of all those attitudes and things we cling to, to make room for God in our lives. By giving everything we are and have to God this Advent and Christmas season in utter self-emptying as Jesus did, we can prepare a fitting dwelling place for Him.



circumstances. He also commits to love us in a personal way as we are called to a personal relationship with him. Being unique beings ourselves God delights in being loved in a unique personal way starting from an individual decision through our free will. God is very aware of our personal make-up and surely will not measure all of us against a single, universal standard. God, as the author of love, is interested precisely how we, as we are, offer ourselves in loving him, in responding to him.

In other words, becoming a Mother Teresa or Rosanne is not the object. Our object must be in becoming as Christlike as we can in attempting to love God within our own personal make-up, no less than Jesus himself being the example.

Brent Curtis, in his article "Afraid to Love", gives this explanation which I quote, "God's perfect act of love is in giving us who He was in the Person of Jesus in order that we might live. This without needing anything at all from us in return — desiring our love in response, yes, but needing nothing. This is the beauty of love."

As we look at how Jesus was received by those around Him, we find that many, for their own reasons,

***"Suffering  
can be our greatest  
blessing if it leads us  
back to God."***

wanted him for something He was not; a political leader, a general who could overthrow Rome, a member of the Sanhedrin, a clairvoyant. Even Jesus' own followers often tried to get Him to be someone who could enhance their own position or security.

His response was to use the Scriptures to remind them of who He was. Jesus knew that the life He had to give came out of obedience to who He was and not what others needed Him to be. Only in offering who He was did He have anything to give them.

In the Garden of Gethsemane He felt the awful rejection and conflict that lay ahead of Him if He insisted on

## ENLARGEMENT OF THE HEART

*Juanito "Ani" Lagao, Dagupan*

When I was in grade school, the most important lesson I learned from my father was the way he served our big family. He worked 15 hours a day but I never heard him complain. Whenever I complained about my assigned task, he would say, "Why do you complain? He is a truly patient man who, giving no heed to what he suffers, bears it all uncomplainingly for the Lord. I realized then that love can be expressed even without words. I am to look at things from God's viewpoint. I cannot give Him better proof of my love for Him than through the love I show in my work. The triumph of kindness and Christian love is to understand the silent heart of those who either cannot or will not speak. I may feel kind and charitable but if I do not know how to reach my neighbors' heart, he may recoil from my efforts to help him. This is the "enlargement" of the heart St. Paul speaks about in 2 Cor 6:2. No love is possible without it. I cannot love those whom I do not care for. But He has promised me:

"As long as you have done these things to the least of my brethren, you had done it to me."

following this path. Even the disciples, not understanding or not wanting to suffer with Him, left Him alone. Yet he did not turn away. It's as if Jesus were saying by His life, "I give who I am and what I have to offer and leave the results in the Father's hand."

This brings us precisely to the other aspect of unconditional love which is that it is possible only if done in the Spirit. As it is easy to be dismayed, discouraged or awed by the love displayed by the Lord or by the saints we must realize that Jesus himself showed in the paragraphs above that he left the results very much in the Father's hands. In full surrender and in faith he gave his life up and trusted the Father with the results.

In the same way, Mother Mary also accepted the will of the Father. After the Annunciation by the angel Gabriel she trusted God with the results even if she did not know what was going to happen in the next thirty-

three years! Fr. Dave Clay, a Marian priest, says that it may have been only at the foot of the cross that the total picture of salvation may have come to Mary. Marian teaching considers Mary as the first to be baptized in the Spirit — during the Annunciation. And yet, it took thirty-three years of patient dedication before the unfolding of salvation history finally came to Mary whether at the foot of the cross or at the Pentecost.

What really matters is that it also comes to our own baptism in the Spirit, wherein in faith many of the good deeds we undertake are done in the spirit, although we can be sure of one thing and that is, by ourselves we cannot accomplish anything for the Lord. But confident and full of faith, we can undertake something that is beyond our talents, understanding and training, IN THE SPIRIT; we can trust the Lord with the results and we can be sure that God will complete the rest.



## NO GREATER ... from page 11

Many times when I am called to give a talk or a sharing my silent opening prayer is always, "Lord, I know I am not capable of fully giving this talk the full understanding and clarity it needs. But I call on your Spirit to complete this task toward the end which you desire." And God has always blessed this request!

I believe when we go out and serve the Lord we need not fear about the results especially if the service is done with love. We need to be reminded of 1 John 4:18 that says, "There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment, and so one who fears is not yet perfect in love."

Christmas is a good time to reflect on this unconditional love relationship that we have with the Lord. It would be good to have quiet moments alone with the Lord thinking of the many ways we have attempted to express our personal, unique love to him throughout the year through service and in loving relationship with family and friends.

But the thought that I would like to close with is to focus back on the quality of love that God keeps in store for us and makes available to us.

Fr. Cantalamessa, preacher to the papal household, relates, "What is this love that was poured into our hearts at baptism? Is it just a benevolent disposition toward us? An inclination? It is much more than all this; it is something real. It is literally the love of God, that love that is in God, the very flame that burns in the Trinity and which we partake of in the form of indwelling. "My father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him."

***The love that the Father has for the Son and for us would not even be contained in this big wide world that we have... For God is even bigger than that.***

(John 14:23) ... We find ourselves caught up in the vortex of the work of the Trinity. We are involved in the incessant motion of reciprocal giving and receiving between the Father and the Son from which jubilant embrace the Holy Spirit springs who then brings down to us a spark of this fire of love... "That the love with which you have loved me may be in them." (John 17:26) The love that was poured into our hearts is the same love with which the Father has always loved the Son. It is not a different love. It is the divine love of the Trinity overflowing into us." Rivers of Joy, as Don Moen's song would go.

All this began in a simple stable in the most humble beginning. Can we ever begin to fathom the quality of that love between the Father and the Son, the same love with which we are loved by the Father?

One recent human event through which I can come close to imagining the magnitude of God's love for us is the floral expression of the sympathy for the death of Lady Diana Spencer. No less than 12 tons of flowers were placed in front of her residence as a monument of condolence and appreciation for the person and her work. 12 tons! But even before we get carried away in awe at this expression, I would be quick to say that this is not even a fourth of how God would want to love us. The love that the

Father has for the Son and for us would not even be contained in this big wide world that we have, perhaps not even in this universe or in all the totality of the galaxies of stars. For God is even bigger than that.

This is the God that loves us this Christmas, today and tomorrow, on earth and in heaven, in this life and in life eternal. And our love, which we may feel inadequate in responding to that of God's, will suffice, because it is uniquely ours to express and given with our free will, with our whole unique heart and soul. Because only we can give it for ourselves, and that's the love that God wants, a gift of our unique self.

This Christmas, as we ponder our shopping list and the gifts that would be appropriate for each loved one, let us think of the best gift. One, the gift of ourselves to God in a faithful, personal relationship with him and in humble service to him. Two, making a gift of God himself to others by introducing him to our friends and the life in the Spirit that we enjoy. If we succeed, we know we will be giving the best gift ever this Christmas. #





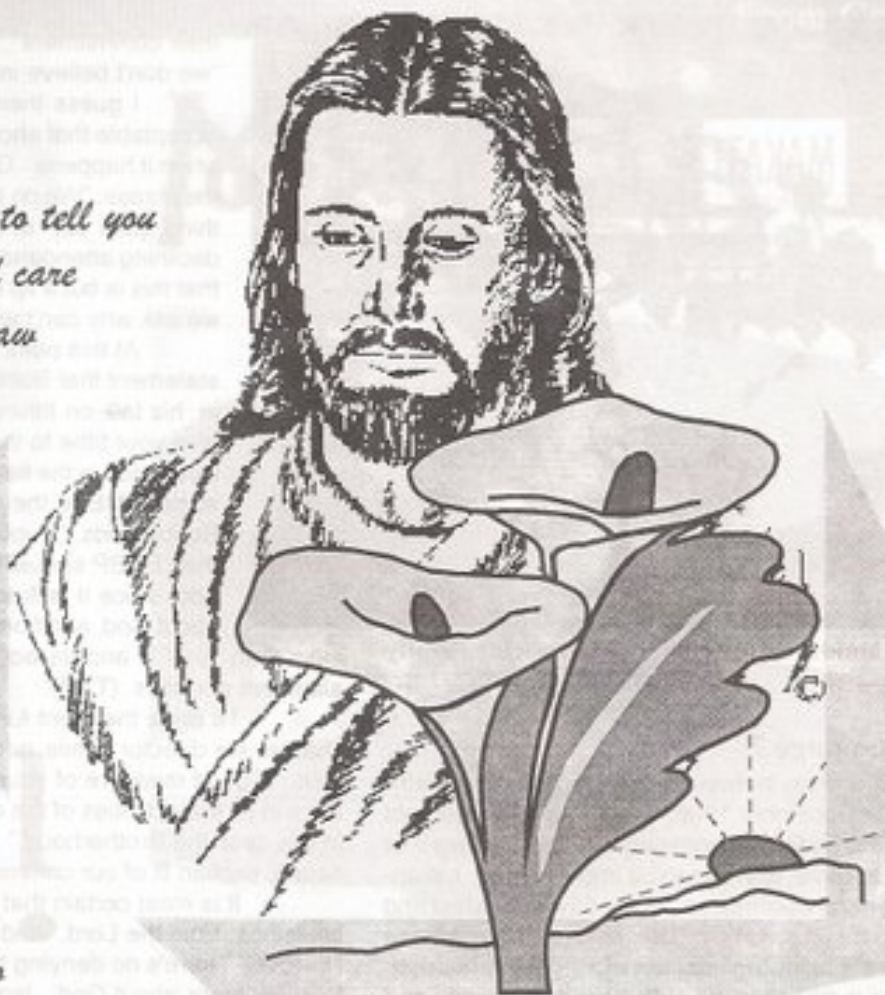
Dear Friend,

I just had to write to tell you how much I love you and care for you. Yesterday, I saw you walking and laughing with your friends. I hoped that soon you'd want Me to walk along with you, too. So, I painted you a sunset to close your day and whispered a cool breeze to refresh you. I waited, you never called. I just kept on loving you.

As I watched you fall asleep last night, I wanted so much to touch you. I spilled moonlight onto your face — trickling down your cheeks as so many tears have. You didn't even think of me. I wanted so much to comfort you.

The next day I exploded a brilliant sunrise into a glorious morning for you. But you woke late and rushed off to work — you didn't even notice. My sky became cloudy and My tears were the rain.

I love you. Oh, if you'd only listen. I really love you. I try to say it in the quiet of the green meadow and in the blue sky. The wind whispers my love throughout the treetops



and spills it into the vibrant colors of the flowers. I shout it to you in the thunder of the great waterfalls and compose love songs for bands to sing for you. I warm you with the clothing of My sunshine and perfume the air with nature's sweet scent.

My love for you is deeper than the ocean and greater than any need in your heart. If you'd only realize just how much I care. I died just for you.

My Dad sends His love. I want you to meet Him. He cares, too. Fathers are just that way. So please call Me soon. No matter how long it takes, I'll wait because I love you.

Your Friend,  
Jesus





Laughter and smiles amidst empty chairs - Metro-wide Family Day celebration.

**BE THERE... from page 7**

During a conference between the Council and Metro Manila chapter heads in December 1996, there was an agreement to bring back some of the traditional community-wide activities that the BCBP Metro used to have, with this to be implemented nationwide. The quarterly general assemblies, family day, sportsfest and bazaar were agreed to be undertaken. The re-launching of these activities took place in the following months of 1997. It is interesting to note that the four outreaches in Leyte picked up the cue and had what they called "Leyte Encuentro" an activity similar to family day and sportfest combined. A good semblance of a metro-wide involvement, in fact, it's province-wide! I have also received inquiries from some Visayas and Mindanao chapters and outreaches for some "guidelines" on how to conduct these activities. These are clear manifestations of their interest and obedience.

Those who have faithfully joined in all the Metro-wide activities held so far, will agree that the attendance of the chapters has not been very convincing. Only the chapter in charge of the affair had good attendance.

Last December 5 at Don Bosco Parish Church, we held our last First Friday Assembly for the year 1997. It was no less than the BCBP Spiritual Director, Fr. Herb Schneider, who celebrated the Mass. It would have been a very good opportunity to personally see each other and greet one another the best for the yuletide season. It would have been a good opportunity, especially for our new BCLP graduates, to get to know some of our brothers and sisters and leaders of our Brotherhood, to see how "big" we are, and most especially to celebrate an occasion together as one community in Christ. But only Makati, the host chapter, and its Manila Outreach attended in force.

I keep on asking myself what could be done so that at least the majority of the individual chapter members can be there when it happens. From my end, memoranda are issued and constant telephone reminders are made to encourage attendance and participation. In most occasions and whenever possible, we disseminate information about an upcoming activity one to two months in advance. To my mind, this time allowance is enough to allow us to arrange our schedules so that we can have the time for this event, if we really want to be there when it happens.

Upon my informal survey as to the reasons for the anemic attendance in these events, such responses given were the traffic, the venue is too far from us, too many other activities, "where is

their commitment", nothing interesting, not our type, "we don't believe in it", etc.

I guess there's just got to be one reason most acceptable that should inspire us to attend and be there when it happens - GOD. We have heard so many times the phrase: "We do it for the Lord" whenever we do something quite out of the ordinary. But the more I see a declining attendance in these activities, the more I think that this is but a lip service expression. Maybe it's time we ask why can't we be there for the Lord?

At this point, I'd like to echo one very significant statement that Bobby Laviña, national treasurer, gives in his talk on tithing. He says, "It's important that you give your tithe to the place that feeds you spiritually." I would add in the same breath that it is important we give some TIME to the community that feeds us spiritually. Bobby adds, "if your spiritual growth comes from BCBP, then BCBP should be a channel for your tithe..." And add, since it is from BCBP that we get to know more about God, and from where we receive our spiritual feeding, then BCBP and its activities should be among our time allotment priorities (TAP).

To drive the point further, let me add the following: Our chapter life director, while addressing the new BCLP graduates said, "a good measure of your commitment is simply your attendance in all the activities of the community you have committed to - in this case the Brotherhood." And maybe we should try to review item 3, section B of our commitment card - this will tell it all.

It is most certain that many of us have received so many blessings from the Lord, and many of us have been touched by His love. There's no denying that through the BCBP we've come to know more about God. Isn't it just proper that we express our gratitude for these blessings by way of supporting the efforts of the community commissioned by God to take care of our growth? After all, it is in these activities that we experience His powerful presence especially at times when brothers and sisters come together in communion with each other, for He himself said, "When two or more are gathered in my name, I will be with them."

It is not so much the fun, the raffles, the prizes, the games and the amusement, but it's being there, together, in the name of God, to celebrate His victory as one community. It is not so much the pleasure that we get but the satisfaction, concern and love that we give to someone, the congratulations to the winners, the smile to a brother, the pat on the shoulders, the prayers - particularly for the organizers, and most especially the recognition that all these

page 16 ▶



Metro-wide Bazaar, visibly wanting in participation.



Annie Salvador  
Makati Chapter

# Marga:

## It's A Girl!

**T**oronto, May, 1992: a Lord's Day celebration was being held in our honor by our BCBP brothers and sisters who have migrated to Canada. Having learned that I was pregnant, Danny Malarky called Nelson and myself to sit in the center to be prayed over. Before sitting down, I pulled Danny's arm and whispered into his ear: "Pray for a girl!" With three little boys back in Manila, I was desperately hoping our fourth baby would be a girl, at last. Danny nodded. And he did more than pray for a girl, he thanked the Lord for the daughter that was growing within me! And the Lord, bless his name, nodded, too. In December, Inez Margarita was born.

She was big and lusty, with an ear-piercing cry right from day one, and, so much and for so long, exactly what I wanted. I had wanted her so much that at the delivery room, I was pushing at all the wrong moments, and she had to bear the resulting measles-like spots for days afterwards. I had wanted her for so long that, after Anton was born the



previous year, I had gone shopping for little pink and yellow pajamas "for the next one."

Much as I adored my boys, the birth of a daughter was an entirely different dream-come-true. Here was one who was like me in ways my sons will never be. Here was one with whom I can share and discuss things my sons will never imagine. Here was one who will see me and judge me and accept or reject me in depths my sons will never fathom. Here was a G-I-R-L, and my mind swirled with images of bracelets and pastels, ballet slippers, ponytails and dresses made of lace.

The changes weren't swift, nor easy. Nine cumulative years of raising boys left me unprepared and totally clumsy. Ear piercing was a lot simpler than circumcisions, but cleaning a little lady's anatomy was a definite complication. Beyond announcing to the kuyas that a sister was coming, we hadn't really told them what to expect. One day, I heard Nico telling Tono that something was funny about the baby---she

was missing some parts...Then of course, for economy's sake, Marga had to wear a lot of blue. And I, until her first birthday, when someone gifted her with a doll, had completely forgotten to get her one.

And so, Marga became a rose among the proverbial thorns, even if many times she saw herself as one of the boys. As a toddler, she used her brothers as models for everything: she ran and climbed and fought like them, even refused to sit on the toilet seat because "this (standing up) is how to pee-pee." She thought herself a Power Ranger. After the boys once had haircuts, she pointed to one of the nearly bald heads and declared, "Gusto ko ganyan!"

Yet, despite the apparent gender confusion, Marga was as feminine as they come. She simply adored flower prints and preferred dresses and skirts over jumpers any old time. She would preen in front of the mirror and loved to wear my clothes, my shoes and



*For the Young at Heart*

# Story Time

When you are gathered together with your friends, it's a wonderful time to tell stories. What story comes to mind for each one of the pictures below? A fun way to tell stories is by relay — Tom begins the story, Sarah adds a few lines, and then each one in your group keeps adding on details and excitement. When does the story end? You'll never know until you try it.



**IT'S A GIRL!... from page 15**

my makeup. She would be frivolous and fickle—all the stereotypical hallmarks of the woman she would grow up to become. She wanted to be “tabi-to-Mommy” all the time, because “we are the girls!” And, best of all, she demonstrated never-wavering loyalty to her favorite color: pink.

Very quickly, the years have flown. Marga soon turns five. And what wonderful, delightful years they have been. Marga contributes to our family a flavor all her own amidst our hodgepodge: we are not less noisy, yet more tender, not less rowdy, yet more sensitive. True to her early contrasts, she slides from tomboyish ways to ladylike quirks; one moment she's a skit-tish kitten, the next a mother hen; she's alternately timid and assertive, bashful and brazen.

Interestingly, she provides fragrant and refreshing insights into femininity for all of us, Nelson, myself and her brothers—especially her brothers. “What will you be, a hockey player, a football player or a ballet dancer?” “She's having another fashion show!” “You mean she'll be a Mommy too, just like you?” “Why can't you say ‘ouch’ instead of ‘oooweee’? To them, she is a never-ending revelation. And to Mia, her littler sister, Marga's image has attained goddess-like proportions. Though they constantly bicker, whatever Marga says, or does, becomes the measure for all other words and actions.

The years ahead should be interesting. There is no one more eager than I am to see this Marga-girl unfold and reveal the Marga-woman that waits within. How I look forward to our conversations! We

shall giggle together, discuss books and tear jerkers, share private jokes about our men-folk, stay up for late night heart-to-hearts. How I shall relish our shared activities! We will surely shop together (even if I dread to think of the fashion trends in 2007), fight and make up ten zillion times and generally weave our lives together as mother and daughter. Oh thank you Lord for the gift of tomorrows!

And here is my promise to you, Inez Margarita, God-given to me, child of mine: I will give you the best of me. I will dedicate to you the work of my hands, the wisdom of my years, the benefit of my intentions, the courage of my convictions, the gifts of my spirituality, the abundance of my love, the warmth of my embrace---without condition, without exception, without end. Let's go! #

**BE THERE... from page 15**

were made possible by God. You'll be surprised at the marvelous things that God will reveal to you when you are there when it happens. Just be there and see if this isn't true.

Let it be then that all these community-wide activities be our **Brotherhood Time Allotment Priorities - BTAP**. Why not from now on whenever a BCBP activity is announced, you tell a co-member: “That activity is my BTAP, and I'll be there when it happens.” Come on say it! “That's my BTAP! I'll be there when it happens!”

1997 is about to end and a new year is dawning. This means a whole new set of activities is once again in line. If you have been keeping track of the activity announcements, whether through your AGL, UL or Chapter heads, or from the Kapatiran and chapter bulletin, you would have a fairly good idea of the activities for the whole year.

The Luzon chapter and outreach heads council will meet on January 9-11 in Baguio City for its first out-of-town Luzon Council Conference. One of the topics that will be discussed in this conference is the

arrangement of year-round schedules of all major activities both national and local, as well as chapter-wide and metro-wide. Once these schedules have been arranged, I think we will be left only one obstacle to grapple with - our personal commitment.

The next time you hear an announcement for an upcoming activity, why not say, and say with conviction: “That's my BTAP, I'll be there when it happens!”

See you next time when it happens!#



# I Love You Enough



One day when my children are old enough to understand the logic that motivates a parent, I will tell them:

I loved you enough to ask where you are going, with whom, and what time you would be home.

I loved you enough to insist that you save your money and buy a bike for yourself though we could afford to buy one for you.

I loved you enough to be silent and let you discover that your new best friend was a creep.

I loved you enough to make you take a Milky Way back to the store (with a bite out of it) and tell the clerk, "I stole this yesterday and want to pay for it."

I loved you enough to stand over you for two hours while you cleaned your room, a job that would have taken me 15 minutes.

I loved you enough to let you see anger, disappointment, and tears in my eyes. Children must learn that their parents aren't perfect.

I loved you enough to let you assume the responsibility for your actions even when the penalties were so harsh they almost broke my heart.

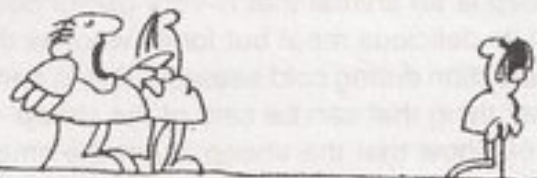
But most of all, I loved you enough to say NO when I knew you would hate me for it. Those were the most difficult battles of all.

I'm glad I won them, because in the end you won, too.

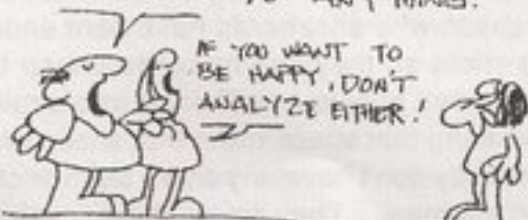
Anonymous

## LIFE AT HOME

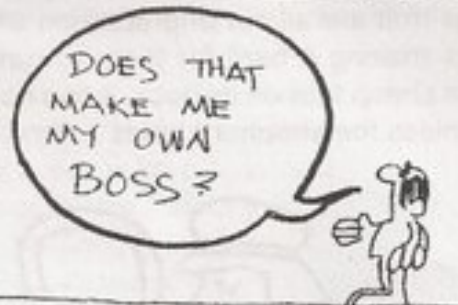
1. TO PROVE TO YOU THAT WE ARE NOT STRICT...



2. WE ALLOW YOU NOT TO THINK, NOT TO ASK QUESTIONS NOT TO SAY ANYTHING, NOT TO DO ANYTHING.



3.



Source: *The Adolescent's Troubled Heart*  
by P. Zezinko, scj

## Promise for a housewife

So you're just a housewife, what a shame,  
What fulfillment does that allow you;  
For without a business suit we're told, You're not of  
any value.

For all you do throughout the day  
Is help to shape a life,  
And stand in the gap to pray for your home,  
And be a godly wife.

You teach your children about the Lord and His  
word as meditation;  
So a heritage will follow their lives  
From generation to generation.

And when on that final judgment day  
The saints gather around His throne;  
I wonder how many shall surely say  
"I'm here 'cause Mom stayed home."



**R**eading is one of my very best hobbies. Let me share with you some reflections on an article about shepherds and sheep that I recently read.

Do you know what a sheep is like? In the Middle East, a sheep is an animal that is very useful not only because of its delicious meat but for its wool as that is used for protection during cold season. This is perhaps the only best thing that can be said of the sheep.

Do you know that the sheep is not the smartest animal in the world? For instance, if you let a sheep roam a few meters away from the flock, it easily gets lost. These animals don't have any sense of direction! This is the reason why shepherds have bent ends on their leading sticks so they can hook the sheep back before they become prey to a wolf or fall into a ravine.

Another thing that struck me is that sheep are so defenseless. They don't have any sharp teeth or claws to fight their enemies. They have tiny hooves and spindly legs that are all out of proportion with their fat bodies thus making it hard for them to run very fast. And when a sheep falls on its back, it can no longer get up again unless the shepherd lends a hand.

Finally, the sheep are totally dependent on the shepherd. The shepherd has to provide them with grass, water and the sheep pen. Sheep don't have a sense of smell and will eat poisonous weeds to death if the shepherd doesn't stop them. Once they get dirty, they remain dirty until the shepherd cleans them up.

Sheep are simply defenseless, directionless, dumb and dense animals. Nobody would use the sheep as their national animal or national symbol because of this.

Still and all, in the Old and New Testaments, God and Jesus Christ refers to His followers, and to all true Christians as His sheep, with Himself as the Good Shepherd.

At first I felt bad about being called a sheep. But when I thought about it, I see that I am just like a sheep — easily lost, quickly deceived, not very smart, constant prey to adversaries, but absolutely dependent on my Shepherd, Jesus Christ for my direction, my protection, my nourishment and my life.

I know that God knows what is best for me as a member of His flock, and as my Good Shepherd, I am sure that He will guide and protect me all the time.

I know too that by knowing, loving and following Him, I can also be a little shepherd, who will help in guiding others to be true Christian followers of our Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ.



# Let's talk about shepherds and sheep

*Francis V. Mapile, Manila Outreach*





NO GREATER LOVE

*Inspiration  
for the journey*

By Fr. Rafael P. Gonzalez



GIVE  
*With*  
NO  
*Return*

Your love should be like a double-way gate:  
people can go in and out freely.

Love's greatest fruit is respect  
for other's life option:  
not to resort to emotional tricks,  
nor to manipulate,  
nor to force, nor to hurry up,  
nor to take advantage, nor to corner.

There is a "nice" way of exploitation:  
to help others so much that  
they "must" love you.  
They become dependent on your kindness.  
Your service is a virtue only when  
accompanied by wisdom.

Painful though it might be to accept,  
is it not true that to say  
"I cannot live without you" or  
"falling in love" is not yet real love.

For, what is blind is not love at all.  
How can you love someone  
whom you are a slave to?  
You can only desire, need, depend, fear  
and be controlled.

Listening is the lifeblood of love.  
Much is accomplished if you talk less.

Death-love is possessive and demanding.  
Death-love is the result of insecurities.  
Death-love brings the feelings of  
humiliation.

Sin is always against love.  
The devil is the divider.  
Its first move is to make you  
think badly of the other.

Real love can only grow in the acceptance  
of each other's differences and limitations.  
This is the magic of love.

Love goes through seasons of aridity:  
actions of real love without the feeling of love.  
That is love's highest point:  
spiritual faithfulness and unshakable trust.

Concrete actions are the basis of real love.

At the end you realize that friendship is  
the greatest love;  
because it is already  
a love which has been purified  
by physical-emotional-spiritual failures.

Unconditional friends will reveal to you  
the ultimate truth:  
that love is never lost.  
You immortalize whom you love;  
a friend becomes part of your destiny.

If a relationship does not become friendship,  
it will degenerate into a mutual robbery.

Through friends you can see God!

God is love. Love is eternal.



# TO HAVE SUCCEEDED



To laugh often and love much;  
 To win the respect of intelligent people  
 And the affection of children;  
 To earn the approbation of honest critics  
 And endure the betrayal of false friends;



To appreciate beauty;  
 To find the best in others;  
 To give one's self;  
 To leave the world a little better,  
 Whether by a healthy child,  
 A garden patch,  
 Or a redeemed social condition;



To have played and laughed with enthusiasm  
 And sung with exultation;  
 To know even one life has breathed easier  
 Because you have lived...



This is to have succeeded

*Ralph Waldo Emerson*







Larry de Larrazabal  
Makati Chapter

# 1st Great Commandment

*"...The Lord our God is Lord alone! Therefore you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength." Mark 12:28-30*

What did Jesus mean by loving with all your heart? Modern day understanding of heart has to do more with feelings and emotions. If we were to translate what heart meant in biblical times, it would mean mind or will. Mind is that which provides direction to our actions.

The biblical understanding of heart makes more sense when we try to understand what Jesus meant by loving God with our hearts.

Loving God with our hearts means putting God first in our lives, above all else.

To be able to love God requires a personal relationship with

him. We can develop this through a dialogue, where we speak to God in prayer. It is through prayer that we become aware of God and his presence among us.

Love, in the gospel, also denotes committed service, providing God with the talents of our minds for God's purpose. There are numerous areas where we can get involved in God's work.

Loving God with our strength really means giving to God of our resources—our time, money, energy, abilities, which truly belong to God. We are just stewards of these gifts.

## Prayer

In you, O Lord, I take refuge;  
let me never be put to shame.

In your justice rescue me,  
and deliver me;  
incline your ear to me,  
and save me.

Be my rock of refuge, a  
stronghold to give me safety,  
for you are my rock and  
my fortress,  
for you are my hope, O Lord.  
(Psalms 71:3,5)



Cynthia Matas  
Cavite City Outreach

## Musings

# Why do I persevere?

Every once in a while I sit down to reflect on the enigma of my life ... the good times and the sad... ordinary, imperfect but striving to live as a child of God.

People around me flourish because they have escaped the watchful eye of authority and just did what they wanted, hurting others in the process of gaining more power and wealth, free to laugh their way out of the injustices they have committed. Hatred and indifference ... they're everywhere!

I remember the times my smiles, my trust, my openness,

my honesty and sincerity were thwarted, cast aside. Many would uncaringly pass me by while I silently screamed my head off at the unfairness of it all. Others ridiculed my efforts to straighten out things that needed to be put in order or cleaned up.

Why did I persist? Why do I still persevere? Then I remember that every now and then a few good persons would pull me up from

where I had been knocked down and with their kindness they restored my faith in God and men. I think of the few good Samaritans who listened when I needed to talk and hugged me when I cried out for friendship. They made a difference in my life.

I persevere in my Christian journey so that I, too, can make a difference in someone's life. And I trust God to show me how.





## MAKATI

## Makati plans for 1998

Newly appointed Makati chapter head Rico Santos spent the weekend of Oct. 25-26 at the Imus sports center with his governance team and heads of services to finalize their plans and programs for 1998. Manolet Siojo, Greenhills chapter head, started the ball rolling by summarizing the results of the NSPR which served as a guide for the planning workshops that followed.

Some of the new appointees for the year include: Jun/Ma-an Tripon replace Andy/Odette Nanagas as chapter secretary. Jun and Ma-an have also been appointed as BCMR 1998 course leaders. While waiting for the BCMR to happen, Jun is looking for someone to take over as the breakfast service head.

Litong/Teresa Limcaoco take over Rico's old unit and Mar/Isa Concepcion take over Litong's AG. Litong has accepted the appointment as course leader for BCLP 27 scheduled for January 29, 1998. Rey/Arlene Sanchez replace Danny/Tess Silbor as service director. Danny and Tess go back to their

previous job with Annie Salvador in the KAPATIRAN.

The following will continue with their current ministries: Jun/Beth Ginete in chapter life; Rudy/Cora Flores in mission; Rudy/Paring Orino in treasury; Elma Resurrecion in ladies breakfast and book table, her husband Rex in formation; Butch/Pinky Placido in music/praise assisted by Joey/Lulu Avellana; and Tony Borbon in liturgical.

Babes/Milalin Javellana have been tasked to implement pre- and post-BCLP action group leaders' training. Oca and Floren Ballares are now in training for chapter life. Former but unretired chapter head Ronnie/Mari Caballero will now head one of two service action groups to cater to the spiritual nourishment of governance team members, with the other group headed by Rolly Ona.

The Makati chapter in 1998 will continue to shepherd three outreaches: Legaspi now a chapter-in-training, Cavite and Manila. Indeed it looks like a busy year ahead for Makati.#



▲ Makati chapter head Rico Santos, his family and Manila Outreach assistant unit leader Andy Fornier with his son pause for a picture break during the September anti-cha-cha rally at Rizal Park.



Many have perished due to vehicular incidents: incidents wherein drivers shoot each other over whose right of way it is. A Christian gives the other driver the right of way, and lives to warn others.



## CAGAYAN DE ORO

## Chapter spearheads vigil for peace

On Sept. 20, 1997, the BCBP Cagayan de Oro chapter spearheaded a city-wide candle-lit vigil for peace and prosperity at the bandstand in the city as a gesture of solidarity with the grand prayer rally held later that evening by the Catholic Church of the Archdiocese.

Participants of the prayer rally included BCBP's partners in mission, the Couples for Christ, nuns from several religious congregations and archdiocesan participants. Rev. Fr. Elmer S. Abacahin, SSJV, CDO Archdiocese Pastoral and Media coordinator closed the vigil and then led the group in a candle-lit procession to St. Augustine's Cathedral for the continuing night-long vigil for peace.#



## BUKIDNON

## Welcome BCLP 3 Bukidnon Outreach

Azura, Ma. Linda  
Amparo, Rolly/Socorro  
Bautista, Susan  
Capili, Lolito/Visminda  
Cesar, Ocativius  
Curayag, Restituto/Edna  
Dacuyan, Jesus/Evelyn  
Eballe, Rolito  
Famador, Dominador/Delfina  
Franje, Nonito  
Fuentes, Abeto  
Generalao, Pedro/Rosalie  
Guingona, Luis/Josefina  
Mateo, Demosthenes/Elsa  
Murillo, Joaquin/Eldy  
Pangan, Mario/Mariquita  
Quizo, Edwin/Imelda  
Sulit, Franklin/Ma. Flor  
Tejada, Rodelio/Adelfa



## PARAÑAQUE

# Call for reconciliation marks 3rd anniversary

Paranaque chapter marked its 3rd anniversary with a simple breakfast fellowship last July 12, 1997 at the Village Restaurant in BF Homes Paranaque. Fr. Ben Beltran, SVD, Smokey Mountain priest, celebrated Holy Mass. He reminded everyone not to lose focus of the over-all vision of our faith and mission. National council director for Luzon Larry de Larrazabal in his message also emphasized that without reconciliation there can be no peace. #



Paranaque 3rd anniversary celebration was graced by the presence of National Council members Louie and Lily Morales (2nd & 3rd from right), Tito Larry de Larrazabal (not in photo) and BCBP Secretary General Sammy M. Ulanday. (second from left).

The occasion was highlighted by a Mass celebrated by Fr. Ben Beltran, a favorite among BCBP members.



# Teaching night hears prayer series

The October 27 teaching night attended not only by the regular chapter members but also by the BCLP 7 participants heard Fr. Ely Santos discuss the "Our Father". According to Fr. Ely, as followers of Christ, this rich and powerful prayer must be prayed often and meaningfully. He concluded that we must live up to the commitments we make in the Our Father each day of our life.

The session was held at the San Roque Parish Church in Mandaue City.#

## MACTAN

# Mactan holds BCLP 7

Forty-seven participants of Mactan's BCLP 7 were baptized in the Holy Spirit at the Mactan Air Base Chapel, Lapulapu City last October 11, 1997. Rev. Fr. Adriano Mediodia stressed in his homily the need for us to waken and shake up and recognize any dormant gifts we received in the sacrament of baptism when we were still infants.

Rey de Guzman and wife Atit served as course leader assisted by Arlin and Lita Tan with Wilbert and Girlie Ang as chief



He cuts you,  
you cut him too.

He cuts you again,  
You too do the same.

He chases you to retaliate.  
You speed up in haste.

The car in front of you stopped,  
Then it's too late...

servants. Other members of the service team included Frank/Lydia Robles, music ministry; James/Tess Limquiaco, secretariat, Jo/Mariter Te, intercessory; Leo/Cutie Flores, food preparation with Lorna Carteciano, food server team head; Siegfred/Helen Lanticese, physical arrangements; and Andy/Bing Escoton, greeters and usherettes. Most of the service team members were the newly-committed members of the chapter's BCLP 6.#



## TUGUEGARAO

# Outreach celebrates 4th anniversary

The BCBP Tuguegarao outreach celebrated its 4th anniversary on September 12 and 13, 1997. The highlight of the celebration was the turnover of the Gorgeous House by owners and BCBP members Amin and Ching Soriano for the exclusive use of the outreach. Present during the ceremonies were BCBP national president Manny and Haydz Banigan, Larry Larrazabal, director for Luzon, Sammy Ulanday, SecGen, and Parañaque chapter head Chuck Colayco.

The following day the whole group, their families and guests journeyed to the Callao caves for a whole day of games, dancing and fun.

In his inspirational talk Manny Banigan challenged the group to open an outreach in Laoag City in the Ilocos region. #

**BCBP Tuguegarao office, right smack at the center of marketplace, literally.**



## TACLOBAN

# Back into action with BCLP 7



Members of the Secretariat for BCLP 7 do their usual tasks with the BCLP 7 Secretariat Head, Bro. Frank Cruz at the extreme right, during registration.

After a period of seeming dormancy the Tacloban outreach has sprung back into action as it graduated 44 participants from its BCLP 7. The course with Rene Galapon as course leader began on August 16, 1997 with 47 participants and ended with a memorable Commitment Day on October 17 at St. Therese Chapel, Divine Word University, Tacloban City.

The outreach's main activity in November will be their second Brotherhood Christian Marriage Retreat scheduled on November 28-30, 1997.

The recently designated chapter-in-training has targeted the opening of an outreach in Samar early in 1998. #

## CEBU

# 28 couples rejuvenate

The twenty-eight couples who graduated from Cebu chapter's BCMR 15 on October 5 were visibly rejuvenated and full of the "afterglow". This was traced to the new BCMR talk on "Sex in Marriage", heard for the first time in Cebu during this BCMR.

The Brotherhood's Christian Marriage Retreat no. 15 was led by Lloyd/Myrna Limbaga as team couple, assisted by Romy/Gerry Maraya as servant couple. Speakers included Larry/Dedit Veloso, Mari/Chichi Martinez, Raymond Kokseng, Willy/Pilar Puno, Rene/Marides Almendras, and Manolet/Carla Siojo (BCBP Greenhills). #

## LEGASPI

# This is what we did in 1997!

Some of the activities that enervated the BCBP Legazpi outreach during the last half of the year 1997 included their sixth Brotherhood Christian Life Program, their first family day and an action group leaders' training workshop. The Ladies Breakfast also marked its first anniversary.

BCLP 6 began on October 11 and ended on December 6. It was held at the Bicol Small Business Institute, Bicol

University with course leader Fedy Siapno and head servant Ric Lee heading the service team.

The outreach's first family day celebration held August 31, 1997 at the Albay Cathedral Social Hall saw 85 members and 41 children participating in the fun, games, songs and prayers. The biggest delegation to the affair was the three-generation Segui family led by Ching and Lyl. The program was coordinated by

Benjie and Beni Santiago and the Single's group. Host for the day was Unit I headed by Fedy and Amy Siapno.

Makati chapter's mission director Rudy Flores assisted by Rex Resurreccion conducted an intensive Action Group Leader's Training on August 22-23 at the Albay Cathedral Pastoral Center. It was attended by 50 members of the outreach in preparation for the upcoming BCLP and succeeding 1998 activities.

September 27 marked the first anniversary of the Ladies' Breakfast for the outreach. The year's twelve sharers were honored with a cake. #





## DAVAO

## Davao marks 4th anniversary

Davao Outreach, now a chapter-in-training under the guidance of BCBP Cagayan de Oro Chapter, observed their 4th anniversary August 17, 1997 at the Villa Victoria Beach Resort. The celebration was highlighted by a mass officiated by Fr. Paul Finster, S.J. and was attended not only by members and their families but beach goers as well. The whole day affair enabled old members to become acquainted with the new members with everyone enjoying the fun and merriment that deepens Brotherhood ties.#

## Davao's 1st outreach reaps 25 in Tagum

In pursuit of the vision and mission of the Brotherhood, Davao experienced the joy and fulfillment of establishing an outreach in the miners' territory. The 1st BCLP in Tagum, completed last July 30, 1997 welcomed 25 new BCLP graduates.

Many BCBP Davao members trooped to Tagum for the mission work led by course leader Jimmy and Baby Quitain along with chief servants Rey & Chato Aranda.#

## BCLP 8 concluded, BCLP 9 sets in

Amid the flickering city lights from afar and the unending twinkle of stars hovering over the open chapel, 42 new members vowed to adhere to BCBP's mission and vision in solemn commitment rites held last July 19, 1997 atop the mountainous Matina, where the Shrine of Sto Nino stands. BCLP 8 was completed successfully under the course leadership of Dario and Matt Lacap.

And to reap a greater harvest for the vineyard of the Lord, BCLP 9 started last September 27, 1997 with 22 participants enlisting. Held every Saturday from 1:30 to 5:50 pm at Terraza Milesa, BCLP 9 is conducted under the supervision of course leaders Gus and Fe Dacudao.#

## Fifteen couples attend BCMR 4

Fifteen couples enlisted in and finished last September 12-14, 1997 the Davao Brotherhood's Christian Marriage Retreat #4 held at the Cursillo House. For the first time since it started four years ago, Davao Outreach tapped local sharers and speakers for the 3-day in-house retreat for couples.

Couple Rudy and Malou Lorena took time out from their busy schedules to serve as course leaders. Some couples from the newly created Tagum Outreach also joined the retreat.#



## DIPOLOG



**DIPOLOG OUTREACH:** BCBP Dumaguete outreach has just launched the latest BCBP outreach in Dipolog City in October. They are now holding BCLP 1 Dipolog. Mission Director is Bro. Ely Dejaresco. Seen above are DGLs and ADGLs headed by Bro. Paul Ong, chief servant. There are 45 pioneer participants. Outreach head is Jayvee Imbo.



## LEGAZPI

## 1st BCBP-Workers of Christ LSS held

The first Workers of Christ Life in the Spirit Seminar (LSS) was held on the week-end of Sept. 12-14, 1997 at the BSBI Seminar Hall, Bicol University. Fifty-eight office employees and business people completed the weekend.

The BCBP-Workers of Christ team of the Greenhills chapter was headed by Gus Leonardo with six of his team members. BCBP Legazpi outreach provided the service team. Course leader was Ely Salazar, head servant was Ric Lee with Bert Gimenez as his assistant. Coordinators for this activity were Noel and Amy Bolinas.

BCBP outreach head Maning and Pat Lorenzo provided moral support as many BCBP members pitched in with generous support for the success of the WOC-LSS. #



Don't blame the traffic for being late. It's always been there, perhaps forever.  
But you could have been on time had you left earlier - fresh, relaxed and feeling better.








## Partners in Mission of Christ the King

# *A look at its members*


Partners in mission (PIM) is an umbrella organization made up of Ang Ligaya ng Panginoon and several other movements founded by Ligaya which now work together for the sake of the renewal of the Church. Each of the member organizations has its own mission thrust and charism; together they reach out to make Jesus Christ more known and loved through their charismatic activities.

 **The Word of Joy Foundation (WOJ).** In 1975 Ligaya established a ministry the publication and distribution of books, magazines, teaching and music tapes to aid in the support and guidance or renewal in the Catholic Church and in response to requests for such materials from their outreaches and PIM members. WOJ has recently expanded its scope to include the giving of seminars on prayer and music.

 **The Brotherhood of Christian Businessmen and Professionals (BCBP).** In 1980 24 men from Ligaya met in a breakfast forum with the intention of establishing a men's movement in the business and professional sector. This men's breakfast grew into a formally organized foundation, the BCBP, now a national movement with chapters and outreaches throughout the Philippines. Membership embraces not only the businessmen and women and professionals but also includes their spouses and children.


 **Christ's Youth in Action (CYA).** 1980 also saw the establishment of an evangelistic movement aimed at youth in the university environments. Person-to-person evangelization and presentation of the Gospel message in the classroom setting are two of the ways CYA has gone about making initial contact with its members. From there students are invited to an evangelistic retreat or a Christian Life Series in which the young people are invited to make a personal commitment to Jesus Christ and receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit. Subsequent emphasis is on the leadership development of CYA's student members.


CYA has a full-time staff of young people who give several months to several years of their lives to serve the Lord before pursuing their respective careers.


 **Ang Lingkod ng Panginoon (ALNP).** As members of CYA graduate from university many desire to retain the experience of support and ongoing apostolic activities they had entered into as students. So


Lingkod was formed for these young single professionals. While taking in many of those who graduate from CYA, it has developed a thriving evangelistic program of its own, with most members devoting some time and energy to various types of social action.

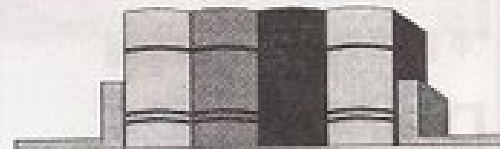
Along with the apostolic work there are also programs to help members in the areas of choosing the proper state of life as well as equipping and preparing its members for marriage and family life if they are so led.

 **Tahanan ng Panginoon (TNP).** In responding to the call of the Church to be a "church of the poor" Ligaya established TNP as a holistic spiritual and community building movement in the depressed areas of Manila. The focus of this movement is those people living in depressed areas who have some potential of upward mobility and are capable of receiving training in transforming their lives and environments in which they live. TNP currently has established communities in 13 depressed areas in and around Manila.

 **The Institute for Pastoral Development (IPD).** Officially organized in 1985 this training center was established with the aim of teaching, training and equipping lay men and women for the service of the Church. It specializes in teaching practical methods of bible study and sharing as well as training for evangelism and community building. Its Scripture Venture courses have been attended by hundreds of people from throughout Asia.

 **Women for Christ (WFC).** Begun in 1985, is a movement of lay women which attempts to provide a family-like experience for widows, women abandoned by their spouses, unmarried mothers and mature single women and provide Christian support and renewal to these women who, due to circumstances of life, find themselves "alone". Members receive spiritual, emotional and financial support.

 **FAMILIA.** This movement is a family life apostolate that focuses on family spiritual renewal and community building in the parish context. Entry is through the Empowered Christian Living Series, which is followed by a commitment to FAMILIA and participation in Households as the source of small group support. FAMILIA, established in 1993, currently has several chapters in Metro Manila as well as in other provincial areas throughout the Philippines.



## BOOKSHELF

Some suggestions to read on your  
journey with Jesus

**The Magnificent Vision: Seeing yourself through the eyes of Christ** by Lloyd John Ogilvie. (St. Paul's, Philippines, c1980)

Do you lack power for life's struggles? Do you ever feel defeated by your thoughts, actions and reactions? Do you wonder how long you dare to call yourself a Christian when there is so little of Christ's peace, power, and love in your life? This is the book for you.

The author points out that to be in Christ as believer, disciple and as a loved and forgiven person is only half of the blessing God intends. The second half consists in having Christ in you as motivator, enabler, and transformer of personality. The Lord has a much more exciting vision for your life than you do. And Ogilvie points out ways that you can have what it takes and be the real you, the person that Christ sees when He looks at you.

**The Prophet** by Kahlil Gibran. (Alfred A. Knopf, New York, c1971)

For those of you who have not yet made the acquaintance of Lebanese philosopher Kahlil Gibran's wonderful little book **The Prophet**, an exciting time is in store for you. Gibran delves into many areas of our lives such as work, clothes, crime and punishment, freedom, pain, joys and sorrows, children and death in such a way as to bring new meaning and inspiration into our lives.

He says that parents "are the bows from which your children as living arrows are sent forth." When we work we "are a flute through whose heart the whispering of the hours turns to music." Gibran defines pain as "the breaking of the shell that encloses your understanding."

This is an excellent book for short reflections and, though you may not fully agree with all Gibran says, surely your thoughts will turn to the unfathomable ways of the Lord and be glad that you are alive.





**Nancy Catan.** For eight solid years, Nancy has kept her pencil sharp in managing and editing the Kapatiran. Her journalistic prowess, real and exceptional experiences in the corporate world, her seemingly bottomless library of articles, and her unquestionable faith in God has revolutionized Kapatiran and brought it to what it is now. But all good things come to an end. She and husband Jun have been called to a new service in the Brotherhood, and just like a real soldier of God, Nancy now has to go where the "Commander in Chief" orders her to go. But not without the solemn commitment to continue writing for Kapatiran. Good luck, and may the Spirit of the Lord be with you always!



**Ronnie Caballero.** It seems that new assignments are the order of the day. After serving as Makati Chapter head, Ronnie now takes the cudgels from Nancy Catan as the Kapatiran new Managing Editor. Ronnie admits that his journalism experience is not even close to half of that of his predecessor. Maybe so, but his writing skills are certainly tipping the higher level of the scale (see Ronnie's article on page 2.). And with his commendable track record as a BCBP leader, management expertise, and his servant's heart, Ronnie, no doubt will "gel in" in no time at all. Welcome aboard, Ronnie.



**Eddie Mendoza.** Again, a new appointee, Eddie has just been installed as the new chapter head of BCBP Greenhills. Aside from this and that of his position as one of the top men of Phinma, Eddie still doesn't seem to have his hands full. An amazing work horse, he has just concluded, together with a team commissioned by the Council, the pilot run of the BCBP Christians in Business Retreat (BCBR), and is now completing the final program outline. And, he is also helping with the review and revision of the BCLP Course Manual. Despite all these activities, Eddie finds time to continue to write his column in the Kapatiran.



**Fernando de Larrazabal.** Tito Larry's "One Minute Meditations" continues to inspire many of us, and he is now finishing another book on the subject. A full-blooded BCBPer, Tito Larry doesn't seem to run out of steam, as he steers the helm of the Luzon Council as its managing director. His "meditations" can be heard over the different radio stations of the Radio Mindanao Network (RMN) nationwide. Check it out.



**Sammy M. Ulanday.** Surprisingly, Sammy was educated as a Doctor of Optometry - a completely different orientation from the scope of his present job as BCBP Secretary General. "This is just one of the many manifestations of God's blessing", he asserts faithfully. Indeed, for besides managing the BCBP Center and serving the needs of the Councils, he also does the computer layout of the Kapatiran, and writes a column to boot.



**Annie Salvador.** With five active youngsters to bring up, Annie has initiated many ways to keep them interested, happy and under control. She makes a habit of being organized or at least appearing to be organized. Annie assists her husband Nelson in their business by running their home office plus she and Nelson are unit leaders in the BCBP Makati chapter. Annie is often called on by the Makati ladies to give breakfast sharings and reflections. "Truly inspiring", say her BCBP sisters.



**Art Sampang.** Art, our man from Central Luzon is back with a bag-full of articles. In this issue he tackles one of the more talked about issues - politics! It's about time, especially with the polls drawing near. We hope to hear more of Art's "mind" as he addresses current issues from the Christian point of view.



**Nitz Butao.** "It's not easy to trek down the road of life and I'm grateful to the BCBP for smoothing the way." A member of the Butuan BCBP Outreach, Nitz writes a weekly column for the Northern Mindanao Chronicle, sharing inspirational thoughts and quotable quotes that she has gathered in her spiritual journey.



**Cynthia Matas.** Cynthia who hails from Iloilo was formerly a high school religion teacher. Her husband Dioko is in active military service. They are now based in Sangley point, Cavite and are unit leaders in the Cavite BCBP Outreach. Cynthia also serves in the teaching and formation ministry of the outreach.

# CELEBRATE!

## BCBP

## 18TH

# ANNIVERSARY

### MAY 30, 1998

## SPORTSLINK

## ENTERTAINMENT

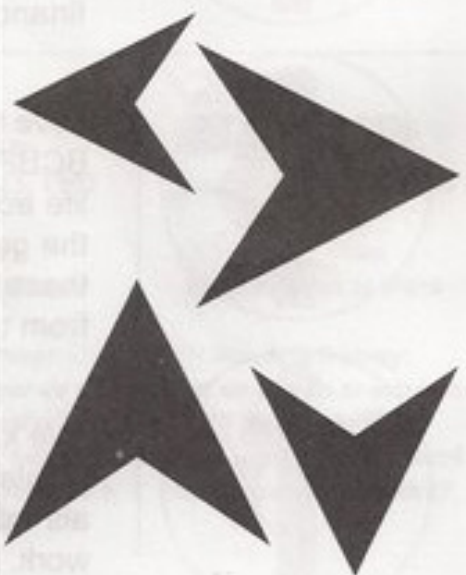
## PLAZA

## MANILA

# Be

# There

# When It Happens!





# VISION

The vision of the Brotherhood of Christian Businessmen and Professionals (BCBP) is that of a full life in Christ for all, particularly business people and professionals.

This full life is expressed through a three tiered, lifelong process:

**CONVERSION** to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ;

**COMMITMENT** to the values espoused by Him; and,

**COMMISSIONING** to spread these values to others, especially in the conduct of business and the professions.



# MISSION

To attain its vision of a full life in Christ for all, the BCBP has established a two-fold mission:

-To create and promote together a support environment where business people and professionals can experience Christ in a personal and meaningful way, thereby transforming them into disciples of Christ and agents for justice, equity and sound development; and,

-To create a body of Christian business people and professionals who are so trained and structured for action that their individual as well as collective efforts result in a forward impact in business practices, and through this, enable the economy, and society in general, to be transformed by Gospel values.

## BCBP CORE VALUES

### LOVE FOR GOD

Our highest priority is to love God. This means the quality and strength of all our other relationships and undertakings should be founded on a deep personal relationship with the Lord. We live out this core value through a consistent prayer life, regular reading of Scripture, faithful observance of the Sacraments, and the leading of an orderly life. A life that is constantly examined, renewed and balanced in the areas of relationships (family & others); finances, intellectual development; health; and spiritual growth.

### LOVE FOR COMMUNITY

Love for community essentially means loving our brothers and sisters in the BCBP. We show this love by being present and participative in all chapter life activities as well as community-wide gatherings. We show this love by the generous giving of our time, our talents and financial support. In all of these we are submitted to human authority which, in faith, we know flows from the ultimate authority of our Lord.

### COMMITMENT TO THE LORD'S WORK

We know the BCBP has the distinct task of bringing our Lord into the marketplace. We carry this out by bringing fellow businessmen and professionals into the community, by our own personal witnessing in our places of work, and taking an active part in the transformation of business organizations.





# The BCBP Breakfast

## THE SPIRIT OF THE BCBP BREAKFAST

*The Breakfast is unique to the BCBP. There is no other organization that is known to have instituted a breakfast that has changed the lives of so many businessmen and professionals. The BCBP has the singular distinction of having introduced and sustained the breakfast system to bring the Gospel of Christ effectively to the marketplace. From this concept of a "Christian breakfast" evolved a potent renewal organization, the Brotherhood of Christian Businessmen and Professionals.*

*The Breakfast is a basic entry point for personal renewal. This is an important objective of the breakfast. It must continue to be the easiest way to a person's search for spiritual renewal. The simplicity of form and the effective delivery of the Gospel message through the "sharing" are key to the painless introduction of a businessman or professional to the door of Christian renewal.*

*The Breakfast is a means to continue upbuilding the members of the BCBP. The breakfast attendance is not an "option" for BCBP members but rather a commitment to the evangelistic culture of the BCBP. As members we are bound to not only evangelize in the breakfast but equally important to "fellowship, share and upbuild" our brothers and sisters through attendance and participation in the breakfasts. This is an inherent part of the*

*BCBP culture which we have sworn to propagate in the marketplace. Every breakfast where we share our work experience with one another strengthens and upbuilds our members. This confirms the support that they are not alone in the resolve to actively bring Christ to our marketplace.*



*Louie Morales, National Council director for guilds, discusses with mission directors and breakfast heads the spirit of the BCBP Breakfast during a Vismin Conference.*

## MEN'S BREAKFAST (7:30 A.M.)

Wednesdays - MAKATI: Makati Sports Club, Makati

Thursdays - GREENHILLS: Club Filipino, Greenhills

VILLAMOR: Villamor Golf Club (1st & 3rd)

Fridays - MANILA: Racks, Remedios Circle, Malate, Manila

### Saturdays

ALABANG: Ayala Alabang Country Club, Muntinlupa

BACOLOD: Roli's La Salle, Bacolod

BAGUIO: Prime Hotel, Session Rd., Baguio (2nd & 4th Sat.)

BAYBAY: Angelicum (1st & 2nd Sat.)

BUKIDNON: Taipan Restaurant, Valencia (1st Sat.)

Pines Hotel, Malaybalay (3rd Sat.)

CAGAYAN DE ORO: Consuelo Steak House, Corales St. Cagayan de Oro

CALAMBA: Max's Restaurant

CEBU: Ding Qua-Qua Rest., Gen Maxilom Ave, Cebu City

DAVAO: Kuya Eds (2nd & 4th Sat.)

DUMAGUETE: Ma. Luisa Plaza, Dumaguete City (1st & 3rd Sat.)

ILIGAN: Maria Cristina Hotel (2nd & 4th Sat.)

ILOILO: Amigo Terraces Hotel

LAS PIÑAS: Italia Club 500, BF Resort, Las Piñas

LEGASPI: Albay Hotel, Legaspi City (2nd Sat.)

LUCENA: Halina Hotel & Rest., P. Gomez, Lucena City (1st & 3rd Sat.)

MAASIN: Valtevan Restaurant, Leyte (1st Sat.)

MACTAN: Flormont Hotel, Cebu City

OZAMIS: 1st and 3rd Sat.

PARAÑAQUE: The Village Restaurant, Cabarus cor. Palanca, BF

PUERTO PRINCESA: Asiaworld Resort Hotel

QUEZON CITY: Terrace Grill, 119 Roces Avenar cor. Morato

RIZAL: View Square, Sumulong Highway, Antipolo

TACLOBAN: Don's Cabin, Justice Jimenez St. (2nd & 4th Sat.)

TAGBILARAN: Mel's Kainan

## MEN'S LUNCHEON (12:00 NN)

Saturday - DAGUPAN: Celebrity House, Arellano St.

## MEN'S MERIENDA (4:00 P.M.)

Saturday - TUGUEGARAO: Marilyn's Restaurant (2nd & 4th Sat)

## LADIES' BREAKFAST

Wednesdays - MAKATI: Makati Sports Club (2nd Wed.)

Thursdays - GREENHILLS: Club Filipino, Greenhills

San Juan (3rd Thurs.)

### Saturdays

ALABANG: Ayala Alabang Country Club (2nd Sat.)

BACOLOD: Quan, La Salle Bacolod City (2nd Sat.)

CAGAYAN DE ORO: Tja Nanang, Corales St. (2nd & 3rd Sat.)

CEBU: Ding Qua-Qua Restaurant (1st and 3rd Sat.)

ILOILO: Amigo Terraces Hotel (1st Sat.)

LAS PIÑAS: Italia Club 500 (3rd Sat.)

LEGASPI: Albay Hotel (4th Sat.)

MACTAN: Flormont Hotel (1st Sat.)

PARAÑAQUE: The Village Restaurant (4th Sat.)

QUEZON CITY: Terrace Grill (2nd Sat.)

RIZAL: View Square, Sumulong, Antipolo (1st Sat.)

## JOINT BREAKFAST (7:30 A.M.)

Wednesdays - MAKATI: Makati Sports Club (1st Weds.)

Thursdays - GREENHILLS: Club Filipino (1st Thurs.)

Fridays - MANILA: Racks Restaurant, Malate, Manila

### Saturdays

ALABANG: Ayala Alabang Country Club (4th Sat.)

BUTUAN: Carl Patrick's Hotel and Restaurant (4th Sat.)

CAGAYAN DE ORO: Silver Court, Capt. Vicente Roa St.,

Cogon, Cagayan de Oro City (3rd Sat.)

CAVITE: Emperor Restaurant, Cavite City (3rd Sat.)

DAGUPAN: Celebrity House, Arellano ST. (3rd Sat.)

LAS PIÑAS: Italia Club 500 (1st Sat.)

LEGASPI: Albay Hotel, Legaspi City (2nd Sat.)

MACTAN: Flormont Hotel (2nd Sat.)

PARAÑAQUE: The Village Restaurant, BF (2nd Sat.)

QUEZON CITY: Terrace Grill (4th Sat.)

RIZAL: View Square, Sumulong, Antipolo (3rd Sat.)

SAN FERNANDO: Cafe Rustico, Olongapo-Gapan Rd.



# THE BCBP COUNTRY

