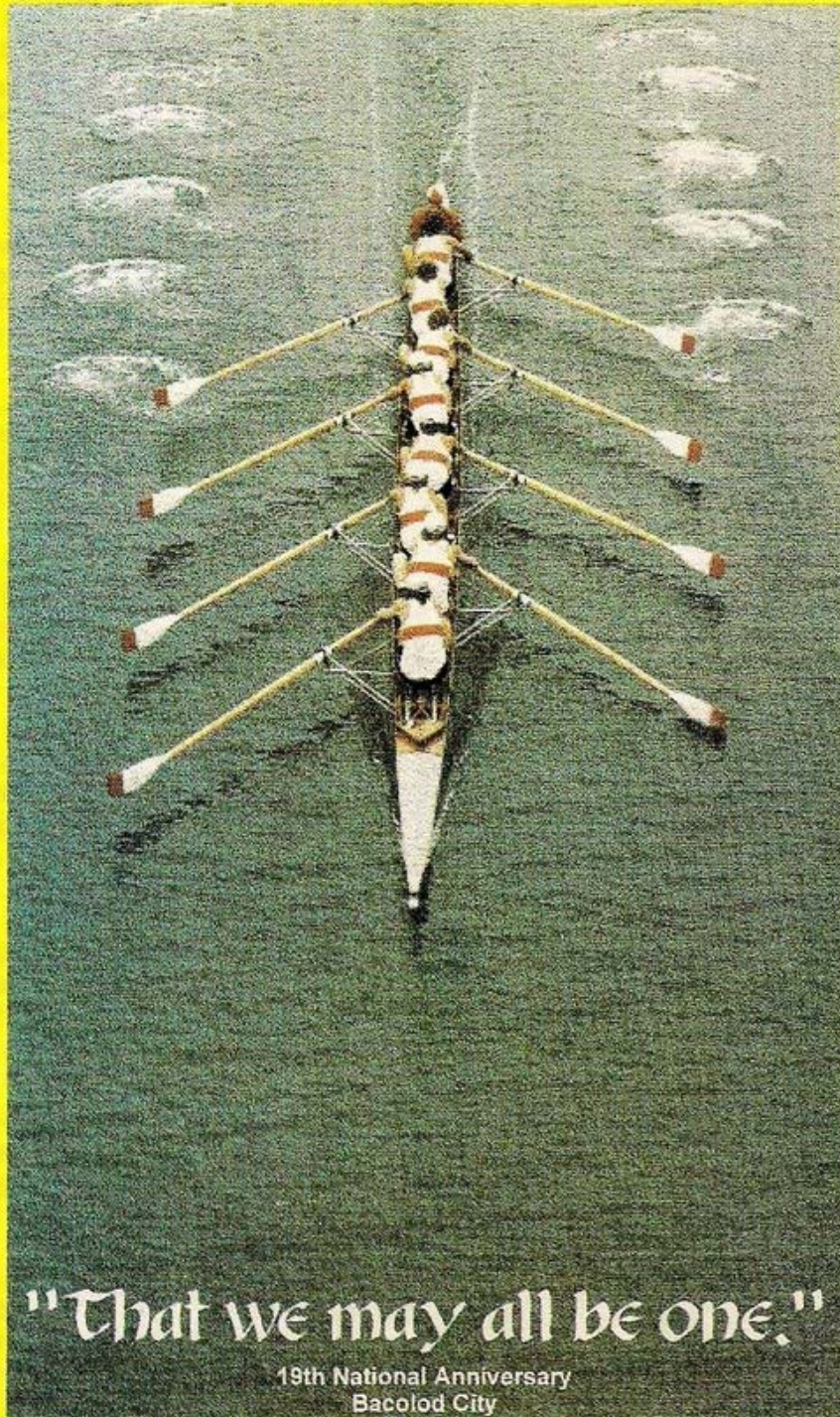


Kapatiran

Vol. XIII Issue 2

March - April 1999



"That we may all be one."

19th National Anniversary
Bacolod City

Breakfast Venues

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

Wednesdays - MAKATI: Makati Sports Club

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 NORTH: Roli's La Salle, Bacolod

BACOLOD SOUTH: McDonald's

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

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

BUKIDNON: Taipan Rest., Valencia (1st) Hotel Malibu Malaybalay (3rd Sat.)

CAGAYAN DE ORO: Paulo's Restaurant, Cagayan de Oro

CALAMBA: Riverview Resort and Conference Center

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

DAVAO: Terraza Millesa (1st, 2nd & 3rd Sat.)

ILIGAN: Sunburst Restaurant

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.)

LIPA: Sawali Restaurant, Sabang, Lipa City

MACTAN: Flormont Hotel, Cebu City

PARAÑAQUE: BF Citi Business Center, Elizalde St., BF Homes

PUERTO PRINCESA: Seafont Restaurant

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

RIZAL: Manila East Golf Club, Taytay, Rizal

ROXAS: Kanami Restaurant

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

TAGBILARAN: La Roca Hotel

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, SJ (3rd Thurs.)

Saturdays

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

BACOLOD NORTH: Jollibee, Bacolod City (3rd Sat.)

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

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

DAVAO: Terreza Millesa (4th Sat.)

ILOILO: Amigo Terraces Hotel (last Sat.)

LAS PIÑAS: Italia Club 500 (3rd. Sat.)

LEGASPI: Albay Hotel (4th Sat.)

MACTAN: Flormont Hotel (2nd Sat.)

PARAÑAQUE: BF Citi Business Center, Elizalde St., BF Homes

QUEZON CITY: Terrace Grill (2nd Sat.)

ROXAS: Kanami Restaurant

RIZAL: Manila East Golf Club, Taytay, Rizal (1st. Sat.)

TACLOBAN: Don's Cabin (2nd Sat.)

TAGBILARAN: La Roca Hotel (3rd. 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: Echelon Hotel (2nd & 4th Sat.)

BACOLOD NORTH: Roli's La Salle (4th Sat.)

BACOLOD SOUTH: McDonald's (4th Sat.)

BAYBABY: Angelicum Parich Hall (2nd & 4th Sun.)

CAGAYAN DE ORO: Silver Court, Capt. Vicente Roa St., (3rd Sat.)

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

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

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

DAVAO: Terreza Millesa (2nd Sat.)

DIPOLOG: Top Plaza Hotel (2nd & 4th Sat.)

DUMAGUETE: Bethel Rest House (1st & 3rd Sat.)

LAS PIÑAS: Italia Club 500 (1st Sat.)

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

MAASIN: Valteviran Restaurant, Leyte (1st. & 3rd. Sun.)

MACTAN: Flormont Hotel (4th Sat.)

ORMOC: Pongos Hotel (2nd & 3rd. Sat.)

OZAMIZ: Supermix Restaurant (1st & 3rd Sat.)

PARAÑAQUE: BF Citi Business Center, Elizalde St., BF Homes

QUEZON CITY: Terrace Grill (4th Sat.)

RIZAL: Manila East Golf Club, Taytay, Rizal (3rd Sat.)

SAN FERNANDO: Cafe Rustico, Olongapo-Gapan Rd.

SAN JOSE: Regina's Restaurant (1st & 3rd Sun.)

TACLOBAN: Don's Cabin (4th. Sat.)

TAGBILARAN: JJ's Seafood Village (2nd & 4th. Sat.)

TAGUM: Molave Resturant (1st & 3rd Sat.)

TUBIGON: Parish Palao Hall (1st & 3rd. Sat.)

TUGUEGARAO: Marilyn Restaurant (2nd & 4th Sat.)

Greetings of Easter Joy!



This is our Anniversary Edition of the Kapatiran with coverage of the 19th BCBP Anniversary celebration in Bacolod on April 23-25, 1999. We are devoting the entire issue to the anniversary, with very few exceptions, so **THAT WE CAN ALL BE ONE** in joining this great occasion, even if only vicariously. We decided to move our regular features and columnists, including my editorial, to the May-June issue in order to have a more comprehensive coverage of this very successful affair. Those of you who attended and enjoyed the "overwhelming" hospitality of BCBP Bacolod North and South chapters can refresh their memories. Those of us, who for one reason or another, were not able to participate in this year's anniversary can at least get a taste of the celebration from these pages...and if you are like me, make a firm resolution not to miss future anniversaries.

R
RONNIE CABALLERO

The Cover. "That we may all be one", our 19th anniversary theme is embodied in this presentation. Oneness is further underscored by the picture's depiction of accuracy and precision, which when fully practiced will enable our Brotherhood to go places - perhaps to go global!

19th National Anniversary

Anniversary Issue

LIVING OUT THE ONENESS

2

Nene Gamboa, Bacolod North Chapter Head gives the opening remarks at the start of the program.

WELCOME TO BACOLOD

2

Our brothers and sisters from Bacolod, offer us a warm welcome with their inimitable smiles, piaya, pinasugbo, lechon and puto.

THAT WE MAY ALL BE ONE

3

The anniversary theme is illustrated, emphasizing its meaning based on the Scriptural truth from which it was adapted.

THE JOY IN UNITY

4

President Manny Banigan dishes out his anniversary message to the community, explaining further the joy that everyone must have felt during the week-end celebration.

VIGILANCE IN ONENESS

7

While we may be enjoying oneness, Art issues a warning not to be too complacent. He exhorts everyone to be truly bonded by a genuine spirit of love to preserve our unity.

BE OPEN TO THE SPIRIT

8

This inspiring homily by Bishop Camilo Gregorio during the Eucharistic celebration examines the dimension of faith.

From My Desktop Files

19TH ANNIVERSARY: CAUSE AND EFFECTS

14

Sammy shares some inside information about the anniversary preparations, and his personal experiences during the celebration. - by *Sammy M. Ulanday*

Still on the Anniversary

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19th National Anniversary

Sharing

CAN WE SUSTAIN OUR ENTHUSIASM?

9

Karina expresses her feelings, particularly the fulfillment achieved in being anonymous, as she involved herself in the preparations of the anniversary. - by *Karina Jugo*

OUTPOURING OF THE SPIRIT

9

"It was indeed a weekend of experiencing the powerful outpouring of the Spirit, an experience as profound as it was gratifying, fulfilling as it was affirming. Serving as a member of the Secretariat was to me, a rare privilege of joyfully and lovingly serving the Lord through one another," says Ating - by *Ating Jochico*

1999 BCBP ANNIVERSARY AND BEYOND

10

Beth lets her pen (fingers on computer keyboard, if you may) flow unceasingly as she delivers a blow-by-blow account of her memorable and significant weekend at the hands of the "Bacolodians" in one of the rare occasions when we get to hear long but true to form narrative of personal experiences during an anniversary. by *Beth Ginete*

BCBP Y2K ANNIVERSARY

13

Las Piñas, next year's anniversary celebration lead chapter, proposes this reassuring invitation to all members of the community to "come home to Manila" for the 20th anniversary. The Date: April 29, Year 2000. The Vision: Tens of Hundreds of Christian men and women coming together in celebration of oneness with the Lord and with one another. The Occasion: BCBP's 20th Anniversary. by *Rey Feria*

Back to Basics

GOD THE FATHER: SOURCE OF ALL LOVE

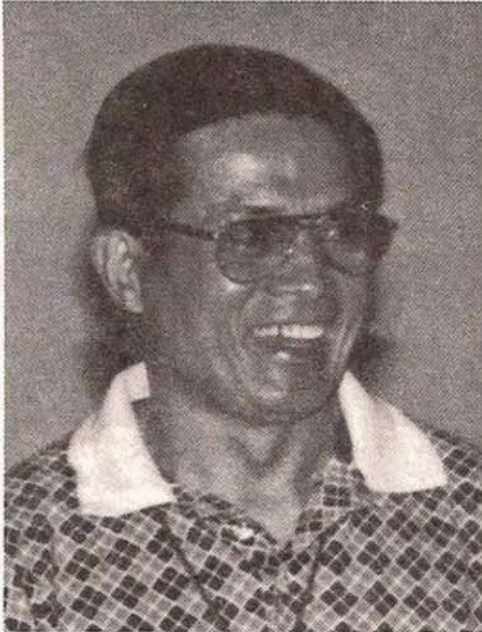
22

The Year of the Father ushers in a new era of our Christianity - an era simply focusing on Love... Love that is the beginning and the end of the way that leads to God. As Scripture proclaims, God is love: it is the Father who eternally generates his Son in the bond of personal love that is the Holy Spirit. This divine love, a central mystery of Christianity, intends to be communicated to our hearts and to animate us. It is this divine love that is the power that gives the Church its life and structure.

by *Nancy Catan*

living out the "ONENESS"

Welcome Address
Nene Gamboa, Chapter
Head, Bacolod North



Good evening, brothers and sisters. My task tonight is to officially welcome you all to our 19th Anniversary Celebration. I know that some, if not most of you, have been welcomed already ever since you've arrived, likewise at the different sports activities, during our assembly, at the different venues of our pocket-dinners last night, and this morning again during our Joint Breakfast. And we will keep on welcoming you. Members of the Bacolod chapters have been assigned to you as your host, on one-on-two basis, to make you feel welcome throughout this Anniversary Celebration. This is in line with our theme: "THAT WE MAY ALL BE ONE."

We in the host chapters have already experienced this "oneness" in our community during the course of preparing for this celebration, and we hope that you, our guests, will likewise experience this oneness during our time together.

But, brothers and sisters, let us go beyond these wonderful moments of celebration and really live out this "Oneness" in the day-to-day life of our community. Most of us know how wanting we are in living out this "Oneness". For in our own capability, we can never achieve this. We need first to be truly united with Christ, as Christ tells us in Jn. 15:15: "Whoever abides in Me and I in him, bears much fruit."

In this 15th chapter of John, which is two chapters before the chapter where our Anniversary Theme is found, there are four verses all speaking of this union with Christ. In verse 5 we are "branches", in verse 15 "friends", in verse 20 "servants", and in verse 27 "witnesses." The fourfold significance in these four aspects of union is this: as BRANCHES, we live in Him; as SERVANTS, we work for Him; as FRIENDS, we rejoice with Him; and as WITNESSES, we speak for Him. Branches, friends, servants and witnesses — so Christ is our life, our joy, our Lord, and our theme.

Brothers and sisters, if we are truly united with Christ, who is the source of all love, then we can't help but love one another and be one with one another. So let us be identified with those for whom Christ prayed to His heavenly Father: "I pray that all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You."

So again, brothers and sisters, in behalf of both Bacolod South and North Chapters, I welcome you to the BCBP's 19th Anniversary. May our loving Father bless us all abundantly.



Welcome to Bacolod the city of smiles

Sugar, piaya, pinasugbo, and puto ... For years we had only been known by such. Negros didn't have much of the tourist destinations other places boasted of, and to an extent, not much of an identity, too.

Not until a little short of 20 years ago when the province was mourning over 2 tragic events - the debilitating sugar crisis of the '80's, and the loss of family, friends, and loved ones in the Don Juan sea tragedy - did Negrenses find the need to rise above these crippling tribulations and go on.

So the MASSKARA festival of Bacolod was born. MASSKARA is not simply a mask - it signifies the face (KARA) of the masses (MASS).

It was under the administration of then Bacolod Mayor and BCBP Bro. Digoy Montalvo that the festival was conceptualized out of a desire to shroud these misfortunes with a smiling mask. The festival paved the way for Bacolod to find its place on the country's tourism map. Currently on its way to becoming the "Convention City of the South", Bacolod now boasts of the riches of its attractions - ITS PEOPLE.

The distinctive Negrense hospitality never ceases to amaze our guests, both foreign and local. Negrenses go out of their way to welcome and entertain, even to the extent of foregoing comfort and ease among themselves, just to accommodate a guest. Down to the grassroots, it is common practice to give up prized possessions in exchange for an opportunity to celebrate and open homes to visiting guests. Funny, but true. We treasure such occasion, and that's really the way we are. A HEARTFELT WELCOME TO ALL.

*"I pray that they all be one, Father, just as you are in me,
and I am in you." John 17:21*

...that we may all be **ONE**

Christ did not pray that men may be rich or great in this world, but He pleaded with his Father that He would keep them by His power, united for His glory in affection and labor. Nor did He pray that men be removed out of the world that they might escape the rage of earthly life, but that they may be strengthened for their duty, as ONE body, under ONE head, animated by ONE soul, by their union with Christ and the Father in Him, through the power of the Holy Spirit dwelling in them.

The Brotherhood of Christian Businessmen and Professionals (BCBP) Community has grown to a membership tally of about 9,000 today. Spread across the islands in a country so diverse in culture, language, and practice, it has become easier to dispute about differences, peculiarities, and the lesser things. What an awesome privilege then has the Father afforded us with, to speak ONE language, to be ONE community with a common set of practices and to live ONE culture - the BCBP culture.

If an earthly father could desire so much for his children, what more our heavenly Father!

The Father gives His person to us, so we may establish our own sonship with Him, to become His image and likeness, thus establishing us as His family. It is God's greatest desire to bring us permanently into this FAMILY bond with Him.

Let us therefore be SINGLEMINDED in our vision and mission. We are not to be separated by our chapter or outreach affiliation, not by the venue or nature of our workplace and service. Let us allow ourselves to be anchored only by our firm commitment to be equally faithful and loyal to our community and our God.

By His divine inspiration and will, everything around us has fallen into place, like pieces of a puzzle fitted perfectly together. The directions of our respective ministries have been carefully laid out and endorsed by our loving Father, and so has He provided the bounties to support such. We have multiplied like the baskets of bread and fish that fed many who listened to His word - we are simply awed by His marvelous grace.

Our 19th Anniversary theme "that we may all be one" from John 17:21 stood out amongst the many during the long and tedious process of discernment, only to be confirmed by the Catholic Church's declaration of the year 1999 as "the Year of the Father" that we may all be one in HIM.

With His extensive grace, the Father, too, has gifted us with a most appropriate anthem "ONE FAMILY", a product of last year's anniversary songwriting contest which has since then been recognized as the official BCBP song. Marvelous indeed are His ways - "that we may all be one in HIM, the FATHER, as one FAMILY" - the BCBP.

Let us then endeavor to keep the UNITY of the spirit in the bond of peace, praying that all of us may more and more united in ONE mind and ONE judgement so we may continue with our vision and mission, and convince the world of the truth and excellence of our faith.

HAPPY 19TH ANNIVERSARY TO ALL!!!

Spirit

Here we are in front of you, Holy Spirit
We feel the burden of our infirmities,
But we are united
All together in your name.
Come to us, help us,
Enter into our hearts
Teach us what we should do,
The part to follow,
Do for us what you ask us to do.
Be the only one
To propose and guide our decisions,
Because only you,
With the Father and the Son,
Have a name that is glorious and holy.
Do not allow us to offend justice,
You who love order and peace.
Do not let ignorance lead us astray,
Don't let human sympathy bias us
Don't let people of office influence us,
Keep us intimately close to you.
With the gift of your grace,
So that we may only be
One thing with you,
And nothing may separate us
From the truth.
Gathered in your Holy Name
May we be good and firm,
So that all we do
May be in harmony with you
Awaiting that the faithful fulfillment
Of our duty may lead us
To eternal good. Amen.

*Prayer attributed to St. Isidore of
Seville, 8th Century*



Good evening to you all my brothers and sisters. Each year, for the last 19 years, BCBP members have gathered together to celebrate an important event in the life of BCBP, our anniversary. It is an event that many look forward to because it is a time of festivity, of joy, of renewing acquaintances, of meeting other brothers and sisters in community. Over these 19 years, I have had the pleasure and privilege of having attended 17 BCBP anniversaries and I must say that I have enjoyed each and every one of them immensely.

I remember having read in an article that "the chief end and duty of man is to love God and to enjoy him forever." How true can this statement be for even Scripture tells us that the joy of the Lord is our strength and also tells us that today is holy to the Lord for it is a day dedicated to Him. Thus, in Nehemiah 8:10, we read:

Manny C. Banigan
BCBP National President
19th Anniversary Message
Bacolod Convention Center

"He said further, Go, eat rich food and drink sweet drinks, and allot portions to those who had nothing prepared; for today is holy to our Lord., Do not be saddened this day, for rejoicing in the Lord must be your strength. (Neh.8:10)

When I came across this scripture verse, I queried myself about its meaning and implication. Somehow I got the sense that celebration is central in our life, in our spiritual disciplines. That we cannot continue long in anything without the spirit of joy. In fact, I dare to state that the only reason we can begin anything we do, either as individuals or as a community is because we know that joy, our rejoicing in the Lord is the end result. This is what had sustained us in the BCBP for the last 19 years. We knew from the beginning of our existence that there is a sense of pleasure, of enjoyment, in everything that the Lord will bring before us. Without the joyful spirit of festivity, our disciplines become dull, death-breathing tools in the hand of modern Pharisees.

Today, here in Bacolod, which I acknowledge to be truly the City of Smiles I understand that we have in attendance more than one thousand three hundred BCBP-ers from all over the country. While this may be our biggest so far, it has also been our experience for the last five or so years that we, the experienced, the not-so-experienced and the new members of the BCBP encounter one another in a spirit that is full of excitement, of hope and great expectations during our national anniversary celebrations.

I was sad when I read in the Kapatiran an article written by our sister Nena Paras from Cagayan de Oro about the "Lamentations of a Manila Girl" where she expressed in a rather straight forward manner some of her disappointing experiences during our anniversary last year. As I reflected it dawned on me that the Lord was

THE JOY IN unity

THE JOY IN unity

not only teaching us a lesson but ushering us into an understanding that feelings ... of joy or of sadness are not an end by themselves, but rather only a means to enhance our love for God and to build our strength in the Lord.

Not coincidentally, the Lord, had inspired our hosts, the BCBP Bacolod North and South Chapters to immediately address that experience with this year's anniversary theme: "THAT WE MAY ALL BE ONE" taken from John 17:21. In this Gospel account, Jesus entrusted us, his disciples, to the Father. Jesus knew the dangers that we were bound to face ... the world, the flesh and devil...temptations, fear, sorrow, and even division. Recognizing such perils, He now reminds us that oneness is a necessity if we are to overcome the obstacles that tend to take us away from effectively pursuing that vision and mission that the Good Lord had entrusted to us. He tells us that we must be one heart and one mind, that we must be an encouragement to one another, indeed, we must be our brother's keeper.

In the book of Acts, we find many accounts where the believers even went to the extent of disposing their properties so that the proceeds could then be distributed to everyone according to need. No one claimed any of his possessions as his own, but they had every thing in common. I am not saying that we are called to do the same expression of sacrificial love, but rather to understand and appropriate to ourselves that UNITY ... being a family, a precious gift of the Spirit that we must foster and cherish with all our hearts.

And unity, oneness in the BCBP is a must if we are to collectively be diligent keepers of the vision and the mission entrusted to us for indeed Unity is strength, and if at this hour, you still have not added to your list of new friends, at least ten new acquaintances from the other chapters and outreaches, then you have failed to take advantage of the numerous opportunities available to you for this purpose of increasing our oneness.

The calling for us to be one is also made significant because our anniversary this year is the last for this century and we are all privileged to be a part of yet another milestone.

Our 19th year celebration is also our window to the third millennium, an era in the his-

tory of mankind and of the BCBP that is veiled with uncertainties but definitely rich with great hope and expectations.

Next year, the beginning of the new millennium, has been declared by the Catholic Church as the Year of the Great Jubilee. In Lev.25:8ff, we find the great significance of the Year of the Jubilee, a year of new beginnings, of homecomings, of being clean or cleansed, of being honest, of being just, of being helpful, of freedom, of observing divine statutes and of faithful keeping of heavenly ordinances, of pursuing that which we have all been called to do. While it promises a rewarding year, it also challenges us to give our best, to look beyond our personal preferences, to get out of our comfort zones, to look not on ourselves or what we can get out of the BCBP or from the Lord, but to think of how much of ourselves we are willing to give in order to promote God's pur-



poses and to move towards establishing a truly united BCBP community in a radical way, and all because we are bound by a common love for God and of one another.

"That we may all be one" is not simply a wish or a prayer. It is a calling, in fact, a directive from the God most high for all of us to take the initiative in constantly seeking and pursuing the oneness - the unity that we are all called to. Neither distance nor time, nor culture, nor chapter, nor service should take us away from our predestined life ... oneness, unity with God through one another because He is our Father and we are His sons and daughters.

At this time allow me to acknowledge with much appreciation, the great service that our brothers and sisters here in Bacolod North and South Chapters, are giving to the Lord by making us all feel like one big family. Many have invested much of themselves to make this event not simply a successful undertaking, but rather a great offering of love to our Abba Father. Can we all give them a well deserved acknowledgement? May we now all ask every-

one to stand up, except for our hosts, the BCBP Bacolod members, and give them a warm applause. At this time, may I ask everyone to extend their hands to the nearest brother or sister from Bacolod as we pray for them in appreciation and gratitude and to ask the Lord to continue blessing their personal, family and community life.

Thank you.

"... the coming millenium challenges us to give our best... how much are we willing to give?"

BCBP 19th Anniversary ATTENDANCE BY CHAPTERS



Alabang	:	33	Kabankalan	:	18	Manila	:	7	Rizal	:	13
Bacolod North	:	228	Las Piñas	:	28	Ormoc	:	1	Roxas	:	25
Bacolod South	:	311	Legaspi	:	8	Ozamis	:	4	San Fernando	:	7
Baguio	:	7	Maasin	:	35	Parañaque	:	31	Silay	:	18
Bukidnon	:	7	Mactan	:	35	Puerto Princesa	:	9	Tacloban	:	5
Butuan	:	11	Makati	:	18	Quezon City	:	8	Tagbilaran	:	48



Cadiz	:	5
Cag. de Oro	:	28
Calamba	:	13
Cavite	:	9
Cebu	:	42
Dagupan	:	11
Davao	:	12
Dipolog	:	17
Dumaguete	:	35
Greenhills	:	25
Iligan	:	40
Iloilo	:	98



Tagum	:	1
Tuguegarao	:	28
Victorias	:	52

1,331
More pix on page 24.



VIGILANCE

in ONENESS

Art Legarde, Chapter Head, Bacolod North South



Not because we are the host of our BCBP 19th National Anniversary, but by the grace of our Almighty Father, we end our celebration very much mesmerized by our unique experience this weekend. As if a gentle breeze or wind came into our midst, tenderly touching our lives in a very special way. And because of this spiritual experience, definitely, we shall all leave this celebration different persons than when we first came.

I believe we have experienced some sense of renewal, some sense of spiritual newness, some sense of hope and certainly, a new sense of strength. How or why? Because by the Mighty Hand of our Father, He has gathered us from all parts of the country for the purpose of Fathering us, to generously and abundantly lavish us with all the goodness and blessings that He, our Almighty Father could share. It has been a "coming home" of God's children in the BCBP to the Father, thus, all had been a foretaste of what is to come, in the Father's heavenly home. Bros. and Sis. can we just give our ABBA PAPA a big big hand of applause, our expression of great thanks or gratitude.

Likewise, we too believe, that our gathering this weekend was not only for us to experience the Father's great love, but for Him to touch our lives that we all may remain one in our BCBP community. For it is only in our oneness, in our being a family, strongly bonded by the spirit of genuine love that the world, who still remains in darkness, may experience the Light of a Resurrected or Living Christ!

And here lies the challenge our Father presents to us – that we all must remain one at all times for it is only in our oneness that the world may know of the Father's Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Here lies the basic ingredient for the accomplishment of our BCBP mission. But Bros. & Sis., I must say there is a need for us to be vigilant, because as our Lord Jesus Christ prayed to His Father that we may be one, this could only be possible if there is genuine love in our midst. No, not the kind of love in the mind, though it is more convenient, for the mind easily forgets or rationalizes. Rather, it has to be a kind of love that comes from the heart or from within. And vigilant because there is a destroyer of love that is also found within. I call this destroyer of love "self." We cannot love if self prevails, that is why in Luke 9:23 Christ said, "If you want to follow Me, deny yourself, take up your cross daily and follow Me."

Yes Bros. and Sis., it is only when we deny self that we can love. And is only when we have the capacity to love, that we may all be one. And it is only in our oneness in this God-given community that the world may know of Jesus Christ.

"... that our gathering this weekend was not only for us to experience the Father's great love, but for Him to touch our lives that we all may remain one in our BCBP community."

Let us therefore, rise above self and continue to love one another, for with this love, we may be able to change or renew the face of the earth.

At this point, in behalf of BCBP Bacolod North and South, please allow me to express our sincerest thanks to the following:

To all the members of our National Council headed by our National President Bro. Manny Banigan and of course, his wife Sis. Haydz. Thank you for your presence, for your full and generous support, especially the number that you have obediently and gladly performed. We have all been much entertained and inspired.

To all of you, members of the different Chapters and Outreaches from all parts of the country. Your presence here has been most inspiring, making everything possible. Thank you so much and may God's abundant blessings be upon you and your families always. To all the Bros. & Sis. who graced our program tonight with beautiful numbers making our affair this evening most memorable and entertaining. Our sincerest thanks to all of you, too.

And last but not the least, to the Chairman of our 19th National Anniversary Bro. Sar and Sis. Cynthia Regino, to all Committee Heads and their members and the rest of the members of BCBP Bacolod North & South, thank you for all for the time, talent and resources that you have shared to make this event spiritually filling, spiritually inspiring and memorable. May God bless you too. And again of course, all Glory, Honor and Praise to our Great and Almighty Father whose grace and love just made all possible!

Once again, thank you so much and we love you all!"

Brothers and sisters, I welcome you to the heart of the diocese of Bacolod and I'm just so happy. I come to the realization that God, our God, is a God of joy, He is a God of surprises and He is a God with a sense of humor. I have been to many religious events here in the diocese of Bacolod and I see familiar faces. I have seen them in many, many ways...in different situations, but I never knew they were members of the BCBP. I could mention names but I'm sure I'd run out of time. I'm simply electrified being with you this evening, there are just so many of you! What a revelation, what a pleasant, beautiful revelation that the BCBP has grown and multiplied. Congratulations!

Our God is a God of surprises. When I was looking at your program, I could not help but see that this is the most unique convention. Golf in the morning, tennis in the afternoon and in the evening ... I don't know! However I realize you have a different format and I congratulate you for taking up sports as a means of sanctification and also of praising the Lord.

You have come together from all parts of the Philippines for two reasons as hinted by the Gospel of St. John. The first reason is that you are here to strengthen your faith in the personal dimension. Then, secondly, you are here to strengthen each other; this is the social dimension.

One of the very first things you realize as you journey in faith together is that there comes a time when like St. John the Baptist, we have to commit ourselves on a personal level and say "He must increase, I must decrease." There comes a time when Jesus challenges us to shed our own personal views and attitudes in order to allow Jesus' view to take over no matter how holy our views or attitudes are. As you saw in the Gospel episode of today, this was the problem of the Jews. They had a mindset that was hard to change because they were dealing with visible and material things and realities. They were more concerned with externals, rituals and ceremonies. For them, those externals were more important than the meaning behind them. It is very hard to learn if our mind is closed. When one is so full of one's self, God simply cannot enter, God cannot work.

"I know that in some places, there has been resistance in accepting and welcoming you. I ask for forgiveness in the name of my brother bishops and my brother priests. I ask forgiveness for that sin of stifling the Holy Spirit and for not welcoming you into their dioceses and their parishes."

Sometimes we experience this reluctance, this resistance to change. We feel we are doing a good thing and the right thing. It is something we want to work for and do for God. But there is a big difference between working for God and doing God's will. This is very hard to learn if our minds are not open. The Holy Spirit is stifled and we know that St. Paul said, "Do not stifle the Holy Spirit." And so we pray for deep humility and openness, a constant openness to grow in the Spirit, to grow in the gift of wisdom. We pray for that gift of the Holy Spirit to strengthen our faith on a personal level.



Most Rev. Camilo D. Gregorio, D.D., Ph.L., S.T.D.

Be open to the SPIRIT

Secondly there is the social dimension of faith. The second reason for you being here is to strengthen each other in faith. The Brotherhood is not just a movement and certainly not a cult. It is a community of disciples following Jesus seriously in their everyday lives. That's what makes BCBP beautiful. It is serious with Christ and at the same time, joyful about it.

We know that faith grows within an ecclesial framework. Within the community, as a community, you strengthen each other through your activities just like you are doing right now — first by breaking the Word of God together, then by breaking the Bread of Life, the Eucharist, together, Word and Sacrament.

My dear brothers and sisters, I congratulate you. You have come a long way and the Church is benefited by your experience. Congratulations for your continued sharing of the Word of God, of the Scripture, of the Bible. Continue doing so for you will always be nourished by the Word.

Congratulations also for your participation in the Holy Mass, always a life-giving experience, a happy one, a hopeful one, and this, too, Word and Sacrament, makes you grow in your love for God and for each other, and also to grow in your faith.

We, and allow me to say so, as your pastors and shepherds, thank you. I know that in some places, there has been resistance in accepting and welcoming you. I ask for forgiveness in the name of my brother bishops and my brother priests. I ask forgiveness for that sin of stifling the Holy Spirit and for not welcoming you into their dioceses and their parishes. At the same time, I thank you and would like to affirm you with all my heart. We are edified, we thank you, we bless you. And so with this thought I welcome you all again in Bacolod. Please, I beg of you, come again.

God bless you all.

We have been BCBP members since 1986 and ever since I can remember, Jun and I have never missed out attending a BCBP Anniversary. Each year brings and leaves us with fond memories and a host of new brothers and sisters added to our personal BCBP Directory.

This year's anniversary, hosted by our well-prepared North and South Bacolod Chapters, was another memorable and significant celebration. What is it in an Anniversary that makes us keep on attending? What made us book as early March so as not to miss this once-a-year event in BCBP? What made us prod, insist, and convince our co-members Andy and Odette Nanagas to go with us on this trip? These are some of our reasons ...

Though of various cultures and dialects, we feel oneness with our brothers and sisters when we worship and sing songs together. It is beyond words when you witness brothers and sisters coming from different provinces exhorting and confirming the messages of our Lord for our community. Whether it is during the Prayer Assembly or the Grand Breakfast sharing, you sit in your chair and ask, "Could have this been part of the script or the Program?" And



in faith, you know in your heart that the Lord sees BCBP not just as individual chapters or outreaches but as one unified community, bonded together by a common love for Jesus and the vision and mission that it is working for.

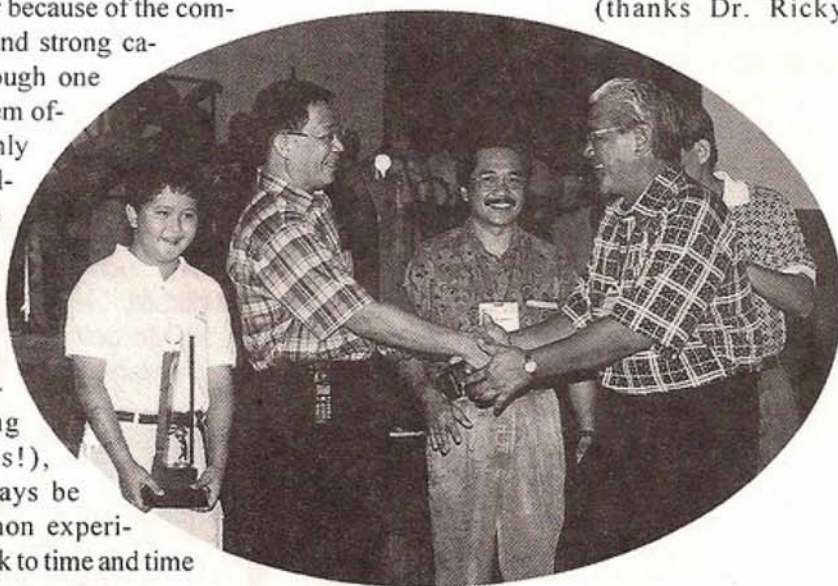
BCBP has continuously spread throughout the country and it is amazing how we are able to establish new instant family members in the two-day celebration. You either find a long lost schoolmate, an old childhood friend, an unknown relative ... the list goes on. Sportsfest activities allow us to relax and have fun. It is almost always a guarantee that whether you join the tennis, bowling or the golf tournament, one is able to establish a closer bond with a brother or sister because of the competitive fever and strong camaraderie. Though one does not see them often (in fact, I only see my co-bowling sisters like *Charisse Fortich* of Cagayan de Oro & *Zarah De-jaresco* of Tagbilaran during anniversaries!), there will always be that one common experience to look back to time and time

again. At the end of the celebration, you find yourself "richer" with dozens of calling cards, confident that when you visit their provinces, you can visit new families and never feel you have ever left home.

We really take our hats off to our numerous brothers and sisters in Bacolod who painstakingly planned to make us feel comfortable and welcomed. **As if serving us was the purpose for their hosting!** From our arrival at the Pier, reaching our temporary home at Balay Kalinungan, registering at the Bacolod Convention Plaza Hotel, the Bacolod members seemed to anticipate just exactly what we needed. Believe it or not, I even personally experienced the free-of-charge, home service of a brother dentist (thanks Dr. Ricky

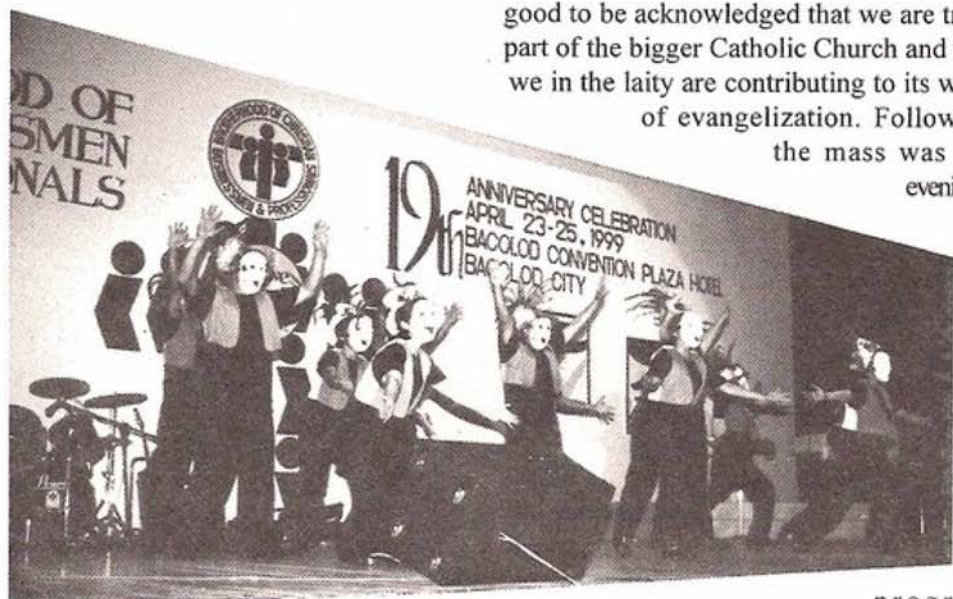


Beth Ginete, Makati Chapter



1999 BCBP ANNIVERSARY

good to be acknowledged that we are truly part of the bigger Catholic Church and that we in the laity are contributing to its work of evangelization. Following the mass was the evening's



Olais!) as early as 6 o'clock in the morning for a dental emergency! Talking about all-out service!

One highlight of the anniversary was the dinner hosting of attendees by units. (Bacolod has 12 units and each guest was assigned to one unit). The dinner offered Bacolod's famous *inasal* chicken, garlic fried rice, *atsara* and various Bacolod delicacies. But it was not just the dinner that made the night great. It was the fellowship thereafter. With their carefully well-thought of games, each guest member was guaranteed to make an instant five couple friends and a dedicated host couple for the entire anniversary! Our host couple, Bimsy & Tatic Mapa made sure we were given treatment fitted for a dignitary, driving us from our "residence" to the hotel, doing small errands like checking our flights and tours and making us really feel part of their family and at home.

The Anniversary Highlight was the mass celebrated Saturday evening. Our Mass celebrant, Bishop Gregorio could not hide his admiration that he was witnessing a celebration of a 19-year-old charismatic group, attended by close to 1,400 members and guests from all over the country. It feels

program where even our National Council members and chapter heads (with their Men in Black & Sister Act numbers) were willing to "let loose their hair down" to the delight and thrill of our members. The other presentations were obviously well prepared. Equipped with various talents and gifts, the members from Maasin and Bacolod could have been mistaken for professional artists! Members of BCBP are, after all, joyful Christians!

Attending the anniversaries, especially in provinces, provide



you opportunities to see other parts of the country at absolutely budget-friendly prices. Again, the Bacolod chapter included in the program a city tour. Touring the city on a tourist bus, it was an opportunity to gain more friends from other chapters. The city tour was a joyful, educational and an enlightening experience as we visited the Negros Museum, the Sta. Clara Chapel (parts of the Chapel were made of ingenious materials like seashells, capiz, stones, sand, bamboo) and Negros Showroom. Joining other tours, we benefited from knowing more of our history, appreciating our bountiful rich natural resources of our country and appreciating the cultures and traditions of our people.

After celebrating the anniversary in Bacolod, we joined the Bais Dolphin Watching Tour and were accompanied by other brothers and sisters from Las Pinas chapter. Our host couple from Bacolod, Patrick and Tess Cuenca made arrangements for the boat, the tour guide and meal provisions for the whole day. Before starting off from Bacolod City for a 3-hour drive south to Bais City, Patrick asked us to pray for a safe trip and to include that our

Lord allows us to see dolphins.

We arrived in Bais City at 9:30 a.m., promptly boarded

AND BEYOND

AND BEYOND

our boats and sailed off. Again, we started

the boat trip with a prayer to allow us to experience the joy of sighting dolphins.. Our guide said, it was a good morning, the waters were calm and we will shortly see dolphins after a 30- minute sail to Tanon Strait. With cameras in hand, we eagerly awaited until our spotter announced dolphins were in sight. Upon seeing dolphins, left and right, jumping here and there, following our boats as if they knew what we came for, we could not help but shout "jump" "one more! one more!" "Thank you Lord!" And we clapped our hands, stamped our feet, and made every kind of joyful noise to let the dolphins know we appreciated them. It was sad our children were not there to enjoy what we just experienced. If we adults had the time of our life, how much more our kids? After watching about 20 dolphins, we anchored our boat on a white



sand bar where we had a hearty lunch and spent the rest of the afternoon swimming and snorkeling.

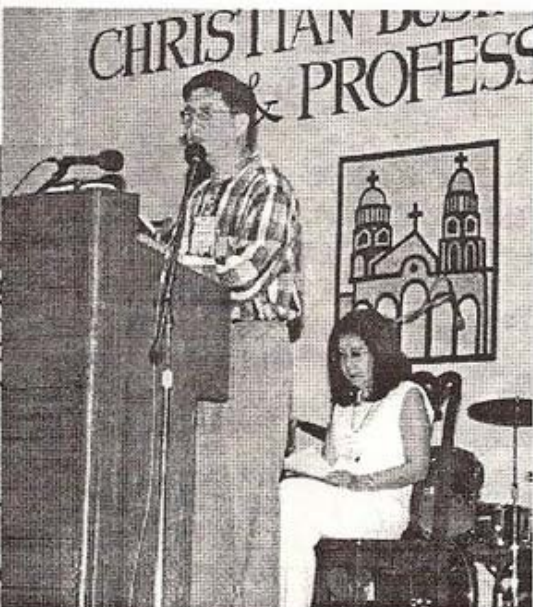
That afternoon we rode a van to Dumaguete City, a one-hour drive from Bais City. Since we had met the BCBP Dumaguete Outreach Head back in Bacolod during the convention, we immediately called up Jayvee and Darling Imbo to tell them we were in town. And true to BCBP form, our itinerary was immediately planned the next day and we were able to see many sights in Dumaguete City plus other nearby cities. Before we started the trip however, the driver of the Imbos, Boni, stopped the car and asked any of us to lead the prayer for a safe trip. Imagine how we felt!! Boni, the driver told us that he had driven many BCBP members in Dumaguete and that he has learned from his boss, Jayvee and Darling, to always start the trip with a prayer. Speaking about witnessing and walking your talk!

There could have been no other memorable way to end the trip to Negros but to experience the Zoo Paradise World in Zamboangita City (about a 20-25 min-



utes drive from Dumaguete). Among the many wild animals we saw (Phil. deer, wild boars, exotic birds like the kalaw, Indian peacock, pink pelican, Macaw parrots, forest owls, etc.), the almost 8-foot python was the highlight of our adventure. For a mere P10.00 per picture, you can have the python coil around your body for that once-in-a-lifetime experience! So with much prodding, assurance and encouragement (and bombarding heaven with prayers!), we all did it.... Jun, Andy and Odette and me!! Considering that there was in me a deeply rooted fear of snakes (for human and natural reasons!), the thought that I was able to hold it with my bare hands, look into its eyes while it twisted its head, make it rest over my neck and coil around my body, was indeed a personal achievement! Whew! That was truly a paradigm shift.

So why is it worth attending a BCBP anniversary? Jun and I are proud to be members of an alive, growing and a united community. Next time around, when you hear of an anniversary celebration coming, be the first to decide to attend it! You can never have enough of love and caring, sharing of meaningful experiences, and memories that will truly last you a lifetime!



BCBP ANNIVERSARY

"the Great Homecoming"
"the Year of Jubilee"
"BCBP Goes Global"

Good evening, Brothers and Sisters. As we all respond to the challenge posed by the message of President Bani-gan, let me share with you a vision. The Date: April 29, Year 2000. The Vision: Tens of Hundreds of Christian men and women coming together in celebration of oneness with the Lord and with one another. The Occasion: BCBP's 20th Anniversary.

Brothers and sisters, the Year 2000 marks the 20th Anniversary of the Brotherhood of Christian Businessmen and Professionals. Significantly, it is also the Year of Jubilee of the Catholic Church.

Leviticus 25:8 + on the Year of Jubilee reads: "... send a man to blow a trumpet throughout the whole land. In this way, you shall set the year apart and proclaim the Good News to all the inhabitants of the land."

I therefore stand before you as that man blowing the trumpet to signal the call of a Great Homecoming. That all together we may celebrate our freedom, and proclaim freedom to all the lands.

The Lord has promised to gather together all - His chosen people - His sons and daughters whose names he has engraved in the palm of His hand.

Over the past 19 years, the Lord has been so generous to all of us - nurturing us and allowing us to grow roots that we may firmly be founded on Him and His great love.

The Year 2000 is a time for us to trace our beginnings, to go back to Metro Manila, where our roots were first anchored. And from where our roots began to spread far and wide to the other regions of the country.

And now, having grown roots in the Lord, the time has come for us to grow wings. And spread them, and flap them. It is time for us to fly: to sow the seeds in other lands, beyond Philippine shores.

Many other brothers and sisters in faraway lands including perhaps your own parents, children, brothers, relatives and friends, long to be with the Lord too. Like us, they also desire to discover a new freedom. They, too, want to see God's kingdom being established in their own marketplace. We cannot pretend not to hear them. We must listen. We must respond.

But first, we need to strengthen one another. And ensure that we are one in this journey. As we move on to a new millennium, we look forward to a new beginning, a new challenge, and a new response. Nothing is too difficult that we and the Lord together cannot handle. With Him, nothing is impossible.

Year 2000, Brothers and Sisters, is a year of Jubilee, of great feasting, of great celebration; a year to truly honor and acclaim the Sovereign and Majestic Lord; a year to make an even

bigger difference as we respond to God's call.

During our 19th Anniversary prayer assembly, it has been prophesied: "Love me and I will give you nations."

The opening phrase of Jn. 17:21 gave us the theme for our 19th Anniversary: "That we may all be one." If we take our bible and read on to the end of that same passage, we will see that it ends with the words: "That the world may believe that Thou has sent me."



"It's all set. The date: April 29 year 2000, the BCBP's 20th Anniversary." - Rey Feria

Brothers and sisters, God's call reverberates! The mandate is loud and clear! Like the lyrics in the song with which we ended our 19th Anniversary mass: "We've got the marching orders. The harvest is ripening. We must rise up and go forth!"

The year 2000 is a year to witness to the Lord's goodness by making real a dream of a global community, just as we belong to a Church that is Universal. It is the time for us all to close ranks, to join hands, to be truly one as we launch a new milestone at the turn of the century with the battlecry: BCBP GOES GLOBAL!

Brothers and Sisters: The BCBP Metro Manila Chapters, (together with all the members with us onstage, National Council members, Chapter Heads from Bacolod, and other chapters in Visayas and Mindanao) extend a warm invitation to all of you. Metro Manila beckons. Your Brothers and Sisters eagerly look forward to welcome you to a full three days of feasting, worship and fellowship. Celebrate 20 in 2000 in Manila!

The Date: April 28, 29 and 30, Year 2000. Mark these numbers in your calendars now!

Come home - this time to Manila. And let us all soar together! We will be expecting all of you!

May I now invite everyone to join the Music Ministry in singing the Jubilee song: Awake O Israel!



Sammy M. Ulanday
Greenhills Chapter

19th. ANNIVERSARY. Cause & Effect

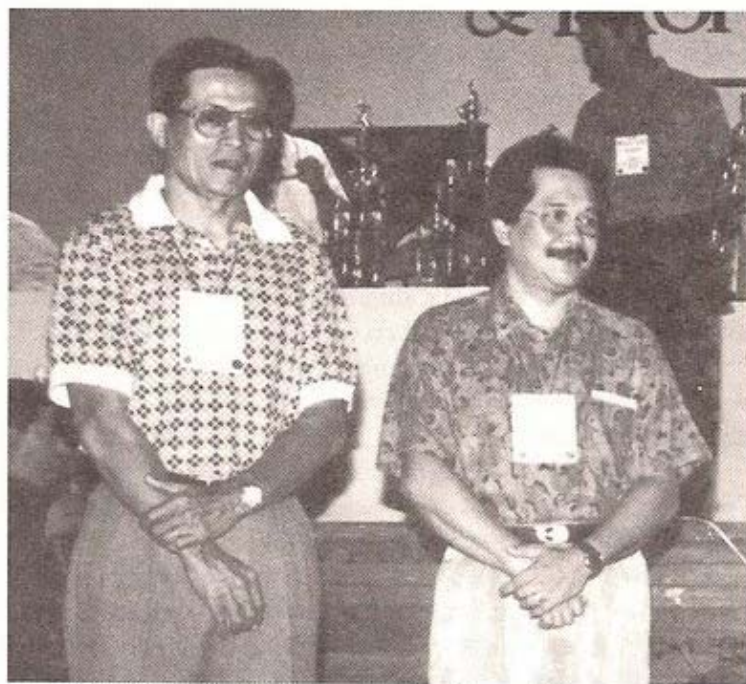
Much will be said for years to come regarding the recently concluded 19th national anniversary in Bacolod. But none, I believe will tip the scale towards the minus factor.

Many of us have witnessed the "effects" of the celebration: the preparedness of the organizers, the smooth flow of activities, the tours, the food, the "guardian angels", the warm reception, the smiles, the presentations in the program, mini-sharings in the assembly, the main sharing in the breakfast, the piyaya, barquillos, lechon, the centennial shell, t-shirts, souvenirs, and many, many more. These are the "effects" of long, serious and spirit-led preparation.

From my vantage point, I'd like to share with you some of the "inside information" which I believe were vital "causes" of these effects.

First of all, I honestly believe that the Bacolod people started on the right foot when they began their preparations by calling everyone to a nine-week novena of prayers. Right then and there they gave honor and praise to Whom we dedicate this activity and why we are all celebrating - our Lord Jesus Christ, and as Art Legarde said, to "Abba, Papa, God the Father Himself". Pray, and pray unceasingly, that was their call. They moved on to hold yet another 9-day novena just weeks before the event, they organized an intercessory prayer group to pray exclusively for the anniversary, and finally had a healing prayer session. With prayer as their foundation, everything seemed to fall in the right places. It led them to choose the right persons to handle specific and some sensitive functions, starting with Sar Regino, the overall chairperson of the activity. It allowed them to come up with ideas to make the celebration more exciting and meaningful, and come up with effective solutions to problems that cropped up.

Secondly, they've used one of the most effective tools in promoting the anniversary, the medium of print communications. Perhaps unknown to many, the promotions committee headed by Karina Jugo, adopted the



The Bacolod "Dynamic Duo", working as one.

technique of a sustained and almost endless train of promotional materials sent to all chapters - en masse or individually. I for one must have received a bunch of promo materials enough to match my one-year national council minutes file. There was so many that at some point I thought that they were over-killing it. I was wrong. When Sar asked me for all, but all the directories of all chapter and outreach heads including the national council members, I thought that was just that. But it seems they sent these communications to as many heads as possible directly, while at the same time they also sent me copies of the same to be sent "to whom it may concern" from my end at the BCBP Center. It's "double jeopardy" you might say. But it proved its point when there were 1,000 pre-registrants and a couple of hundred more added during the event itself. The telephone medium as well as the E-mail communications was also actively employed.

Cause & Effect

Thirdly, they walked their talk. Art Legarde and Nene Gamboa together with the rest of the top honchos of the anniversary celebration, and the whole of Bacolod North and South lived out the theme that they had chosen. "That we may all be one" was literally manifested by every "Bacolodian" (if you permit me to use the term). They were one in purpose and spirit - all geared up to please all the guests. They were just simply like a well-oiled machine, each one doing his/her particular chore. They seemed to have made a sworn statement that they will be the first ones to act as one, for the rest of us to see and to emulate. And they did their part well.

From the airport I went to the Convention Plaza where I was asked to attend the committee meeting which was going on at the time. As I sat listening to their discussions, I was amazed at how they dissected each facet of the program and proceedings to the last detail. They were discussing things that in ordinary circumstances would seem so trivial. For example, Rey Garcia, the emcee, commented: "After I have asked everybody to remain standing for the grace after meal, who is going to bring the microphone to the Bishop? Will the Bishop go to the mike or, does the mike go to the Bishop?" Deliberating on the possible overflow of guests, they came up with the idea of collapsing the side tables after the dinner so that those who were at the foyer outside the ballroom

could come in for the program. Simple, brilliant and executed precisely. During the meeting it seemed that perfection was the order of the day. And amidst all these discussions Art talked to me on the side and commented that "No matter how hard we try to make it perfect, there will still be some flaws. The Lord will see to that so that we won't forget Him, there has to be room for the Lord in all these things." Art was definitely right, this, after all, was the Lord's show.

My personal experience was one that could qualify as a featured documentary for Discovery Channel. My hosts, or should I say, guardian angels, Eduardo and Amanda Taruc were literally on my tail most of the time. From the moment I stepped into the arrival area I was at "their mercy." Ed and Amanda stuck with me throughout the whole weekend. When I told them that they could just drop me off at the Convention Plaza and let me do my thing, Amanda jokingly remarked, "We cannot leave you, otherwise Art will get mad at us." That's how committed and obedient they were.

In particular, I was emotionally touched when I had a taste of the Bacolod brand of hospitality and care when on Friday night I had a migraine attack. The headache was so severe that I could hardly move, if I did, I felt as if my head was splitting and falling off my neck. I felt helpless until I remembered to call the medical emergency numbers



"... there has to be room for the Lord in all these things."



The core group discussing matters to the last detail.

printed at the back of the ID card issued to me. Sometimes we ignore these as I have done in many occasions. But this time, I saw its value, and I can say that who ever suggested that idea has me as an actual beneficiary of the thought and intention behind it.

A few minutes after I called, a Bacolod brother (I found out later that he was Paul) came to my room with the house nurse. She could only do so much for the pain and suggested that a physician prescribe a stronger medicine. Later Dr. Bonnie Avelino came and gave me some tablets to take. Ed and Amanda, while attending to their other assignments also saw to it that I'd be taken care of. They arranged for my food that night inside my room. And they, together with the anniversary secretariat appeared to have organized a "medical team" headed by Dr. Bonnie to attend to me. The house nurse checked on my condition a couple of times during the night. Ating Jochico called me twice or so to wish me well and assured me that the secretariat was praying over me from wherever they were at the time. And of course Ed and Amanda checked how I was feeling. Simply heartwarming.

The 19th National Anniversary Celebration was well organized, and my personal congratulations and gratitude go to all "Bacolodians." One comment I heard was that this celebration may be hard to duplicate. Personally, I'd say yes and no to that comment. BCBP Bacolods did their best and the result was fantastic. But we are not here to outdo one another. I'm sure that Bacolod had one thing in mind: to make this celebration the best they could - all for the glory and honor of God. In the same breath I'd say that all of us, too have this same intention.

Rey Feria together with his Las Pinas BCBPers came prepared with what they intend to offer to the BCBP Country and more specifically to the Lord for the next anniversary in the year 2000. They may not equal or duplicate the 19th point for point, but I am certain that if it's intended and offered for the Lord, the 20th will just be as great. And perhaps just as Bacolod did, and to address the mandate of 19th anniversary theme, let's all together as one pray for Rey and his chapter so that we can together enjoy the next anniversary - a yearly celebration of **God's victory through the BCBP!**

Message Board

On this 19th Anniversary, let's look at the past with pride knowing that we served God well despite the odds, and let's look at the future with hope in the midst of uncertainty and change for a better and stronger BCBP, united in purpose, acting as one body under Christ. Congratulations to BCBP-Bacolod for a job well done.



Greetings from
BCBP PARANAQUE!

Despite the distance we are indeed one in culture, mission and spirit: the BCBP Spirit. We join the entire BCBP country in celebrating our 19th Anniversary. Congratulations to our host for a job well done. GOD BLESS.



From your brothers and sisters in the cool mountains in BAGUO.

Truly the Lord has been gracious to us all these years as He unfolds to us His desire for His people to live by His promise - TO LIVE IN FAITH CONFIDENT OF THE FUTURE AND OPEN TO GOD'S RENEWING GUIDANCE IN THE PRESENT. "If my people which are called by my name shall humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and forgive them their sin and heal their land" (2 Chron 7:14). May our Lord Jesus Christ continue to walk with us, and may we live with the conviction of St. Paul saying "For me to live is Christ."



FERNANDO DE LARRAZABAL
Director, Luzon/
Palawan

Anniversaries are always an exciting time for it gives us an opportunity to look back to the growing pains and successes each of us have undergone since we joined the Brotherhood. To reminisce and reflect of the past is enjoyable but we should focus more on what is ahead of us. The future invites us to greater excellence to the mission we have accepted to undertake. We congratulate every Brother and Sister nationwide for the continued success of these endeavors.



ROLLIE ONA,
Director for Visayas

WE JOIN OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CELEBRATING GOD'S GIFT OF COMMUNITY WHICH WE HAVE BEEN BLESSED WITH THESE PAST 19 YEARS. ALL OUR BCLP'S, BCMR'S, ACTION GROUPS AND ASSEMBLIES, BREAKFASTS AND LUNCHEONS, AND EACH AND EVERY BROTHER AND SISTER - THESE HAVE ALL WOVEN THEMSELVES INTO A WONDERFUL TAPESTRY THAT WE HUMBLLY LAY AT THE FEET OF OUR KING! LET US RECOMMIT OURSELVES TO THE LORD AND TO ONE ANOTHER AS WE FACE A NEW MILLENIUM FILLED WITH OPPORTUNITIES TO LOVE, SERVE AND GLORIFY HIM. - BCBP GREENHILLS

We all might as well be one. One faith, one family, one community, one nation under one God. One big hug and one big kiss to everyone!!! -



BCBP Iloilo



BEP
Victorias

The whole Brotherhood community is coming together once again to celebrate the Lord's goodness. The Alabang chapter shares the joy of Christ with everyone and all of us are praying that the Lord will pour forth His blessings on our community for all times.



BCBP Alabang

On our 19th anniversary, may God grant us wisdom, strength and unity that we may continue winning the marketplace for Christ.

A LOVING AND WARM WELCOME FROM THE BCBP BACOLOD-SOUTH

With about eight thousand members in more than 45 breakfast locations nationwide, we cannot avoid having differences in practices and diversity in culture and talents. Iba ang pagkanta ng mga Ilonggo o Leyteno kaysa taga Mindanao. This diversity however should not divide us but rather be harnessed to enable us to compliment one another and even have fun in service. One of the worst evils that can overtake the BCBP is disunity so we must make our Lord's prayer our own - "that we may be one".



Sadi Saguisag,
Director for Mindanao

"That we may all be one." From my vantagepoint, this may seem hard to achieve considering the diversities of our chapters/outreaches nationwide. But again, this is one of the greatest miracles that the BCBP has received from God - that despite our differences in dialects, preference, cultures, etc., the 22 chapters and 26 outreaches are indeed united and one in serving the Lord. My best wishes to all in this 19th year of our Brotherhood. - *Sammy Ulanday, Secretary General*

Tuguegarao
Chapter



The theme of our 19th celebration "that we may all be one" is very apt. Thus we are all here to be one with you and with all the brothers and sisters throughout the country. -

BCBP
Las Piñas



Praise God for BCBP Bacolod Chapter as it ushers the whole BCBP into the 20th Century. May this Anniversary Celebration lead us all to look back into the Lord's blessings upon all of us over the past 19 years. And may it give us a renewed vigor and commitment to hold high the banners of love as we continue to establish God's kingdom amidst the new millenium's uncertainties and challenges in the marketplace. Let us all hold firm to our faith, and with Christ as our commander-in-chief, we shall overcome ...and we shall triumph.

This indeed is a weekend of rejoicing. Our coming together as one is a coming home of God's children into the arms of the loving Father. As in the song, "Make us one", it says, "Behold how pleasant and good it is for brethren to come in unity, for there the Lord commands the blessings to life forever more." Coming together is truly a foretaste for our final coming home into the Father's eternal kingdom.



We are happy to be here with all of you!!! Blessings, peace and oneness to all!

BCBP
Dagupan



We are God's children. Let us love one another as one big family.



Calamba
Outreach

If we are all to be one, let us have ONE prayer, ONE music, ONE beat for our songs, ONE script for our talks, ONE format for our functions because this is the only way to express that we have ONE faith, ONE God and ONE culture. THAT ALL MAY BE ONE. That's the only way to live by our theme. Praise God for ONE BCBP.




Dumaguete
Outreach

"Heal the sick and raise the dead!" (Mt. 10:8) This beautiful phrase of Jesus was not meant only for a few things... He meant it for every Christian of today. In this joyous season of the risen Lord, we also are thrilled to greet the BCBP on its 19th year - for touching the lives of many Christians and helping them rise to a new life with the Lord. Happy Anniversary from the Tacloban Outreach!

Message Board

"That we may all be one" is a very apt theme as we celebrate the Year of God the Father. As we pray and strive for greater unity in our community, we can take great inspiration and encouragement from the thought that we are simply following our Father's will that all His children be gathered and united with Him in Jesus Christ.

 - BCBP Makati & Cavite


As we continue to grow, I cannot help but be amazed at the diversity of our backgrounds, disciplines, and regional cultures. But our good Lord has kept us together through all these 19 years. That indeed is a great blessing! I pray that we all continue to cling on the values that keep us united - our love for Him, our love for each other and our common commitment to keep His work in the marketplace. May God keep all of us under the protection of His mighty wings!!! -

 Manolet Siojo,
Director Teaching & Training

BCBP DIPOLOG 

As we celebrate our 19th Anniversary let us respond to St. Peter's prayer in ACTS 4:29-30: "Lord, take note of (the threats of the enemy) and enable your servants to speak your words in boldness as You stretch forth your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are done through the name of your holy servant Jesus."

Let us move forward as ONE into the marketplace in the expectant faith that hearts will be shaken by the Holy Spirit as we bear witness to the Lord's goodness.

 BCBP Manila Outreach

Onward BCBP Under the banner of the KING OF KINGS, we shall conquer every workplace, every office, every boardroom, every have of the industry, every place in his market for His Kingdom.

 BCBP CEBU

Congratulations and best wishes on our 19th Anniversary! Let us use this celebration to get to know more brothers and sisters so that we can truly be one

Tagbilaran Chapter 

We cordially greet all members throughout the country on the occasion of our 19th anniversary. It's been 19 years of enthusiastic dedication to make Christ the center and #1 concern of our personal and family life, and to bring Him and His Christian values to the marketplace in creating a society of God-fearing and righteous men and women for the joyous and peaceful co-existence of mankind and His greater glory. Our warmest greetings and congratulations to all! - BCBP Davao Chapter

YOUNG OUTREACH AS WE ARE, WE WANT TO BE ONE WITH ALL OUR THOUGHTS, PRAYERS, DEEDS AND PLANS WITH THE BCBP FAMILY. WE PRAY THAT WE SHALL HAVE WINGS LIKE YOURS SO WE CAN IN GOD'S TIME SOAR AND FLY LIKE THE BCBP EAGLES! THAT ALL MAY BE ONE.

Message Board

**BLESSING & GLORY TO GOD'S BCBP FAMILY!
MAY THE SURELY SUCCESSFUL
19TH ANNIVERSARY BRING US CLOSER TO
JESUS, TO ONE ANOTHER,
AND TO ALL HE SENDS US TO.**



San Fernando
Pampanga
Outreach

Masayang Anibersaryo fellow BCBP-ers!
We are with you.
May our Lord Bless Us All and
our efforts to evangelize the
business world.



**RONNIE CABALLERO, KAPATIRAN
MANAGING EDITOR**



BCBP - Cagayan
BCBP - Butuan
BCBP - Bukidnon

Glory to God the Father! As one body of Christ, let us accept His challenge to "Put our boats together in deep water and lower our nets for a catch". (Luke 5:4) Congratulations and Happy Anniversary!

With joy and gratitude we join The BCBP National Community in Thanking The Lord for The Blessings in The past 19 years. May God keep us all in His love and care.

BCBP
Legazpi
City



Congratulations to BCBP Bacolod . May this glorious celebration bind us all in the spirit of love and brotherhood as we spread God's word in the marketplace.

Hand in hand we celebrate and rejoice the BCBP's 19 years of Oneness in faith, love and service - Happy Anniversary to All.



BCBP
Roxas
City



BCBP Mactan

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Here we were — at the source, the underground spring that gives birth to a river and several lakes high in the mountains between Bais and Bacolod, between Neg. Oriental and Neg. Occidental. At the foot of a rocky wooded hill a concrete basin tried to contain the fresh, clear and abundant river of water that burst out of the depths of the volcanic mountain. The force of the basin's overflow was so strong that we found it almost impossible to sit under it and still breathe.

Small children frolicked in the sparkling water, farm women gathered along the banks to do their laundry and exchange family happenings, dragonflies darted over the water, butterflies hovered among the mossy rocks and grasses along the banks of the river. Downstream framed by a patch of rose-colored lotus blossoms



a contented carabao lolled in the flowing water enjoying a cool respite from work. The warm summer air was redolent with the freshness of mint, wild flowers, grass, sweet mountain water, shady trees and sunlight.

The evening before as we began our focusing retreat in the week preceding the BCBP's 19th anniversary, our only instructions for the three days were to open ourselves to experiencing God and His love in Creation and to enjoy His presence in our mountain surroundings.

GOD the Father: Source of all LOVE

Nancy Catan, Manila Outreach

As I bathed in the refreshing water I felt connected and intimately enveloped in God's love and grace. His love caressed me in the flowing water; His beauty delighted my eyes in the dragonflies and butterflies, in the sun and shade, in the smiles of the children and the laughter of the women doing their washing. I am loved. So, too, must I love others.

Love is the beginning and the end of the way that leads to God. As Scripture proclaims, God is love: it is the Father who eternally generates his Son in the bond of personal love that is the Holy Spirit (*God, the Father of Mercy, Official Catechetical Text*). This divine love, a central mystery of Christianity, intends to be communicated to our hearts and to animate us. It is this divine love that is the power that gives the Church its life and structure. As St. Paul aptly emphasizes in 1 Cor. 13, nothing that we do

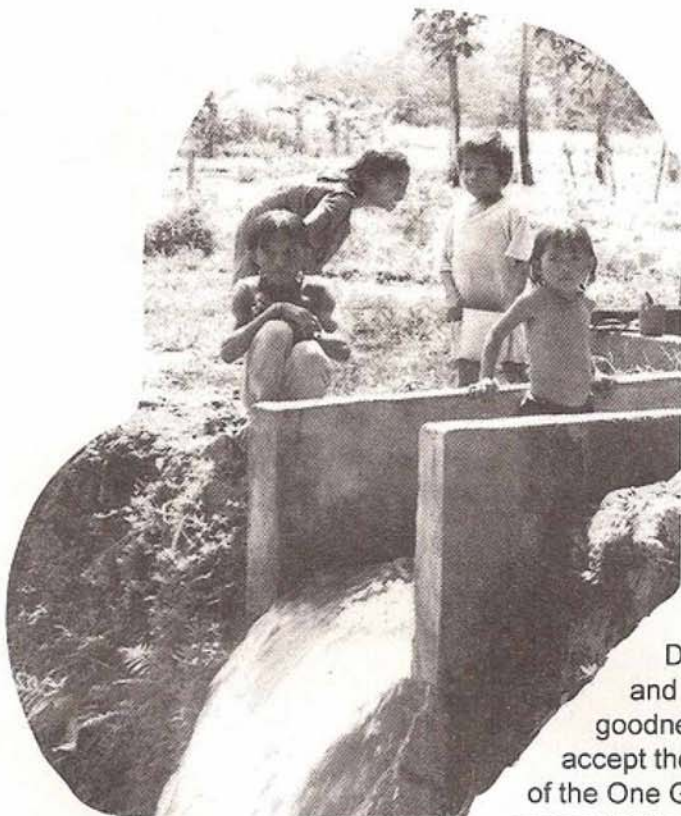
or are is worth anything without the abiding presence of Love in our hearts. When all is said and done, faith and hope are contained in love.

The Christian life has no other meaning and aim than love. If our faith is true and deep-rooted in the Truth, if the love we profess is authentic, it ought to transform the world and the persons who inhabit it — beginning with ourselves. Faith is empty, and hope vain, unless we experience the personal love of God in Jesus Christ and the Church.

In today's culture it is sometimes difficult to talk about love because each sector and segment of society has its own definition of "love". We have to admit that even with everyone seeking to define "love", "love" is still the greatest of all mysteries. Everyone wishes to be loved and to know that there is a meaning in his or her life. Even in the worst scenario: love must have been proclaimed — and somehow defined — by its absence. This was the thrust of my focusing retreat, to simply refocus myself on the salvific love of God through the wonder of His creation.

To me, in the full sense, love implies a sharing in the very life of God. God loves us so much that He creates and renews a world of wonder

God is the Source. His love is the powerful stream of living water that supports all life ... always new and renewing. life-giving and abundant.



love? A nourishing love? An ever-present love ... abundantly given from my heart ... regardless of whether my expectations/desires from them are met? Do I love unconditionally?

Do I focus on the natural and unique beauty and goodness in others; do I accept them as they are, children of the One God, Who is their Father and my Father? Is my love a transforming love? A sharing love? A renewing love? In the process of reflection I felt hurt and sad at the opportunities to give love that I have by-passed and at the occasions to receive love that I have ignored or rejected. I realized that the conditions for love I had unknowingly constructed around me had defined the limits of my loving others and my ability to graciously accept love from others.

God reached out to me

through His creation, through the source of the water of the river and the lakes to show me and let me feel the healing grace and availability of His love. Water from the heart of the mountain flowed so abundantly, so unconditionally and gave so much life to everything it came into contact with,

transforming dry arid land into fertile, crop-bearing, life-nourishing land. And God, Who is Love, is like this water from the mountain's depths.

God is the Source. His love is the powerful stream of living water that supports all life ... always new and renewing, life-giving and abundant. It is eternally there for us to find and be refreshed. It is overflowing and comes from the depths of the Father-Heart of God. We can find ourselves enjoying its refreshing waters, or we can just sit on the bank of the river afraid to get wet. It is our choice.

In this Year of God the Father, we need to immerse ourselves and bathe in God's love. We need to nourish ourselves in the Source of All Love. His love must transform us and grow in us, through us and with us so that we, in turn, can share this love with others. Is my love sufficient for this great task of loving and sharing? Yes, it is ... as long as my love flows from the Source of All Love, from God the Father.

around us. The psalmist sings that His mercies (and love) are renewed every morning. Thus if love is the beginning and end of all of the ways of the Lord, love ought to be the beginning and end of our life's journey as well.

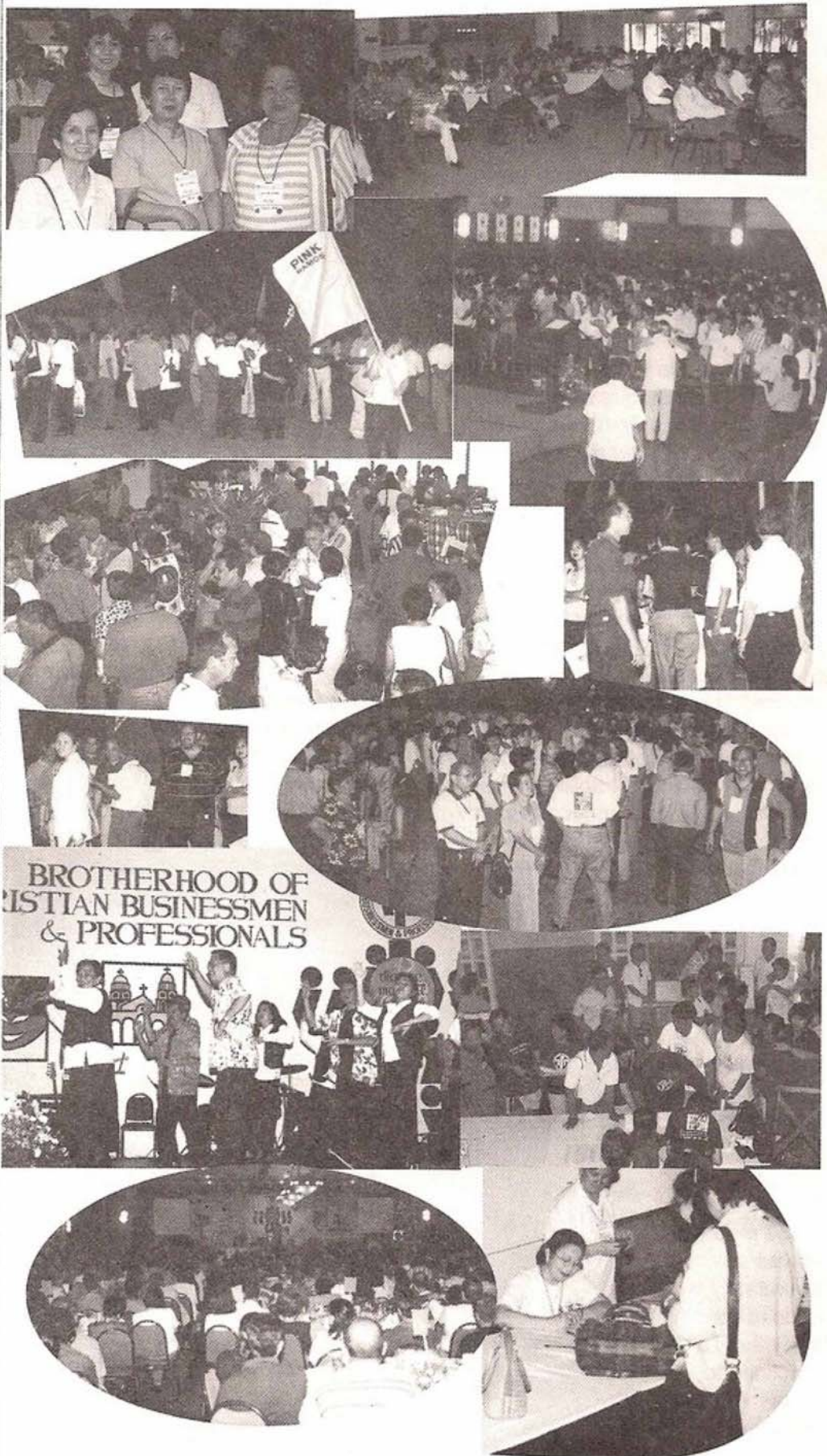
The Catechetical Text on God the Father says that "in becoming a human being, God joined the lot of the human being to his own, granting to that being a share in the endless divine life. From that moment forward, on earth as in heaven, no one can love God without loving the human being who is the divine image, nor love the human being without loving God." St. John explains this simply and clearly in his wonderful teaching on love in 1 John 4:7-21.

On the third day of our retreat we were directed to focus on the healing power of Transforming Love and Sharing Love as we savored the manifestations of God's presence and love in our life. The focus question was: What is the impact of God's love as seen in Creation in your life and, through you, in the lives of those around you?

I sat down at the side of the lake and reflected. Is my love of myself and for those around me an over-flowing love? A life-enhancing



Regular Columns were deferred to give way to this special Anniversary Issue. They'll be back in the succeeding issues. Meanwhile we put in as many anniversary pictures here as possible. Do you see yourself in any of them?



KAPATIRAN

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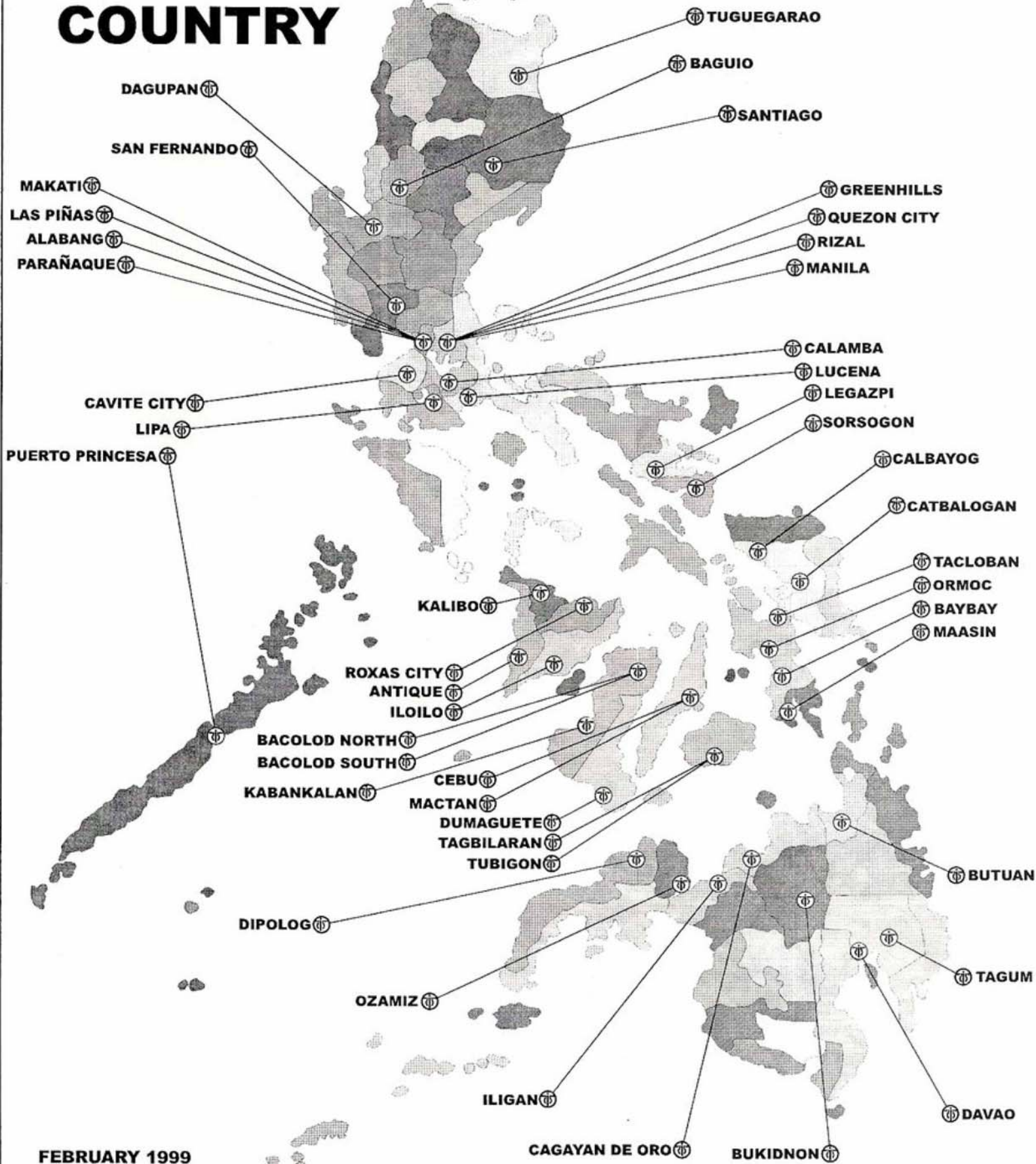
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THE BCBP COUNTRY



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Then it's probably time to take a new perspective.

Give your business a new focus. A new face.

The face of Peace. The face of Love.

Let Jesus Christ be your business partner and

you 'll know your business is in good Hands.

After all, you are His business.



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