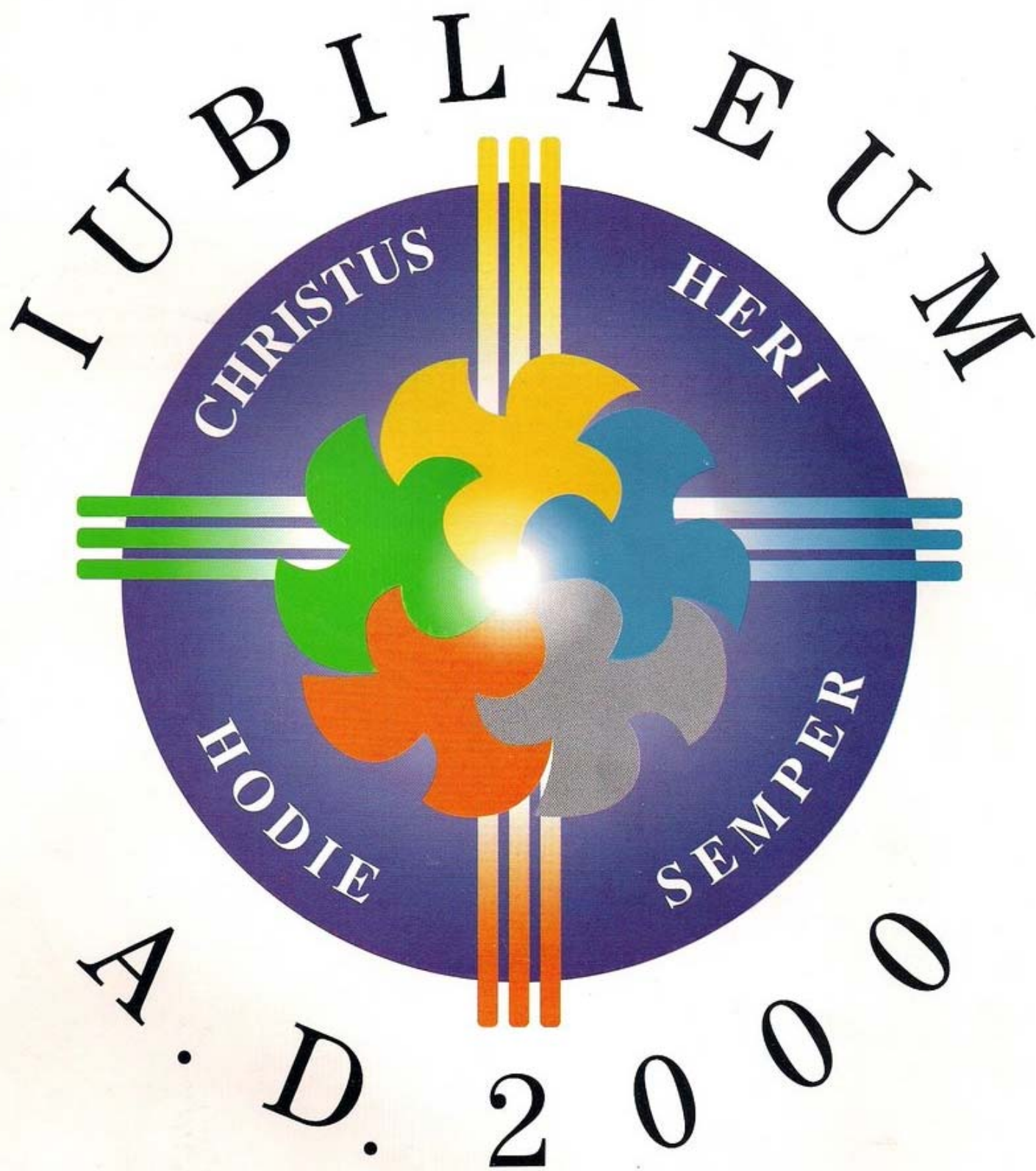


Kapatiran

Vol. XIII Issue 6

November - December 1999



BARB

Breakfast Venues

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

Wednesdays – MAKATI : Beverly Hills Deli, Greenbelt, Makati

Thursdays – GREENHILLS: Club Filipino, Greenhills
VILLAMOR: Villamor Golf Club (1st & 3rd)

Fridays – MANILA: Aristocrat Restaurant, Malate, Manila

Saturdays

ALABANG: Ayala Alabang Country Club, Muntinglupa

BACOLOD NORTH: Roli's La Salle, Bacolod

BACOLOD SOUTH: McDonald's

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

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

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

BUTUAN: Butuan Royal Plaza

CAGAYAN DE ORO: Silver Court, 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. Sabang, Lipa City

ILOILO: Amigo Terraces Hotel

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

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

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

LIPA: Sawali Restaurant, Sabang, Lipa City

MACTAN: Flormont Hotel, Mactan City

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

PUERTO PRINCESA: Legend Hotel, Puerto Princesa

QUEZON CITY: Max's Restaurant, Quezon City

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 (12:00NN)

Saturday – DAGUPAN: Jollibee Junction A.B. Fernandez Ave.
cor. M.H. Del Pilar St. Dagupan (1st & 3rd Sat. – 7:30 A.M.)

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

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

LADIES' BREAKFAST

Wednesdays – MAKATI: Max's Greenbelt, Makati (2nd Wed.)

Thursdays – GREENHILLS: Club Filipino, SJ (3rd Thurs.)

Fridays – MANILA: Aristocrat Restaurant, Malate, Mla. (2nd Fri.)

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: Terraza Millesa (4th Sat.)

ILOILO: Amigo Terraces Hotel (last Sat.)

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

LEGASPI: Albay Hotel (4th Sat.)

MACTAN: Flormont Hotel (2nd Sat.)

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

PUERTO PRINCESA: Legend Hotel (3rd Sat.)

QUEZON CITY: Max's Restaurant, Quezon City (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 BREAKFASTS (7:30 A.M.)

Wednesdays – MAKATI: Beverly Hills Deli, Greenbelt, Makati
(1st Weds.)

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

Fridays – MANILA: Aristocrat Restaurant, Malate, Manila (1st Fri)

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.)

BAYBAY: Angelicum Parish 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: Jollibee Junction A.B. Fernandez Ave., Cor. M.H. Del
Pilar St. Dagupan City

DAVAO: Terraza Millesa (2nd Sat.)

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

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

LAS PINAS: Italia Club 500 (1st Sat.)

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

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

MACTAN: Flormont Hotel (4th Sat.)

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

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

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

PUERTO PRINCESA: Legend Hotel (1st Sat.)

QUEZON CITY: Max's Restaurant, Quezon City (4th Sat.)

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

SAN FERNANDO: Café Rustico, Olongapo – Gapan Rd.

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

SORSOGON: Fernando's Hotel (Merienda)

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

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

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

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

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

Kapatiran

CONTENTS

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 1999

ONENESS IN CHRIST

FOCUS

Focus Article: Oneness in Christ ... 4

Jubilee: The Great Jubilee of the Year 2000 ... 5

Let Us Be Jubilant! ... 6

Prayer of His Holiness Pope John Paul II ... 9

CHAPTER FOCUS: LEGAZPI

 An Banhi ... 10

 The Power of Prayer ... 10

 BCBP Legazpi Activities Capsulized ... 11

Sharing: The Lord Protected Me ... 12

 Mother, there is Your Son ... 12

Sharing: Gigi's Accident and the Wonders of God's

 Love ... 13

 Glimpses from the Secretariat's Desk ... 14

 Reaching for Lost Sheep ... 14

 Brother's Keeper ... 15

CHAPTER FOCUS: CEBU

Sharing: Total Surrender ... 16

Views: A Warning Against Hypocrisy ... 17

Sharing: My Walk in Faith as a Physician ... 18

 On Facing the Possibility of Death ... 19

..... **FEATURE: CHRISTMAS**

20... Christmas Tree symbol of Victory and Goodwill

21... The Real Meaning of the "Twelve Days of Christmas"

22... Not So Known Beliefs on Christmas Day

22... A Christmas Prayer

34... Yuletide Reflection

..... **REGULARS**

2... *Editorial: A Crisis in the Flesh*

23... *One Minute Meditations: The Birth of Jesus*

23... Bible Sharing

24... *In The Marketplace: In the Den of Lions*

25... *Brothers' Keepers: Just Another Christmas*

31... Fun Under the Sun

32... *Back to Basics: Oneness In Christ*

36... Columnists' Corner

..... **NEWS**

26... Cebu, Calbayog, Parañaque

27... San Fernando, Legazpi, Rizal

28... Bacolod South, Kabankalan, The "E" Age

29... Calamba

30... Maasin, Iligan

31... Ed's Reply, Issue Themes for the year 2000

OUR COVER



The Great Jubilee Celebration logo is a good representation of the worldwide character of the Christian message: the center, in blue, indicates the earth, with the sign of the Cross enveloping it. The five doves of different colors represent the five continents. A light shines from the center of the Cross to indicate Christ, "true light of the world", as also indicated by the words: "Christus heri, hodie, semper": Christ yesterday, today and forever. The way the doves are joined together indicates the spirit of unity among God's children, and reconciliation among peoples. The Cross recalls that Christ died for the salvation of all, and the three colored lines bring to mind the mystery of the Trinity. The Brotherhood as a Catholic organization is one with the entire Christendom in celebrating the Great Jubilee.

Editor's Note

Today finds me nostalgic and sentimental. Take your handkerchiefs out. The violins will soon be playing. Because what started out as a dream almost two years ago is now a reality. Brothers and sisters throughout the BCBP country are now contributing to the Kapatiran pages. We can now qualify as being national in scope. All because we dared to dream. All because we dared to claim a victory. All because the Lord is kind and gracious. And so have you... because you allowed the Lord to work through you.

For my first article officially as the editor, I wrote about "The Blank Page". I claimed to be fearless (can you imagine that?) and claimed that the blank pages will be filled by you, because the Lord never stops blessing people. I claimed a victory from the Lord in faith. What followed was months of blank pages, frustration and discouragement. Because the Lord wanted us to pray harder. And we did. (What else will bring you to your knees?) After which the Lord answered and article after article started coming from all corners of the country. Today, I claim this victory with you. Let's fall on our knees with thanksgiving to the Lord for all his goodness and grace!

And at this Christmas season you can be assured of my prayers and all of the Kapatiran staffers, that God will bless you and your family mightily. And we will continue to dream. We will continue to claim more victories from the Lord in faith... but with more perseverance and your prayers. God is good! MAY YOU ENJOY THE BLESSINGS OF A CHRIST-FILLED CHRISTMAS!



a Crisis in the Flesh

"Deep within his conscience man discovers a law which he has not laid upon himself but which he must obey. Its voice ever calling him to love and to do what is good and to avoid evil, sounds in his heart at the right moment. . . For man has in his heart a law inscribed by God. . . His conscience is man's most secret core and his sanctuary. There he is alone with God whose voice echoes in his depths." Definition of Moral Conscience, No. 1776, p.417 Catechism of the Catholic Church (Definitive Edition)

"As we write, all major Christian denominations and Catholic authorities in Manila take to the streets specifically at the Manila Film

Center symbolic of the infamous *Metro-Manila Filmfest* of the Marcos regime where license was given by then civil authorities to have a wanton display of pornographic material, to ventilate their disgust and abhorrence with the current government for its lack of vigilance in guarding against pornographic films and violence exhibited in today's cinemas. Teodoro Benigno, in his *Philippine Star* column 8 November 1999, Here's the Score, says, and I quote, "This column is one with Jaime Cardinal Sin and God's People Coalition for Righteousness (GPCR) in their clamor for President Estrada to pitch Armida Siguion Reyna and her cohorts in the MTRCB (Movie and Television Review and Classification Board) out into the gutter where they belong. Cardinal Sin is right. Armida and the present MTRCB have polluted the nation's children and "are ruining our cherished values" as a Christian nation.

They have unleashed on the archipelago a Sargasso Sea of pornography hitherto unseen, films that are not only lewd but dirty, obscene, smutty, foul, utterly vulgar and filthy where a woman's body and her private parts are violated by scenes that are supposed to portray art but only succeed in revealing the rapacity of men and women in our movie industry out to make a fast and rotten buck. Out with them!"



For some brothers and sisters who still have second thoughts or still entertain their "freedom of choice" and maintain that pornography in the privacy of their homes improves their conjugal relationships, here is the TRUTH, not as a matter of opinion, but as spoken by the authority, the Catholic Church:

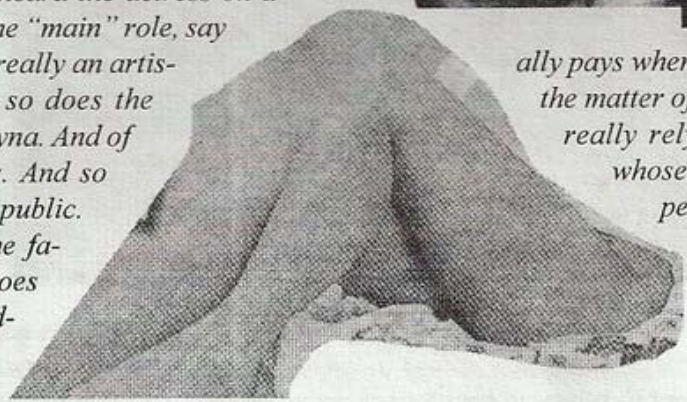
Pornography consists in removing real or simulated sexual acts from the intimacy of the partners, in order to display them deliberately to third parties. It offends against chastity because it perverts the conjugal act, the intimate giving of spouses to each other. It does grave injury to the dignity of its participants (actors, vendors, the public), since each one becomes an object of base pleasure and illicit profit for others. It immerses all who are involved in the illusion of a fantasy world. It is a grave offense. Civil authorities should prevent the production and distribution of pornographic material. —Definition of Pornography No. 2354 p. 528 Catechism of the Catholic Church (Definitive Edition)

In other words, it is "good" for NO ONE. Not for the actors, not for the vendors, the moviehouse owners, the mall owners, the MTRCB or the viewing public. On Mayor Lim's radio program, I heard that one "bold" film made P90 million for its producers and the cost for the "poor" actresses and actors, cameramen, etc. a measly P10 million. In the proportion of things you be the judge as to who gets used.

At one time I actually heard the actress on a radio interview who played the "main" role, say that she sincerely felt it was really an artistic bit she performed. And so does the MTRCB and Ms. Siguion-Reyna. And of course, so do the producers. And so do some of the "consuming" public. But I wonder aloud what the father of that actress feels? Does he feel like singing with fondness the beginning lines of the song "Sunrise, Sunset"...Is this the little girl I carried?

What we have here is a crisis of the flesh, where the pull of earthly matters like materialism seems to be stronger than spiritual matters like how one stands alone before God; a total contradiction to the Lord's words in John "...the flesh is useless, it is the spirit that gives life". Here lies the error of today's generation in failing to hear that deep interior voice (see the Definition of Moral Conscience above) that says we are meant for a place beyond this planet and its ephemeral rewards. A philosopher once posed the question "Are we spiritual beings having a human experience or are we human beings having a spiritual experience?" Where we believe we will end up after life should settle that, but the question is what do others believe?

Fr. Chito Dimaranan said in his homily that the 'want' of a family of the 60's was a black and white TV and a single-door refrigerator. The 70's family's (want) was a colored TV and a two-door refrigerator. The 80's family's 'want' was the betamax, VCR, the computer, the games etc. The 90's saw the deluge of the beeper, cell phone, play station, more computers, software etc.. In the late 90's, he says people no longer know what they want because of the explosion of the internet, e-commerce. This is mega-consumerism and mega-materialism if there is such a word in this crisis of the flesh. Is this dangerous? You will find the answer in the signs of the times. Today's paper says that the signs of the times are those well-dressed teens in the malls as an answer for themselves for sex indulge in child



times are those well-dressed teens in the malls as an answer for themselves for sex indulge in child

Let us be brave to confront ourselves with the question: who do you think really, really pays where it matters, in matters of substance, such as the matter of our eternal salvation. Whose words can we really rely on for wisdom and understanding? And whose words should we really fear? Today's Gospel nonetheless is spine-tingling:

Jesus said to his disciples, "Things that cause sin will inevitably occur, but woe to the person through whom they occur. It would be better for him if a millstone were put around his neck and he be thrown into the sea than for him to cause one of these little ones to sin. Be on your guard! If your brother sins, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him." - Luke 17:1-3

As Christmas approaches and the New Millenium is on the horizon we wonder if there is hope in this crisis we face. But hope lies in realizing that for every crisis, there is an opportunity for growth and change. And the hope lies in strong men and women who are on their guard and not afraid to stand up and rebuke the unlovable for their own sake, for their repentance and forgiveness by the Eternal Father who never stops seeing them as His own little girls and boys on a journey to come home to Him for eternity.

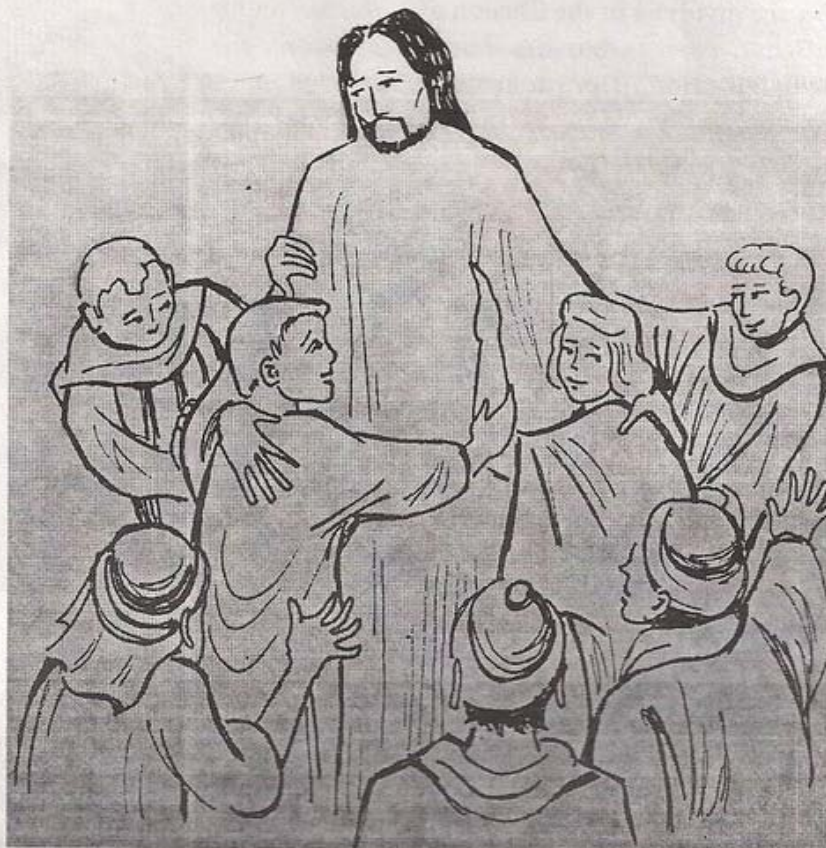
ONENESS in CHRIST

by Nancy R. Catan

This coming month of December we celebrate three significant happenings: the birthday of Jesus, the turning of the calendar from 1999 to 2000 – entry into the third millenium, and the beginning of the liturgical year of the Jubilee. All of these happenings lead us into focusing on our oneness in Christ, the theme of this Nov-Dec 1999 Kapatiran issue.

Every year even before Advent and Christmas roll around, we begin to hear Christmas music in the malls and on the radio as early as September. Stores begin to decorate for the Christmas season in October, often overtaking the black and orange colors of Halloween in their haste to herald Christmas. All forms of media seem to cooperate and connive with each other to get us to focus on the gift-buying (more than on the gift giving!) and other blatantly commercial aspects of the holidays.

And yet, as the saying goes, Jesus is the reason for the season. If we reflect on the underlying purpose of His coming to mankind as a helpless, loveable baby, and the Christmas nativity story complete with shepherds, wise men and Star of



Bethlehem, we readily see that He came not only to bring us all to Him, but to bring us together in oneness as brothers and sisters, in harmony and unity. This sense of oneness and unity in Christ is the real reason for the season.

Secondly, we observe the coming of the third millenium – whether the turning point is this year's New Year's Eve or next year's is not the point...the third millenium is upon us! Worldwide, people are apprehensive over just what is going to happen at this time. We have the Y2K problems – real and imagined, the escalating natural disasters

happening all over the world, political unrest, territorial and religious wars, "end of the world" predictions, ever-rising cost of living, food shortages, labor unrest and economic downswings. What is this world coming to, is the question everyone is asking?

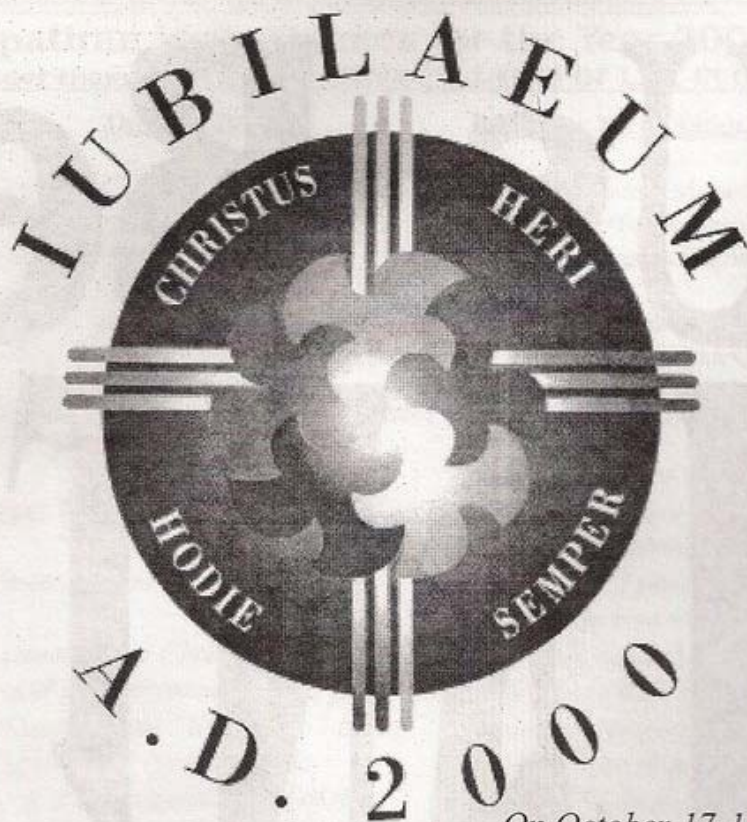
Again Christian reflection leads us from becoming enmeshed with this chaotic world back to focusing our lives on Christ. We need to trust in Him, rely on His promises to His faithful, and come together to support each other as did the early Christian communities. We need to be one in Christ.

Thirdly, we begin the liturgical celebration of the Holy Year of Jubilee, a very special and important milestone in church history. During this year we are called to strengthen our relationship with God, the Three-in-One, the One God, the God of all creation – to become one with Christ.

Oneness in Christ.

The dictionary defines oneness as singleness of purpose, unity of opinion, having a single identity, the same purpose in life. As we reflect on Kapatiran's theme of Oneness in Christ, we ask ourselves:

- Does my life mirror that of Christ in terms of purpose, unity, and identity?
- Do I love others as Christ loves me?
- How sturdy is my love for Christ, is it strong enough in love and trust to withstand the bombardment of the worldly 3rd millenium fears?
- Can I say, from my heart, that this Christmas I will willingly and wholeheartedly become one with Christ?



The Great Jubilee of the Year 2000

By Pinky Lim, BCBP Cagayan de Oro

On October 17-19, 1997, I had the graced opportunity to be sent as a delegate to the Archdiocesan Congress on the Tertio Millennio Adveniente or T.M.A. Although it is now 1999, I would like to share the essence of this congress through the Kapatiran as a review to encourage everyone to actively participate in the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000. -Pinky Lim

W hat is the Tertio Millennio Adveniente?

Literally it means "the advent of the Third Millennium". It is a period of great expectation, of eager anticipation, of renewed hope as the world approaches and enters the Third Millennium.

Specifically it is an apostolic letter issued by Pope John Paul II last November 1994 addressed to all the faithful of the Church. In this letter he presents a grand program for the Year 2000 which the Church has designated as a Great Year of Jubilee. For Christians, this milestone is even more significant because it marks the two thousand years which have passed since the birth of Jesus Christ.

The "TMA" is not an event per se, but a journey, a pilgrimage that will lead us back onto the path we were meant to travel, the path that was set out for us 1,999 years ago. The starting point of this journey was the incarnation of the Word, the rightful moment when our rightful heritage was bestowed on us.

What are the exhortations in the apostolic letter of the TMA?

Firstly, it sets the purposes for the celebration of the Great Jubilee in the Year 2000. Secondly, it emphasizes the importance of the celebration; we must not only be joyful but jubilant! And, thirdly, it encourages the faithful to prepare themselves for the special grace of this momentous occasion.

What is the "Great Jubilee"?

The word "Jubilee" comes from the Hebrew "Joo-Bah-Lee" which means "Rejoice". In the Old Testament, Jubilee refers to the ram's horn which was blown as a call to begin the year.

The Jubilee, a time of rejoicing and thanksgiving, is our natural response to the gift of Redemption which came about with the Incarnation of the Son of God, through the action of the Holy Spirit. It is for this reason, that during the three-year preparation, the Church focuses on the three Persons of the Blessed Trinity.

Through this celebration, we give glory to

the Blessed Trinity, from Whom everything in the world and in history comes and to Whom everything returns and enters into a new springtime of Christian life.

What are the objectives of the Jubilee Year?

1. To confirm the Christian's faith in God who has revealed Himself in Christ, and to strengthen the witness of Christians.
2. To sustain their hope which reaches out in expectation of eternal life.
3. To rekindle their charity in active service to their fellowmen/women.
4. To encourage Christians to purify themselves through repentance of past errors and instances of infidelity, inconsistency and slowness to act.
5. To inspire all the faithful into a true longing for holiness.
6. To enjoin the youth to follow the road which Jesus has pointed out to them.

Let Us Be JUBILANT!

So that we will have a clearer understanding of what the Jubilee of the Year 2000 means to us, we are reprinting excerpts from a Libreria Editrice Vaticana brochure detailing various important aspects of the Jubilee Year. This interesting brochure also challenges us to examine the quality of our Christian witness in the worldly milieu of today. —Nancy Catan

*by Nancy R. Catan,
BCBP Manila*

What is the Jubilee?
It is a special call to understand better the mystery of the Incarnation:
Remember that God loves you; for the love of you, Jesus became man 2000 years ago. Remember then to love every person as Christ loved us:
"Whatever you wish that others would do to you, do so to them; for this is the Law and the Prophets (Mt. 7:12)"

Everyone is called to reflect on God who is Love. Love will lead you to Him, and to peace in your own heart. You who are a Christian —

which means follower of Christ —, have you found a time of inner silence to ask yourself the reason for this great celebration? "Behold, now is the acceptable time; now is the day of salvation (2 Cor 6:2)"

The Jubilee or Holy Year is:

- A year of spiritual renewal;
- A year in which to meet

Christ personally;

- A year filled with the abundant love of God and for God, of generous mutual love towards all.

Why the Jubilee of the Year 2000?

"It is significant that the calculation of the passing years begins almost everywhere with the year of Christ's coming into the



world. On the threshold of the new Millennium Christians need to place themselves humbly before the Lord and examine themselves on the responsibility which they too have for the evils of our day." (Apostolic Letter Tertio Millennio Adveniente, Pope John Paul II)

What should be said about the worldwide state of human society in

the electronic age? And what about the witness of Christians in the world today? "The Jubilee celebration should confirm the Christians of today in their faith in God who has revealed himself in Christ, sustain their hope which reaches out in expectation of eternal life, and rekindle their charity in active service to their brothers and sisters." (TMA)

It is easy to complain about the evils that affect the world: but what do you personally do to bring about good? The Jubilee is the occasion that the Lord gives you to renew your own life and to bear witness to your faith.

What is the meaning of the Jubilee Logo?

The symbol is a good representation of the worldwide character of the Christian message: the center, in blue, indicates the earth, with the sign of the Cross enveloping it. The five doves of different colors represent the five continents. A light shines from the center of the Cross to indicate Christ, "true light of the world", as also indicated by the words: "*Christus heri, hodie, semper*": **Christ**

How can we gain the Plenary Jubilee Indulgence during the Holy Year?

The indulgence is the remission of temporal punishment (penalty to be paid on earth) because of sin whose guilt and eternal punishment (damnation to hell) have already been forgiven in the sacrament of Confession. The temporal punishment can be expiated through prayer, fasting, almsgiving, the sufferings of Purgatory, or obtaining an indulgence.

An indulgence can be partial or plenary, referring to whether the remission of the temporal punishment is limited or complete. Indulgences are applied to the living per modum absolutionis (as a grant); to the dead per modum suffragii (as a supplication).

In order to gain the Plenary Jubilee Indulgence during the Holy Year, for oneself or for a dead person, the faithful must personally visit a designated church and perform on the same day three good works: (1) General Confession; (2) Participation in the Holy Mass; (3) Prayers for the intentions of the Pope (Our Father-Hail Mary-The Apostolic Creed; or the Rosary; or the Way of the Cross), and works of charity (visit to the sick, or to the prisoners, or almsgiving, or cancellation of a debt).

The indulgence can be acquired only once a day. Sick people, unable to visit a church, can perform the three works in any place.

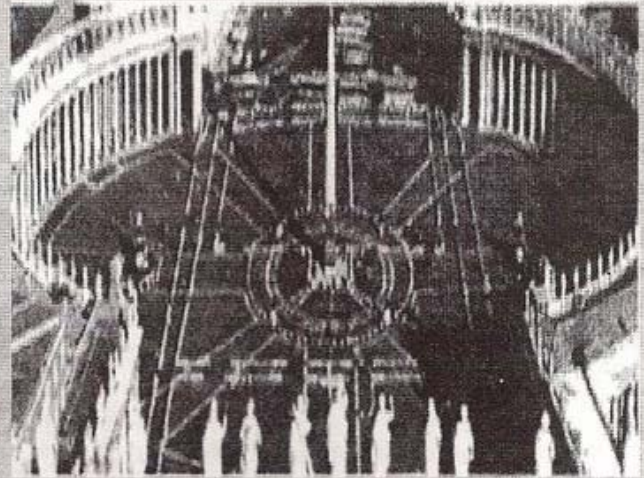
The Holy Door

The Holy Door, which is located in every Major Basilica in Rome, is opened at the beginning of the Jubilee Year, and closed at its end. The Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica is opened by the Pope on Christmas Eve, December 25, 1999, with three strokes of the Silver Jubilee Hammer.

The Pope is the first to enter, holding a copy of the Gospel, followed by the faithful.

A few hours later, the Holy Doors of the other Basilicas and Cathedrals in Rome and around the world will also be opened by their respective Cardinals and Bishops.

The Holy Door symbolizes Jesus Christ, who said: "I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved" (John 10:9). As it was prophesied: "This is the gate of the Lord through which the righteous may enter" (Psalms 118:20). By passing through the Holy Door we profess that Jesus is the Messiah.



yesterday, today and forever. The way the doves are joined together indicates the spirit of unity among God's children, and reconciliation among peoples. The Cross recalls that Christ died for the salvation of all, and the three colored lines bring to mind the mystery of the Trinity.

How should Christians celebrate the Jubilee?

"In the Jubilee Year Christians will stand with the renewed wonder of faith before the love of the Father, who gave his Son, 'that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life' (Jn 3:16)." (TMA)

To celebrate the Jubilee we need:

1. A thorough revision of lives as baptized Christians

- What am I making of my life?
- What do I live for? Can I really call myself a Christian?
- What do my actions say? Is my faith alive?
- How do I consider other people?
- Do I remember the words of the Gospel: "For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses himself?" (Luke 15:10)

2. Sincere repentance

The Lord cannot be deceived; each one has something to repent of: "The joy of every Jubilee is above all a joy based upon the forgiveness of sins, the joy of conversion." (TMA) The Lord tells us "There is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents" (Luke 15:10).

The Pope

The Pope is the head of the Catholic Church. As Jesus said: "You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church" (Matthew 16:18). He is called "Pope," from the Greek pappas, meaning father, because he is the father of all the faithful. He also holds these titles: Vicar of Christ, Bishop of Rome, Successor of St. Peter, Supreme Pontiff, Patriarch of the West, Primate of Italy, Archbishop and Metropolitan of the Roman Province, Sovereign of the State of Vatican City, and Servus Servorum Dei (Servant of the Servants of God).

From the time of St. Peter to John Paul II, there were 264 Popes.

To gain the Plenary Jubilee Indulgence, after Confession and Holy Communion, we have to pray for the intentions of the Pope. We can pray one Our Father, one Hail Mary, one Apostolic Creed; or the Holy Rosary; or the Way of the Cross. In addition, we may conclude with the following prayer.

God almighty Father, we pray for the intentions of the Pope John Paul II. He is the Vicar of Christ, the Bishop of Rome, the Successor of St. Peter, the Rock of the Church. He is the Servant of the Servants of God, and the seal of unity among bishops, priests, and faithful. Grant him your blessings, that he may fulfill his mandate for the glory of God and the salvation of souls. This we ask through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Amen.



will be opened. Likewise, in all the cathedrals of the world – and especially in Jerusalem – the Jubilee will begin with a special liturgical celebration.

What is the message of the Jubilee of the Year 2000?

The aim of the Jubilee is clearly defined: "Everyone ought to focus on the primary objective of the Jubilee: the strengthening of faith and of the witness of Christians" (TMA). This is a call to everyone to:

1. Know the Father, Son and Holy Spirit more, as well as Mary, Mother of the Redeemer. We can't love someone we don't know. And so we need to make a personal commitment to:

- a. read the Scriptures;
 - b. deepen our knowledge of Catholic doctrine by studying the Catechism of the Catholic Church;
 - c. take part in the Liturgy especially in Mass.
2. Bear witness to their faith:
- a. with Christian commitment in their personal lives, in the family, in society, in their work, and in the Church;
 - b. through works of charity: faith without works is dead;
 - c. by offering to God their sufferings, uniting them to the saving Cross of Christ.

3. A firm resolution

"I will arise and go to my father..." (Luke 15:18) as a response to the invitation, "Repent and believe in the Gospel" (Mk 1:15); "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Mt 11:28).

How can we gain the Jubilee indulgence?

An indulgence is the remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins, already forgiven as far as the fault is concerned. The Jubilee is a year of "grace", for our inner renewal. The conditions for gaining the indulgences, as indicated in the Bull of Indication of the Jubilee Year, are:

- 1. Sacramental Confession, leading to a genuine conversion of heart.
- 2. Holy Communion. "The year 2000 will be intensely Eucharistic" (TMA).

3. A pilgrimage, to recall that "The whole of the Christian life is like a great pilgrimage to the house of the Father" (TMA).

4. Prayers. The Creed, Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory, according to the Pope's intention.

5. A visit to a church designated by appropriate ecclesiastical authority.

6. Charitable works towards the sick, those in prison, the elderly who are alone, abandoned children, young people in trouble, and all who are in need, because Christ is in each one of them (Mt 25:34-46).

When does the Jubilee of the Year 2000 officially begin?

The Jubilee of the Year 2000 was proclaimed by the Bull "Incarnationis Mysterium:" and begins on Christmas Eve 1999 with the opening of the Holy Door by the Pope in Saint Peter's in Rome; subsequently the Holy Doors in the other patriarchal Basilicas in Rome

Jubilee Churches

The following churches are designated for the Jubilee 2000: St. Peter, St. John Lateran, St. Mary Major, St. Paul Basilicas in Rome; the Basilicas of Holy Sepulchre (Jerusalem), the Nativity (Bethlehem), the Annunciation (Nazareth) in Holy Land; cathedrals, minor basilicas, and important shrines throughout the world.

A

Ω



Prayer of His Holiness Pope John Paul II for the Celebration of the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000

Blessed are you, Father, Who, in your infinite love, gave us your only-begotten Son.

By the power of the Holy Spirit He became incarnate in the spotless womb of the Virgin Mary and was born in Bethlehem two thousand years ago. He became our companion on life's path and gave new meaning to our history, the journey we make together in toil and suffering, in faithfulness and love, towards the new heaven and the new earth where You, once death has been vanquished, will be all in all.

Praise and glory to you, Most Holy Trinity, you alone are God most high!

By your grace, O Father, may the Jubilee Year be a time of deep conversion and of joyful return to you. May it be a time of reconciliation between people, and of peace restored among nations, a time when swords are beaten into ploughshares and the clash of arms gives way to song of peace.

Father, grant that we may live this Jubilee Year docile to the voice of the Spirit, faithful to the way of Christ, diligent in listening to your Word and in approaching the wellsprings of grace.

Praise and glory to You, Most Holy Trinity, you alone are God most high!

Father, by the power of the Spirit, strengthen the Church's commitment to the new evangelization and guide our steps along the pathways of the world, to proclaim Christ by our lives, and to direct our earthly pilgrimage towards the City of heavenly light.

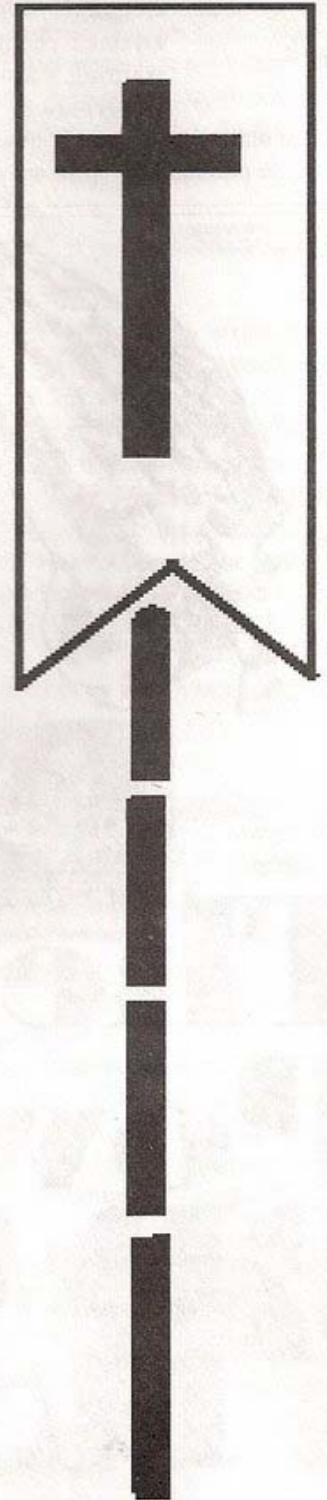
May Christ's followers show forth their love for the poor and the oppressed; may they be one with those in need and abound in works of mercy; may they be compassionate towards all, that they themselves may obtain indulgence and forgiveness from you.

Praise and glory to You, Most Holy Trinity, you alone are God most high!

Father, grant that your Son's disciples, purified in memory and acknowledging their failings, may be one, that the world may believe. May dialogue between the followers of the great religions prosper, and may all people discover the joy of being your children. May the intercession of Mary, Mother of your faithful people, in union with the prayers of the Apostles, the Christian martyrs, and the righteous of all nations in every age, make the Holy Year a time of renewed hope and of joy in the Spirit for each of us and for the whole Church.

Praise and glory to You, Most Holy Trinity, you alone are God most high!

To you, Almighty Father, Creator of the universe and of mankind, through Christ the Living One, Lord of time and history, in the Spirit who makes all things holy, be praise and honor and glory now and forever. Amen!



An Banhi

by Ely Salazar,
BCBP Legazpi

Mid-year of 1997 when the then Legazpi outreach attained chapter-in-training status, the governance team

conceived of putting up a monthly newsletter as an in-house publication — primarily as an

information outlet to and from the members and, secondly, as a reporting process-of-sorts to Makati chapter and the national Council.

An Editorial Board was appointed

and tasked to come up with a name, logo and format. As a result, a two-page maiden issue was printed in October 1997 with "An Banhi" as its masthead, hemmed in by the BCBP logo at its left and a drawing of Mayon volcano and the church belfry of the Cagsawa ruins on its right.

Literally, "An Banhi" in Bicol means "the seed."

This Seed, to our mind, is the BCBP community that Makati chapter planted in

Legazpi City, Albay Province. The Seed is also the Word of God "that fell on good soil, and the plants bore grains: some had one hundred grains, others sixty, and others thirty."

The Seed ... is each one of us, growing, unfolding, taking root and bearing fruit. Legazpi has undergone eight (8) BCLPs to increase the chapter's membership to 360. With the twenty-three graduates of Sorsogon outreach's BCLP 1, the "An Banhi" sown in Legazpi has sprouted into a spirit-filled tree, giving a harvest of 383 BCBPERS in the Lord's service.

Of this number, three have been called to God's bosom and about eighty are being lifted to the Lord with prayers to strengthen their commitment. We continue to praise and magnify the Lord for His love, guidance and protection.



conceived of putting up a monthly newsletter as an in-house publication — primarily as an



by Mariz Segui,
BCBP Legazpi



The Power of PRAYER

It was a Monday, May 24, 1999, the day after the Baptism of the Holy Spirit of BCLP 1 in Sorsogon outreach where I was part of the service team.

Monday is a peak day in banking. I was the lone teller in the bank that morning as the other teller was on leave. The time was 12:30 pm, I was balancing the money from my drawer when I found out that I was short by P12,186.00. At first I didn't mind the shortage thinking that it could only be a mis-posted transaction. Time moved on. At about 3:30 pm upon reviewing all my transactions I was jolted when I found out that I was really missing more than P12,000 cash!

After office hours, I decided to see our clients who are big depositors in inquire whether they double-checked the amounts they deposited. They answered positively. I started to panic. The shortage was big. Where and how could I find that amount? I said to myself I'll get the Bible and perhaps the Lord can calm my anxiety. So I prayed to the Holy Spirit for guidance and upon opening my Bible, my eyes fell on Mark

15:14-18: "But later as the eleven were at the table, He appeared to them and rebuked them for their mischief and hardness of heart because they had not believed those who saw Him after He had been marked."

I asked the Lord, "Why have you given me this verse?" He answered by letting me read Luke 11:9-13 which says, "And I tell you, ask and you will receive; seek and you shall find, knock and the door will be opened to you; for everyone who asks receives." I asked my husband Dan to discern these passages. He told me that all I have to do is trust in Him and tomorrow the money would be returned.

The following day Tuesday, I remembered the first scripture reading and told myself that perhaps the eleven in the commissioning of eleven meant that someone would approach me at 11:00 am to give me back the money. At around 10:45 that morning a woman came and somebody whispered to me to call her. I didn't know where the voice came from, but I called out to her. As she approached me, she started telling about the amount of money that she was bringing back to me. And I had not even told her yet why I was calling her! She said that she was the one who had deposited P12,200 the previous day but forgot to leave the cash with me! She said her helper found the money in her bag at home.

I looked at the clock; it was exactly 11:00 am! I stood up and cried out, "Thank you, Lord!" At that moment I remembered my husband's words: TRUST in Him and don't lose hope. So before leaving for home, I prayed: "Lord, I implore you to bless the honest helper who found the money." How good the Lord is to those who trust in Him!



BCBP LEGAZPI CHAPTER ACTIVITIES CAPSULIZED

We have tabulated below the activities of the Legazpi City Chapter as of September 30, 1999. This presentation depicts the "transfer of technology" BCBP-wise from Makati to Legazpi and onwards to Sorsogon.



Legazpi – Total Number of Graduates: 360

BCLP Number	Date	Venue	Number of Graduates	Speakers, Service Team
1	10 Sept-29 Oct '94	BSBI Seminar Hall	26	Makati – 100%
2	20 May-24 Jun '95	Bicol University	26	Makati – 100%
3	28 Oct-25 Nov '95	Albay Pastoral Center	31	Makati – 100%
4	08 Jun-03 Aug '96	Albay Pastoral Center	37	Makati – 70%
5	18 Jan-08 Mar '97	Albay Pastoral Center	66	Makati – 30%
6	11 Oct-06 Dec '97	BSBI Seminar Hall	66	Makati – 05%
7	23 Aug-11 Oct '98	BSBI Seminar Hall	54	Legazpi – 99%
8	04 Jul-12 Sept '99	Aeroville Court	54	Legazpi – 99%

Sorsogon Outreach

1	18 Apr-20 Jun '99	Sorsogon State College	23	Legazpi – 99%
---	-------------------	------------------------	----	---------------

Workers Of Christ-LSS

As an Outreach of BCBP Legazpi – Total Number of Graduates: 227

1	Sept 12-14, '97	BSBI Seminar Hall	55	Greenhills – 100%
2	Dec 27-29, '97	Mater Salutis Seminary	45	Greenhills – 70%
3	Mar 13-15, '98	BSBI Seminar Hall	38	Greenhills – 50%
4	Jan 30-31, '99	Legazpi City Jail	41	Legazpi – 100%
5	Apr 9-11, '99	Bicol Regional Training and Teaching Hospital (BRTTH)	48	Legazpi – 99% Greenhills – 1%
6	Oct. 8-10, '99	BRTTH	Not yet undertaken at time of this report	Legazpi – 100%

BCMR – Total Number of Couples: 64 Couples

1	Mar 10-12, '95	El Retiro – Sorsogon	13 Couples	Makati – 100%
2	Mar 8-10, '96	El Retiro – Sorsogon	8 Couples	Makati – 90%
3	May 2-4, '97	El Retiro – Sorsogon	17 Couples	Legazpi – 99%
4	Apr 17-19, '98	Bethlehem – Bacacay	13 Couples	Legazpi – 100%
5	Apr 9-11, '99	El Retiro - Sorsogon	13 Couples	Legazpi – 100%

"Whoever goes to the Lord for safety, whoever remains under the shadow of the Almighty can say to Him 'You are my God, in You I trust.' He will keep you safe from all dangers..." Psalm 91

the LORD protected me!

by Ted Berjuega, BCBP Legazpi

This passage has been my daily prayer and I have experienced its message in a special way. It was June 24, 1999, the feast of St. John the Baptist and parish fiesta of Camalig, a town which is about 15 kilometers from Legazpi City. I was driving with a friend back to Legazpi after having merienda with a friend in Camalig. We left at around 5:00 pm to avoid nightfall. As is my usual practice, I was playing a Christian song to help me focus on my driving. Just some six kilometers from home, we met a speeding large Tritran bus that was overtaking a passenger jeepney just as we were negotiating a curve.

Taken by surprise and resorting to a split-second reflex to avoid the bus, I must have pulled the wheel in a way that caused my car to fall into the canal, landing full-length on its right side. We managed to squeeze out of the vehicle and examined ourselves for injuries; we were amazed that we did not have a single bruise or cut! The tape was still playing "As the deer panteth for the water..." and right then and there I realized how much the Lord had protected us with His mighty power.

The next hour brought even more evidence of God's protection. I requested a lady in a passing car to call my neighbors for soon it would be dark and the place was not one of the safest places to be at nighttime. True enough Bro. Awel and Bro. Dan came to help. They'd planned to rent a truck from the Albay Electric Company but on the way they chanced upon another BCBP member Bro. Ed who



owns a tow truck. They explained the situation to him and asked him to wait for their call on his cellphone. But when they reached the scene of the accident, we found out that we had no phone to use. Just then, Bro. Cho, another BCBP member passed by on his way from Naga and stopped. He had a cellphone!

Still another BCBP brother, Bro. Pops also passed us on his way to the Camalig fiesta and he too stopped to help. In less than an hour, many brothers and sisters who had been reached by the "phone tree" were gathered around. I felt safe with all of them. The tow truck came and in no time we had pulled my car out of the canal and brought it to a repair shop. More and more I felt the Lord's love and care for me.

As part of my thanksgiving to God, I accepted an invitation to attend the PREX, Parish Renewal Experience, in our parish. I continue to serve the Lord through the different activities of the Brotherhood. In fact, I know that in all the opportunities for service that the Lord will call me into, my response will always be: "Yes, Lord!"

"Mother, there is your son."



by Ching A. de Ocampo, BCBP Legazpi

"Mother, there is your Son," the 3rd last word Jesus Christ uttered before His death on the cross never had much meaning to me until that time when I was alone with the Blessed Sacrament inside the PEA (Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration) room at Bethlehem in preparation for BCMR 4 of Legazpi chapter.

As prayer warriors and as head of the intercessory prayer service Dave and I promised to fight all obstacles and pray for the concerns of the participating couples. Just as I went out of the PEA room about 5 that Friday afternoon April 17, Dave whispered to me that a couple-participant who were incidentally our prayer-partners had not yet arrived. So I returned to the Adoration room and prayed with all my heart invoking the Holy Spirit: "Lord, if this is the best avenue for their healing and reconciliation, please let them come."

While praying I heard a voice, as if inside my mind, or at my back, repeatedly saying, "Woman, there is your son; woman, there is your Son..." I had goose pimples and felt faint; I burst into tears, my heart throbbed. The Holy Spirit was working! Then a soft voice whispered, "Accept it, accept it!" And I heard myself saying, "Yes, Lord; yes, Lord; yes, Lord!" After that I felt peace and a sense of calmness in my heart.

Suddenly Sis. Lanie came running to the prayer room. "Sis, they are already here." I was overwhelmed at the quick response to my prayer. "Thank you Lord!" I cried.

I thank the Lord for the success of the BCMR 4 and for the great love He has for Dave and me by granting us this privilege and entrusting to us the great responsibility toward this particular couple. From that time onward, we have taken them into our 'spiritual care' ... now I can see that something good is happening in their relationship. Praise God!

It was early evening of a Sunday in July of 1995, when a long distance call came to us from our older daughter Lala in Manila. What she told us stunned us beyond words. She said that her sister Gigi had been in a serious car accident somewhere in Cavite, and was in critical condition in the De La Salle Medical Center in Dasmarias, Cavite.

It was timely that we were attending an action group meeting of our BCBP Makati outreach in Legazpi so we immediately requested for prayers for Gigi. The group also prayed over us to ask for God's mercy and help to calm us down so we would be able to think clearly as to what to do next. We decided to leave for Manila the following day in order that we could put together our meager resources and ask for leave of absence from our respective offices.

However our extreme anxiety emboldened us to call Bro. Ronnie, the Makati chapter head then, and we informed him of what happened. Knowing that Gigi was practically by herself in the Cavite hospital, Bro. Ronnie and several other Makati BCBP brothers (Bro. Jun, Jules and Jess) immediately went to Cavite that night to check on Gigi's condition.

We took the first flight to Manila the next day and were met by Bro. Manny at the airport. Bro. Ronnie was also there to inform us about Gigi and to drive us all the way to Cavite. On the way we kept praying for strength and for the needed graces for Gigi. We reached the hospital in a better frame of mind than the previous night, but still we were shocked to see Gigi's injuries. We could hardly believe that she was alive.

She looked like a limp doll attached to a forest of tubes and bottles but at least when she opened her eyes, she immediately recognized us! To us that was blessing enough.

Lala then recounted that Gigi and some friends were driving back to Manila on Sunday early morning from a celebration in Cavite when the car smashed head-on into a truck. Due to the impact, Gigi who was seated in front was thrown out through the windshield. They found her some three feet away from the car lying unconscious on the muddy road. The other passengers were also injured but Gigi was the most serious.

Then we learned that a man who was driving by volunteered to bring Gigi to the hospital where she was given only 30 percent chance to survive. Her kidneys were in bad shape, she had fractured bones in her legs and right thigh, severe lacerations all over her arms and body, and cerebral concussion. With these came excruciating pain. She was scheduled for operation right away and Lala said that Gigi consumed 24 bags of blood during that operation.

We asked about the man who had brought Gigi to the hospital but nobody could tell us who he was. He did not return after he left Gigi at the hospital. That unknown good Samaritan was an angel sent by the Lord! The other angels were our BCBP Makati brothers and sisters who extended financial assistance and brought love gifts of flowers, food, books, tapes, cards and letters. Every time we were presented with the hospital bill, we were astounded to see that we had almost the exact amount needed.

Prayer vigils were held by the different BCBP units, pray-overs were done over Gigi, and numerous Holy Masses offered for her recovery. Our Legazpi BCBP community also gave us material and spiritual gifts.

Since we did not know anyone in Cavite, we were wondering how and where we would stay while waiting for Gigi to become strong enough to be moved to Manila, but then a BCBP couple from Cavite outreach, Bro. Bel and Sis. Mercy, opened their home to us. We were overwhelmed by the outpouring of love and generosity.

What was to be a three months stay in the hospital was shortened to less than two months. The hospital staff named her Miracle Gigi because of her fast and miraculous recovery. In less than a year of therapy with great courage and determination, Gigi was back at her work in the bank.

This traumatic experience turned out to be a great blessing for which we will forever give thanks to God. It was instrumental in bringing out the love and care of our BCBP communities, our renewed closeness in the family and our abiding faith in the Lord.

At present Gigi, Lala and her husband Roland are all members of BCBP Makati. We continue to be thankful and grateful to the unknown Good Samaritan and to our brothers and sisters in the different BCBP communities. We pray that God may reward them a hundredfold!

GIGI'S Accident

& the wonders of GOD's love

by Meds and Emy Reynoso, BCBP Legazpi



My duties as head of the Secretariat of our recently concluded BCLP 8 in Legazpi gave me many valuable experiences and insights. One insight I had was that there is no substitute for thorough preparation even of the smallest details, if one wants to have a successful activity. The most interesting experience I had was to see the gradual change coming over all of us – participants, course leaders, and service team members.

On opening day we had 59 registered participants and we were all a little nervous. But this gave way to more self-confidence as the weeks unfolded – even when on the second session 90 participants showed up! By the time of the Baptism of the Spirit, the participants leveled off to 55, and we had gained enough know-how to make the sessions run smoothly reaching Commitment Night on September 12 with all 55 as our happy “graduates”. A bountiful harvest indeed!

It was a joyful experience to see the smiling faces of our new and renewed Christians! They had now become not only new members of the BCBP but also our new friends, fellow believers in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and our fellow disciples in the Lord’s vineyard. The sponsors were the happiest, I think.

Glimpses from the secretariat’s desk



by Charie Balunzo, BCBP Legazpi

Most of all I saw the change among us, the ones in charge of the myriad tasks involved in conducting a BCLP. From our initial feeling of concern that we might not do our jobs well enough for the Lord, we went on to a feeling of quiet determination to do our best in the face of many obstacles and “harassment” of the enemy, and then on Commitment Night – ah, the feeling of fulfillment! We had persevered! We had overcome! It was a happy moment for all of us!

Our joy made us forget our tiredness, the pangs of heartaches endured from the many pressures from all sides, and some misunderstandings caused by shortcomings.

I realized then that what helped us to persevere was our acceptance of the fact that this is not a perfect world, so we just have to bear gladly with one another. If our faith is deep we can obey those who govern us; failure to obey is an indication that true faith is still wanting.

Serving in the BCLP was my chance to thank the Lord for all the blessings He has given me. I serve Him in the spirit of praising, honoring and glorifying. I know that even if I may be lacking in some way, my service is acceptable to Him.

In those eleven weeks of BCLP 8 I also learned that leadership can be effective only if there are integrity and humility among all concerned because people will then consider it a privilege to follow the leader who has these virtues...and that if we follow a righteous leader we will be going in the right direction.

Above all, I learned the value of sacrifice based on Christian love. Truly, if we “put on love” as the Scripture says, we can accomplish even the most difficult things. Praise God!

Charie Balunzo was the head of the secretariat of Legazpi’s BCLP 8 on July 4 to September 12, 1999 at Aeroville Court, Legazpi City.

Reaching LOST

by Leonida Reniva-Labayani, BCBP Sorsogon

These events happened before I joined the BCBP Sorsogon outreach, but their significance and meaning are greater to me now after my Commitment Night on June 20, 1999. The Lord never does things haphazardly; He has a purpose in everything. Joining the BCBP Community has made my faith in the Lord stronger and I rejoice in the many blessings I have received. Psalm 37:5 and Mark 9:37 are there to guide me as I answer His call.

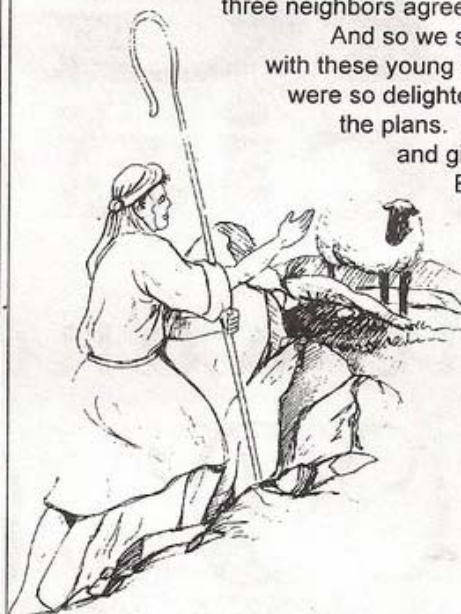
One night I heard loud shouting and singing near our gate. When I went out to see what was happening, some teenagers ran away as fast as they could, laughing and shouting in loud voices. I remembered several recent unpleasant incidents in our neighborhood caused by these teenagers so I ran after them and even thought of beating up one of them if I could catch anyone. I only stopped when some “barangay tanod” got alarmed and advised me to file a complaint instead.

To my surprise, the youngsters came back and asked forgiveness. They said they just wanted to ask my two sons to go with them and have some fun. I confronted them with previous incidents of bad behavior, including a sex scandal involving two of them. Then I paused and asked myself if I had the right to ask such questions, I felt I might have gone too far. At that moment I began to feel pity for them so I invited them inside. While serving them snacks, I told them of the many good things in life that were theirs if they behaved well.

I discussed the matter with my neighbor. I wanted to help but nobody would agree with me because they were afraid of the bad influence those boys might have on their children. I replied that we could not possibly protect our children from them all the time, so why not get them involved with more positive activities like ‘clean and green’, sports, bible studies and weekend outings. At last, three neighbors agreed.

And so we started with a short meeting with these young boys one Saturday. They were so delighted and excited to hear about the plans. The next day more boys and girls came to join us.

Because it was Sunday we began our activities by sharing some teachings in the Bible. One of our neighbors who was a member of a charismatic movement took charge. Afterwards I asked them to get short haircuts, and set out the group rules: no more earrings, no more hair bands, no more cigarettes, wine or staying late outside during nighttime.



Out to the SHEEP

We three neighbors entered them in the usual Inter-Barangay Sports Tournament, solicited money for their sports uniforms, and provided snacks for them during practices. Every day we even got up at 4:00 a.m. to jog around the village and lead them in other body fitness activities. We organized a volleyball team for girls, got a chessboard and a scrabble set for the younger boys and girls. Twice a week, we involved them in cleaning up our surroundings and nearby streets. Every day became a busy day for them and for us parents with our own children joining the group. On weekends we usually went on outings. Wrongdoing in the neighborhood decreased; other parents began to participate in the summer time activities.

But a month before classes started, the members one by one became inactive and returned to their old vices. They stopped attending Bible studies, they engaged in pre-marital sex, one of the boys was even reported to have desecrated the Eucharistic Host. But at least most of them had given up their cigarettes and drinking. It was discouraging for us parents. Since that time I never heard about the boys any more.

Recently one Sunday as I was coming home from Mass with my children I came upon a grandmother who said that she knew me well. She told me many things about her grandson who had been a family problem since high school and was estranged from his parents. I recognized him as one of "our boys" and the one who had crushed the Host in his hands. I felt that the Lord was sending me a message since our topic for sharing that afternoon in our household meeting was the Parable of the Lost Sheep. What a coincidence! It reminded me of my experience in the past and I felt that the Lord was asking me to revive the youth project I had previously initiated to help the problematic teenagers in our place. Yes, Lord, I hear you calling. Here I am, Lord, send me!

Our AGL Bro. Dave and Sis. Ching de Ocampo asked us to make an action plan on the Word of Life, "Brother's Keeper" based on the parable of the Lost Sheep (Matt 21:28-32). Reflectively I found myself meditating on the intense support the BCBP Legazpi chapter has for the Sorsogon outreach. Their presence has been a manifestation of self-sacrifice, patience, endurance, cooperation, service, LOVE, discipleship. I have captured it all in my heart! I really have to thank God for bringing to us such a wonderfully shaped bundle of Brothers' Keepers!

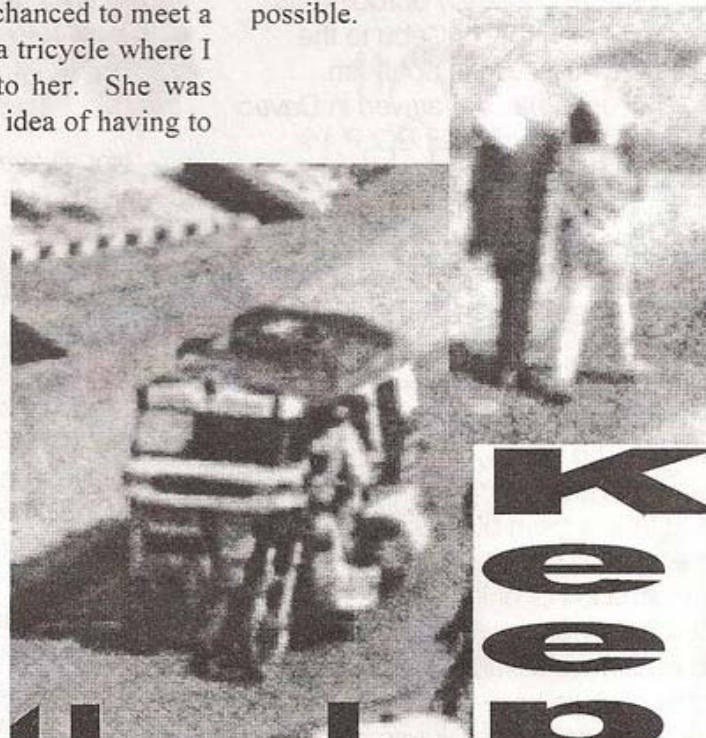
Believing it is here where I could pursue my spiritual growth on June 20th 1999 I made my BCBP commitment at the Poor Claire Monastery Chapel, Cabid-an, Sorsogon. Life has not been the same for me since. I have this yearning within me to be of service to people even in a small and simple way. Daily as I start my day at 3:00 a.m. to pray and meditate for an action plan, I would seriously ask God to lead me to an opportunity to become a Brother's Keeper to someone.

One instance of God's answering my prayer was when I chanced to meet a certain "Tia Floria" in a tricycle where I found myself talking to her. She was strongly opposed to the idea of having to confess our sins to a priest. As I listened to her discourse and shared a bit about myself, I was able to win her friendship and confidence. I discovered how she listened to the teachings of other religious denominations over the radio. And she had never gotten any bible for herself to read for she feared becoming crazy

if she did. As I offered a silent prayer for her enlightenment, I remembered a proverb: "haste makes waste." So I told myself, "Take your time, Trixie, just seek an appointment with her..." Well, that short ride ended with me asking, "Tia Floria, would you want me to visit you and give you a Bible as a gift? Then you'll find out that getting crazy is such a wrong notion..."

Shortly after that I became her regular visitor. Now she is a Catholic who makes her way to confession with an understanding that only God can inspire. With the Scriptural basis we found in these readings - John 28:18-26; John 2:21-23; Isaiah 61:7; Matthew 15:15-19 - Tia Floria is now convinced that it is God's way to use a weak human being like a priest, so that we may understand clearly how to have faith and how to make it work, for it is beyond our understanding that the power to absolve sins comes from God, not from a priest. And my faith has become stronger with our interaction.

Yes, I have become a Brother's Keeper to Tia Floria! I just praise God and give glory to Him who makes everything possible.



Brother's

keeper

By Trixie Despabiladeras, BCBP Sorsogon

"Our everyday lives are centered on His love..."

My wife Elvie and I took the BCLP in October of 1988 at the old Club Filipino de Cebu Clubhouse where our BCBP breakfasts and governance meetings were held regularly. When we started with the Brotherhood upon the invitation of our friend Bro. Sadi Saguisag, we never realized how and in what ways our lives would be changed. That was 11 years ago and a lot of things have come to pass since then.

When we together with our BCBP community in Cebu prayed, Romeo Raphael, our son was born on February 25, 1993. He is now six years old and loves to sing BCBP songs. He starts the prayer time with us, says the rosary with us and loves to give praise to the Lord when we pray. He is our little "nino", our gift from the Santo Nino.

Events in our lives and the pressure from our family uprooted us from the Queen City of Cebu to the Orchid City of Davao in Southern Mindanao in 1993. We arrived in Davao just in time to attend their BCLP 1's Baptism of the Holy Spirit. We helped the service team of Cagayan de Oro and Cebu pray over the new soldiers of Christ who would become the core group of BCBP disciples in that city.

As we served in the Brotherhood performing whatever tasks were assigned, miracles began to happen. The Lord is really good to us. If we write down all these miracles, it would take a great big book! The greatest of all miracles has been the transformation of our lives. Before the renewal we were worldly in our thinking and we always worried about many things; now we have placed all our work, our lives and our future into the care of the Lord Jesus. Our everyday lives are centered on His love and prayer is the powerhouse that enriches our souls.



TOTAL

by Dr. Romeo R. Du, BCBP Davao

SURRENDER

Not all events are pleasant, though. There are still temptations for Satan never sleeps, but we are stronger now in coping with these happenings. Death in the family has occurred several times. First it was John-Arnold then Mom and Dad in a span of just four years. Yes, we shed a lot of tears but know that we will be together again; they have just gone ahead to see the face of God. The memory of our dear departed loved ones still clings to us and we feel their presence in our lives everyday. We pray for them, too, as we remember the happy moments we had with them. Perhaps if we were not in the renewal we would have blamed the Lord for our losses. Being a real Christian means we accept the pain as well as the responsibility of living on despite this pain. Our Blessed Mother

suffered, too, when she experienced the loss of her only son, yet she said, "Thy will be done, my Lord."

There is still a lot to be done for as long as we are alive, the future seems uncertain. What makes the big difference is the presence of Jesus Christ in our lives. One of our favorite scripture readings is Matthew 6:25-34 wherein Jesus tells us not to worry about our life, what we will eat or drink or wear even as He reassures us of God's loving care. Jesus admonishes us saying, "Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given you besides. Do not worry about tomorrow..." To us, as we grow in spirit and in strength in the BCBP, this is the best advice and we strive to live as Christians day by day.

A warning against HYPOCRISY

...be an advocate of Word of Honor...

by Eduardo R. Eroy, BCBP Cebu

Our Lord Jesus warned his disciples against hypocrisy as thousands of men gathered around Him. Those were the times when "words" of men were considerably much more honorable and reliable than today. Those were the days when men and women would commit themselves whole-heartedly, even die if necessary in fulfillment of their word. Men would cross raging floods to attend to dates and appointments, entrust loved ones and kingdoms through mere "words". "Yes" meant 'yes' and "No" meant 'no', period. "Words" were simple then, straight, pure, valuable and most importantly of all, honorable.

Today, convenience, ease and comfort seem to be more important than the fulfillment of one's promises and commitments. Mere drizzles and trivial things are common excuses for not attending to dates and appointments; contracts and similar documentation are requisites before entrusting anything to anyone; smart and clever conversations are prevalent in order to gain the upper hand in things. Words, sincerity, honesty and conscience are largely taken for granted, forsaken and even ignored.

If only "words" were half as honorable as they used to be!

It was in Luke 12, verses 2 and 3 that Jesus said: "Whatever is covered up will be uncovered, and every secret will be made known. So then, whatever you



have said in the dark will be heard in broad daylight, and whatever you have whispered in private in a closed room will be shouted from the rooftops."

It is therefore wrong for anyone to ever think that it is alright and still righteous having outsmarted a brother or a sister if such was achieved even with only a glimpse of deceit or because of a speck of some hidden objectives. In the eyes of men, perhaps this is justifiable, but in the eyes of God it is not. For our thoughts, our deepest and ulterior motives are open letters to the Lord. Even worse is when we try to justify our actions to Him. More often than not, the wisdom of men, our wisdom, is foolishness to God.

Hence, Jesus' warning. Beware of conversations and proclamations

which in reality are full of reservations, malicious and selfish motives, bereft of sincerity and dignity, especially when they are spoken with fervor and conviction, attractive on the outside but rotten in the inside. This is hypocrisy. The speakers have not really committed themselves because such disclosures are subject to their own interpretations. They always have scapegoats. These are the people who have mastered the art of claiming credits, honor and glory, and who are likewise masters in the art of avoiding blame. No words of honor, no "palabra de honor". To them, hypocrisy is a way of life.

I have noticed a general tendency that people do not really mean what they say and are not doing what they are saying. People are talking without speaking to people who are hearing without listening. And this is aggravated when people come to hear only what they want to hear from people who want them to believe what they already believe. Where is the word of honor, sincerity and honesty? For as the song goes, "If you look for truthfulness, you might as well be blind because honesty has become such a lonely word."

The BCBP has been very instrumental in the spiritual growth of our brothers and sisters for it has done many good things. Among others, to be honorable and prudent in relating to people in our everyday lives and in the marketplace of business. The BCBP is much more than a mere advocate of words of honor.

To the brothers and sisters who possess this rare virtue of "word of honor", I salute you and may your tribe flourish and increase. God bless us all!

Eduardo R. Eroy is a member of BCBP Cebu having completed BCLP 15 and BCMR 16. He is presently connected with DHRM, Cebu.

In Sirach, chapter 38, God speaks to us on sickness and death, describing the profession of medicine:

"Hold the physician in honor, for he is essential to you, and it was God who established his profession. From God the doctor has his wisdom, his knowledge makes the doctor distinguished. He endows men with the knowledge to glory in his mighty works, through which the doctor eases pain, thus God's creative work continues without cease in its efficacy on the surface of the earth. ... Then give the doctor his place ... for you need him ... and he too beseeches God that his diagnosis may be correct and his treatment bring about a cure."

I did not come upon this passage on my own but on the prompting of a BCBP brother

while helping someone discern the need for further treatment. It both inspired and challenged me with the magnitude of the task set before me by the Great Healer. 18 years of medical practice has not been long enough for me to fully grasp the realities of the profession, but with the BCBP my responsibility and most importantly, my service to the Lord has been clarified and fulfilled.

I completed my medical degree at the UP College of Medicine at PGH, Philippine General Hospital, in Manila. At that time God was someone remembered during exams and forgotten in frat rumbles and hazing. I also learned during my PGH experience that more patients die from a lack of care rather than from a lack of knowledge. It was during my residency in Cebu that I met my wife Helen, a lively and pretty co-resident doing her training in Pathology. Post-residency training in Medical Oncology brought me back to Manila where we were during the EDSA revolution.

It was during this period that God tested me and strengthened me for my medical practice specializing in cancer. The first was when during my wife's second pregnancy, she developed a rash and fever highly suggestive of German measles. Knowing the potential effect of this viral infection on the developing baby, I toyed with the idea of an abortion. But Helen vehemently objected and proposed that we pray hard and ask for a sign. True enough her obstetrician, a very prudent and God-fearing person, advised us that if the fetus had been affected, God would not allow it to survive and it would spontaneously abort. How eager I was then to play God, as is

common with us doctors when we miss the point that our God, the Lord and Giver of life, is the only One with absolute power over it. Praise God, Debbie is now a normal, intelligent eleven-year-old healthy bundle of joy.

The second testing was when my father, an energetic 69-year-old, complained of abdominal pain on New Year's Eve in 1990. Various tests showed a tumor of the liver, but not cancer. However despite all efforts, my father was deteriorating fast. This was indeed a challenge and a big blow to me as a doctor, particularly as a cancer specialist. It put me into the very shoes of my patients and their relatives, providing me with first-hand experience with the fears and desperation this illness begets, far beyond my training and exposure. It was through prayer that I was able to come to terms with my impotence in treating this particular cancer and helped me provide continued loving care to my father and patient. My father passed away peacefully on Easter Sunday of that same year.

I began my medical practice in Cagayan de Oro. Although my practice was

good since I was the sole oncologist in that area, my family remained in Cebu so I had to shuttle back and forth every weekend. This went on even with my wife's leaving for Japan for a medical training for six months. Of course, our children and my parents suffered from this arrangement; I feel that my not being around more often may have contributed to my missing an early diagnosis for my father. But the financial blessings and perks of private practice seemed to compensate.

Out of the blue one Friday morning after attending a conference at Chong Hua Hospital, I was approached by Dr. Maning Juanillo, my uncle, who invited my wife and I to a breakfast at the Sacred Heart Center. I gave a casual yes and was off about my business. When I later told my wife, she answered that she had also been invited by another fellow doctor and had said yes. This seeming coincidence to me was a sign from the Lord that I should give a shot at a renewed relationship with him after not paying Him much attention over the years.

At the breakfast I was surprised to see so many friends and co-doctors. Other BCBP breakfasts at the Ding Qua Qua followed and culminated in BCLP 13. Initially I thought that being a former seminarian, I would breeze through the course. But when it came to sharing my experiences based on the discussions and readings I was aghast at how I had been left behind in my spiritual life. For the some 1000 days as a seminarian I had received daily His Word and messages, but in the ensuing 10,000 days devoid of that nourishment, I had not grown in faith and this had left me empty and insecure. I renewed my strength during the baptism in the Holy Spirit, made my commitment and have tried my best to live out this commitment.

But the transformation was in no way easy and did not happen overnight. Firstly, I had to come to terms with my shortcomings to my wife and children, my patients, colleagues and brothers, and I had to learn and pace my professional and spiritual growth. God is a God of Order and he has given me time for his service. I now realize that what I considered a dedication to my profession had inadvertently become workaholicism. I was continually compelled to work, getting irked by idleness and even recreation and socialization in the family. I would even miss family affairs as I considered them a waste of time.

The BCBP has provided the foundation for the proper budgeting of my



MY WALK IN FAITH AS A

PHYSICIAN

Dennis Tudud,
BCBP Cebu

The BCBP has provided the foundation for the proper budgeting of my time in these areas of my life. It was during the BCMR



(Brotherhood Christian Marriage Retreat) that I decided to cut short my days in Cagayan and return full-time to Cebu in order to be able to spend more time with my family. Indeed, while my family needed the material support I was bringing in, their emotional and spiritual welfare was just as paramount.

Now I am an action group leader, have learned to play the violin in the music ministry, and say "yes" when asked to give talks in BCBP affairs. God continuously provides inspiration for all these activities.

As a doctor dealing with cancer I am both feared and revered by patients. People tend to look at me as an Angel of Death as indeed cancer connotes certain death. Revered because I do what other doctors would not even touch with a ten-foot pole - I break the news to the patient of his diagnosis, treatment options, side effects, etc. Patients pin their hopes and lives on what I offer them.

Being in the Brotherhood has made me realize the great opportunity out there to evangelize and draw people closer to God in this profession. Yes, when we are sick, we are drawn to the source of all power who is our God in the tradition of wisdom and prayer inspired by Jesus. For it is all too common that even patients with deep rooted faith waiver a bit upon disease progression. But I have seen faith, especially the patient's faith, work miracles, miracles of being healed of cancer.

The greatest challenge for me is to sustain my patient's faith and trust in God in the face of the many pitfalls and failures of our human treatment. I believe I can accomplish this only if I am faithful in my spiritual growth in the BCBP. It had been my dream for sometime to see the establishment of a support group as the best embodiment of spreading and nurturing the faith. Last December in answer to prayers God sent us Sis. Tita Yan, herself a breast cancer victim, to set up the support group "Can With God". It is the mission and vision of this group to provide a half-way house for out-of-town cancer patients flocking to Cebu for treatment.

I have but started this walk in faith and I just pray that with God's help, I may one day be worthy of the name "physician" as God has prescribed it to be.

Two weeks before September 11, I called up Bro. Boy Villanueva, and requested that I be included in the team to assist in the first Baptism of the Holy Spirit of the BCBP in Calbayog City, Samar. You see, I was with the team during the first day of the Christian Life Program and I had developed some bonding with some participants whom I had known from my college days.

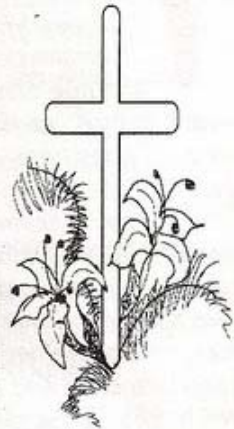
37 of us left Cebu on the evening of Friday, September 10. The sea was rough but that was to be expected. Some of us got seasick but we arrived in Calbayog the following morning safe and sound. The whole day was a busy day for us as we prepared for the Baptism of the Holy Spirit in the afternoon. After a successful and very fulfilling affair, we boarded the same boat for the trip back to Cebu City that evening.

We helped each other get into life jackets. Then came the long wait. We knew we were still in the open sea; the waves seemed to be stronger and the boat continued its relentless struggles. Face to face with the possibility of death I cannot describe my feelings. I was just sitting on my bunk wearing the lifejacket, lost in my own thoughts of my family, my wife and 7-year-old daughter. Would they be able to cope?

Almost at the same time we all started praying, some calling the name of Jesus, others Mama Mary. I called on both, then decided to lie down and pray the rosary. I grew calmer although the sea seemed to grow angrier.

The crew members entered our area and requested us to take off the lifejackets as most of the panic was really caused by the sight of some people wearing them. They assured us that the boat could handle the waves. So I took off my life jacket and lay

On facing the possibility of DEATH



by Manuel P. Dumdum, BCBP Cebu

After boarding and learning that the trip would be very rough we gathered together to sing and praise God. At 11 pm the boat left the Calbayog wharf and immediately was buffeted by large waves. It was an ordeal trying to get some sleep while listening to the sound of the waves and the groaning of the boat. Conversations between members of the team were muted. The seas seemed to get even rougher.

Then suddenly we heard a cry from the bottom deck, an eerie cry, a combination of fear and helplessness. Suddenly, through the glass panel of the door, we saw some people from the lower deck hurriedly going up the stairs to the upper deck; they were all wearing life jackets. Some of our team made their way to the upper deck and then came back to report that it was chaos up there with people competing with each for life jackets, and some were already crying. That really woke us up.

down again, continuing my silent conversation with God. After a while I decided to leave everything to Him and I went to sleep. The movement of the boat steadied and the waves died down. I looked at my watch, it was 4 am. I thanked God for the new lease on my life. At 7:30 am we all gathered at the prow of the boat for mass praising and thanking God. Everybody was smiling and had a story to tell. Ironically we sang with all the strength we could muster: "we long to behold You face to face. To dwell in your house my Lord, day and night." God must have smiled. You see, when we were face to face with that possibility, we cowered in fear.

We docked in Cebu at 9 am, safe and sound. However the incident did not dent the determination of the regular members of the team. The very next Friday, they were again in Calbayog. They'd conquered their fears and emerged victorious. Praise God!

Christmas tree symbol of victory and goodwill

The Christmas tree is German and its adoption in English lands was due merely to the fact that Queen Victoria married a German prince. In Germany the tree cannot be traced beyond the 17th century. Its origin, however, goes back into the far distant past – long before the birth of Christ.

The Christmas tree stems from primitive pagan customs. Its main features, green foliage and candles, were associated with the winter solstice when nature seemed dead, and the green branches and trees were used in rites to ensure the return of vegetation and the victory of light over darkness.

Later, the tree was seen as the direct descendant of the "world tree" of Norse mythology whose branches and roots joined together heaven, earth and hell. The tree became the symbol of enduring and renewed life and the green of its leaves the emblem of immortality.

Egyptians used palm branches with 12 shoots as a sacred expression of the completion of the year and of the triumph of life over death.

The Jews celebrated, at this very season, the Feast of Lights and for eight consecutive days kindled flames on an eight-branched candlestick in their homes.

Christianity knew all of these traditions. The Fathers of the Church realized the impossibility of abolishing these beliefs so they wisely retained the ancient institution of the green tree and the burning lights but gave them a completely new interpretation. In

Each of the beautiful symbols and customs of Christmas has its own background. It is interesting to learn their story and to see how the genius of the human mind has been able, through the centuries, to give them a different and sacred meaning.

justification, they quoted the prophet Isaiah who had spoken of the "righteous branch" and foreseen the day when "the glory of Lebanon shall come unto you: the fir tree, the pine tree, and the box tree, to beautify the place of My sanctuary."

Germans explain the introduction of the Christmas tree by an incident said to have taken place when Christianity was first brought to their country. When St. Boniface arrived from England to convert the pagans, he was determined to root out all that was heathen. In the city of Geismar he cut down a sacred oak tree. The felling, which took place on Christmas eve, angered many people and, to pacify them, St. Boniface gave the city a fir tree as a symbol of the new faith he preached.

The Christmas card

The Christmas card was invented by Sir Henry Cole in 1843. He was a well-known London figure and was responsible



for many innovations in British life. Cole must have been aware of a custom that had been introduced in English schools. Near the end of the term – around Christmas time – the boys were asked to produce "Christmas pieces." Their purpose was twofold: to send seasonal greetings to the parents but at the same time to indicate to the teachers the pupils' progress in the art of writing. The "pieces" were large sheets on which the pupils wrote copperplate Christmas wishes and they were decorated with colored borders and headings.

Cole conceived of the idea for the first Christmas card by commissioning a well-known artist, J.C. Horsley, R.A., to design the picture for the card. He felt that a picture would lend color to the stereotyped greetings and wishes copied by the students. He adopted the common medieval artistic form of a triptych which actually consists of a set of three illustrations. The central piece depicts a jolly party of adults and children with plenty of food and drink. Underneath the picture was expressed the seasonal greetings. However Cole's idea did not catch on until about 20 years later. It was only in 1860 that it became a tremendous success.

In the days of the first Christians when they had to go 'underground' to keep the faith alive, they ingeniously devised ways to communicate with one another, encouraging each other, while hiding their true message from the persecutors. Tradition tells us that this holiday tune sent the message of Christ throughout the underground church at the same time gaining the popular acceptance of the unbelievers. This song has survived until modern times although not many people are aware of its true, hidden meaning. As we sing this Christmas song this year, may it remind us of the important tenets of our Christian faith.

"On the first day of Christmas my true love gave to me..."

The "true love" represents God and the "me" who receives these presents is the Christian.

The "partridge in a pear tree" is **Jesus Christ who died on a tree as a gift from God.**

The "two turtle doves" are the **Old and New Testaments, another gift from God.**

The "three French hens" **are faith, hope and love, the three gifts of the Spirit that abide (1 Cor. 13).**

The "four calling birds" **represent the four Gospels which sing the song of salvation through Jesus Christ.**

The "five golden rings" **stand for the first five books of the Bible also called the "Books of Moses."**

The "six geese a-laying" **are the six days of creation.**

The "seven swans a swimming" **remind us of the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit. (1 Cor. 12:8-11, Romans 12, Ephesians 4, 1 Peter 4:10-11)**

The "eight maids a-milking" **are the eight beatitudes.**

The "nine ladies dancing" **are the nine fruit of the Holy Spirit. (Galatians 5:22-23)**

The "ten lords a-leaping" **stand for the Ten Commandments.**

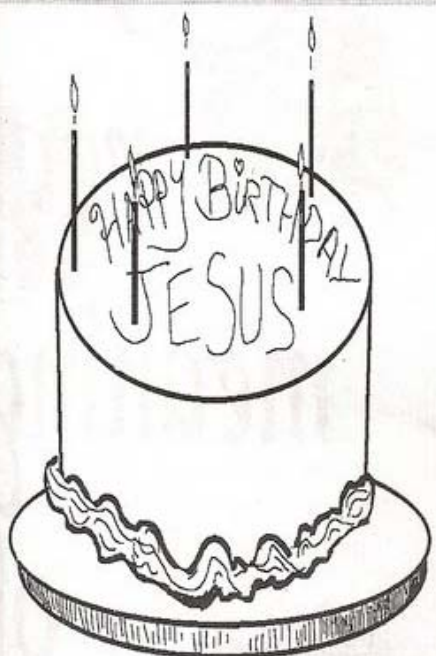
The "eleven pipers piping" **remind us of the eleven faithful disciples.**

The "twelve drummers drumming" **are the twelve points of the Apostles' Creed.**



The real meaning of the "Twelve Days of Christmas"

Not so known beliefs on Christmas Day



On Christmas Day, a visitor from Antique mildly reproved a young girl for killing a fly which had kept hovering over her plate. The youngster was surprised. What was wrong with killing a dirty fly? The visitor explained that in her place, a barrio in Antique, "it is considered a grave insult to Jesus Christ to kill any of His living creations on His day of birth." She said that it has always been a common belief in her barrio of Bontol that killing even a mere fly on Christmas Day would bring bad luck to the entire barrio. The barrio folks adhere to it without reservation.

The inhabitants of barrio Bontol are not unique in their beliefs about Christmas Day. In the small barrio of Decabo in Busuanga, Mindoro, some people refrain from taking a bath on the 25th of December as that would "wash away" all the blessings that Christ gives to everyone on His birthday.

In the sleepy, coastal barrio of Macalaya, Bulan, Sorsogon, the older inhabitants believe that the first raindrops on Christmas Day have miraculous powers. This belief is so strong that people in that place always prepare empty pails or kerosene cans from midnight of December 24 to midnight of December 25th just in case rain would fall. This belief is shared by residents of other barrios in the Bicol region.

In barrio Lanog, Tabungan, Iloilo, everyone smiles at everybody (even an enemy) he meets in the street on Christmas Day as a manifestation of their gladness over the birth of Jesus Christ. Anyone who refuses to observe this tradition would be blamed by the inhabitants if some bad luck befalls the barrio before the year ends. Other barrios in the southwestern part of Iloilo also observe this quaint practice.

In Nabasagan, Burias Island - between Masbate and Albay, as well as in Matangule, Palawan, farmers plant rootcrops on Christmas morning so that there would be a fruitful yield on harvest day.

In Northern Samar, most of the people speak in a subdued voice from midnight of December 24 to about 2 a.m. "so as not to disturb the newborn Child." Apparently, this practice runs counter to the usual noisy way we welcome Christ's birth.

Source: Philippine Daily Inquirer, Dec. 15, 1994

A Christmas Prayer

By Fra. Giovanni (1513)

I am your friend, and my love for you goes very deep. There is nothing really that I can give you which you do not already have. But there is much - very much - that you can take even if I am not the one to give it to you.

No heaven can ever come to us unless our hearts find rest in God this Christmas. Take heaven for a gift this Christmas.

No peace lies in the future for us which is not already hidden in this present little moment. So take peace which is in the hidden places around us today.

The gloom of our world is really only a shadow. Behind the gloom, yet still without our reach is joy. Take joy for your heart this Christmas.

There is light and glory in the darkness around us if only we could see it. To see the light we only have to look. I beg you to look for light in the darkness this Christmas.



Life is actually a very generous giver, but because we judge the gifts of life by their covering, we cast them away as ugly, or heavy, or hard. Remove the covering from the gifts of life and you will find beneath it a living splendor woven of love. Welcome life and its gifts, and touch the angel's hand that brings life to you. The angel's hand is everything that we call a trial, a duty, or a sorrow. And the gift is there, too - the Christmas gift of God.

There are joys this Christmas, too. But do not be content with them only as joys. They also conceal God's gifts as well.

Life is full of meaning and purpose. It is full of beauty beneath its covering. I pray that this Christmas you will discover that earth is only a cloak for heaven. All we need then is courage this Christmas - courage to claim the heaven which is in the midst of our earth. That courage is God's Christmas gift to us who are pilgrims together wending our way home through a strange country.

So this Christmas, I send you greetings. They are not exactly the kind of greetings the world sends. But I send them to you with great love and with the prayer that for you this Christmas and forever the day will break and the shadows will flee away.

Contributed by Ando and Manon Hernaez. BCBP Manila

the birth of JESUS



F. de Larrazabal

MAKATI

"She gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the place where travelers lodged."

Luke 2:7

When Mary and Joseph arrived in Bethlehem, they found no lodging for them, probably because they were poor and could not afford to pay. Mary was heavy with child and no one offered them a place to lodge.

Can you imagine, the God-Man, Creator of all that exists, could not find a place in which to be born! He was not welcomed and finally was born in a stable. This is a paradox difficult to explain and much more difficult to believe. But it did happen two thousand years ago.

If his birth is a paradox, what would you call his death on the cross? There is no logical explanation, except to say that God's ways are not bound by human logic. There is no way man will ever understand the mystery of God's love, which is beyond all human understanding.



Prayer

Dear Jesus, the promise of salvation had to be accomplished. Otherwise, we would have perished. You gave up for a while your prerogatives as God to become a mere mortal, who was destined to die for our sins. There was no other way acceptable to your Father, you had to be offered as a sacrifice to atone for man's iniquities. Your Blessed Mother joyfully held you in her arms as a baby and not too many years later, sorrowfully held you in her arms as you were brought down from the cross. It was I and other people like me who were the cause of your suffering and that of your mother. Lord, give me the grace to become more like your mother, who loved and served you throughout her life.



Bible Sharing

The Wise Men

Matthew 2:1-12



1. What is your favorite Bible story, hymn, or family tradition related to Christmas?
2. Trace the responses of the Magi upon seeing Jesus. How is that similar to the response that Christians make to Jesus? How is it different?
3. What do the star, the Magi, the gifts, the homage, the hostility, and the prophecy teach about the significance of Jesus?
4. In your "journey" toward God, how are you like the wise men? Unlike them? Have you had to leave anything to follow Jesus?
5. What is the "gold, incense, and myrrh" in your life? What gifts have you offered to Jesus? What other gifts do you intend to offer the Baby Jesus this year?
6. Who are three "Magi" or wise men to whom you look for advice today? Why do you consider them wise?



Eddie Mendoza

In the den of lions

most people would remember Daniel as the man who was to be fed to the lions but was saved by God. In a sense, that is the story of his entire life, namely that he lived among wild beasts, figuratively speaking, yet because of his faithfulness to God's calling, he not only survived, but he also prospered. When Peter wrote in his epistle that we should "be sober and alert because your enemy the devil prowls about like a roaring lion seeking someone to devour," I remember the story of Daniel of the Old Testament.

As businessmen and professionals living in a fallen world, we inevitably encounter evil in our midst, most frequently the kind of evil that is built into the system, the kind of evil that makes people think that they cannot succeed in business unless they succumb to it, the kind of evil which sometimes propels people into power allowing them to victimize the innocent businessman out to earn an honest buck.

Once upon a time, when King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon besieged Jerusalem, he decided to recruit some of the nobility of Jerusalem to train them to become part of his staff of magicians and sorcerers. These were called Chaldeans, known for their wisdom as well as sorcery, much like perhaps Merlin the Magician was to King Arthur of Camelot. This practice of wizardry was, however, forbidden among the Jews according to the law of Moses. Daniel was one of the handsome, intelligent young men that was recruited, but I suspect recruited in a fashion similar to what we now call as white slavery.

The first anecdote about Daniel tells of how he resolved not to make himself unclean with King Nebuchadnezzar's wine and food. Begging with the chief eunuch in charge of the trainees, Daniel demonstrated that he would be able to fulfill his services anyway and please the king without having to eat the kind of food considered bad according to the law of Moses. Worried that they might grow thin and weak from their Jewish diet, the steward decided, by the grace of God, to give Daniel a chance.

It is inspiring for us to note that, despite his diet, Daniel grew even healthier and stronger than any of the other young men

who ate of the king's food. "And so, God rewarded Daniel with wisdom and proficiency in literature and the gift of interpreting visions and dreams."

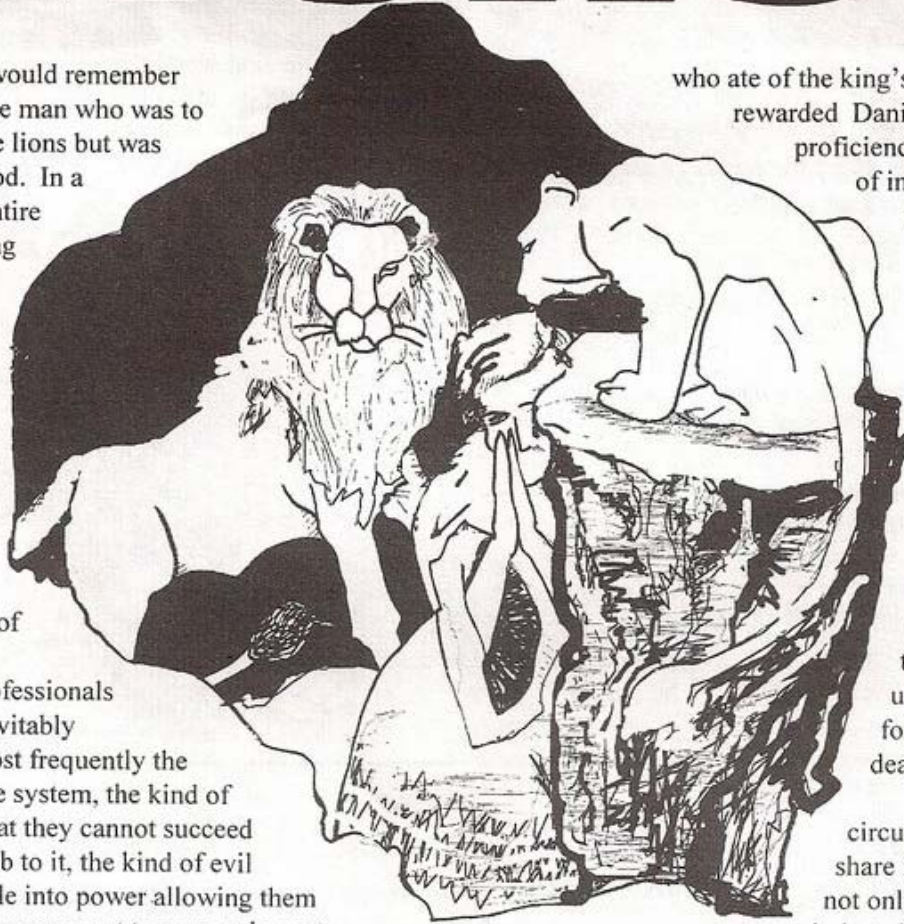
At times, the observance of God's laws may seem difficult to us businessmen and professionals, especially since we operate in an environment of institutional evil. This story about Daniel declares that the divine commands are a source of life and strength for those who follow them and for those who are prepared to undergo the sacrifices and forego the easier business deal, or the security of a job.

Daniel was forced by circumstance. If he would not share in the king's food and wine, not only would he be punished for it, but also would his steward lose

his job for not being able to enforce the king's wishes on them. Anyway, eating the king's food and drinking his wine were not so bad after all. It was really no big deal, not as if they had to kill anyone or commit any serious sin or something like that. Besides, it wasn't going to harm anyone.

Sounds like the circumstances we sometimes find ourselves in, doesn't it? But Daniel chose not to compromise his faith, for the law of God according to Moses was clear on this account. Instead, Daniel used his head and thought of another way to beat the system. His way was highly risky, but he was prepared to take that chance rather than to succumb to the system.

So too, ourselves, we would find our faith tested as we perform our duties in the world of commerce. Let us therefore turn to our God in moments like these and allow Him to save us from the circumstances of our business lives. Peter says, "Stand your ground, firm in your faith, knowing that our brothers, scattered throughout the world, are confronting similar persecution. God, the giver of all grace, has called you to share in Christ's eternal Glory and after you have suffered a little he will bring you to perfection: he will confirm, strengthen and establish you forever. Glory be to him forever and ever. Amen." (1 Peter 5:9-10)



In my estimate, this issue should reach you sometime before the start of the Christmas vacation or perhaps, with luck, even earlier.

I want to share with you my thoughts on Christmas. I know that many stories have been said about this "the most wonderful day of the year". They have been repeatedly retold and shared to many people. The theme of my thoughts on this occasion is no different. Perhaps it's just a matter of reminding us of our obligations to our brothers and sisters.

About two years ago, one brother in our chapter shared that on Christmas eve they had only P20 and were very much bothered, very sad about their plight. They prayed and lo' and behold, some brothers and sisters came to share what they had, and this family had the most meaningful and happy season they'd ever had.

Look around you, and try to be sensitive to brothers or sisters who may have been affected by the economic crunch. Some may have lost their job or gone bankrupt. It's very typical among Filipinos to put up a front of posterity or "Okay lang" attitude, despite the fact that the real picture is that they are hard up and in a worse situation yet. Maybe it's pride, maybe they just don't want others to worry about them. Or maybe they are truly confident that their present situation is a mere transitory phase, and that they are in full hope and confidence that the good Lord will soon release them from these burdens.

This is what we should be more sensitive to. Members who maybe suffering in silence because of their loses, but are truly keeping their faith despite all odds! They need us. Not just to share our material possessions with them in this yuletide season, but more importantly, they need us for support and prayers. Make them feel and experience our concern, so that even with nothing material this Christmas, we can

all be together celebrating the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

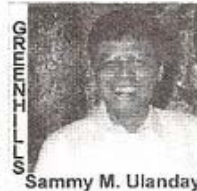
The thing is, we look for institutions where we can donate goods for Christmas. We give gifts to the less fortunate in the slums, the street children, etc. This deed is good, no question about it. But we need not look far. Right there in our Action Group, the Unit we belong to and during assemblies, look for them, our brothers and sisters who are in need.

Another set of members we have to look for are those who are sick, those whose spouses or sons or daughters are abroad working and can not come home for the season, those who have recently lost a loved one due to death. Just let them know that we are around for them; cheer them up, do something for them, wrap gifts, cook for them, give them lanterns, hang Christmas lights

for them, offer your internet facility to contact their loved ones abroad, etc. These small things can go a long way.

Lastly, certainly not the least, **MAKE PEACE**. Start with your family of course, and then in the Brotherhood. And in the Brotherhood, start with your action group, followed by your service ministry, and so on. It doesn't matter whether you were the offended or offending party. That is immaterial. Make the first move! Warning: Don't do this just for show or for the season. You won't get away with it. Remember: forgive and forget.

Let us celebrate this Christmas, the last in this millennium, and make it a memorable one, a celebration that will truly make the Lord happy.



Sammy M. Ulanday

Just another Christmas



cebu

BCBP 1 harvests 26

Participants from the whole gamut of the professional and business world attended the BCBP Cebu chapter's Brotherhood Christians in Business Retreat #1 held at the Holy Family Retreat House at Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City on Sept. 25-26, 1999. The live-in retreat saw executives coming together from the diverse fields of business management, marketing, entrepreneurs, insurance, real estate, cooperatives, among others, to imbibe foundational teaching on how to be a Christian in the marketplace.

Speakers for the retreat were tapped from the chapter's speakers' bureau who had been trained in 1998 by a team from Manila. They included Larry Veloso, Ely Trinidad, Jeff Villa, Jigs Mateo, Romy Maraya and Lloyd Limbaga who also served as the course leader. The 26 graduates were subsequently formed into the core group for the BCBRs to follow.

After the seminar all agreed, when it comes down to doing business in the marketplace, Christ indeed makes the difference between an honorable businessman and a Christian businessman.

Ladies celebrate 10th breakfast anniversary

The BCBP Cebu ladies celebrated their 10th anniversary as a Ladies Breakfast with a grand affair on August 21, 1999 at Casino Espanol, Cebu City. 346 breakfasters attended the joint breakfast, reported Myrna Limbaga, breakfast head. She was supported by her assistant breakfast head Jojo Kho and the Secretariat headed by Téssie Juanillo together with the other able servants of the breakfast team.

Everyone came to hear the sharing of Marijoe Silayan and her husband Larry, the son of the late veteran-actor Vic Silayan. From Manila, both are active members of the Couples for Christ; Marijoe travels all over the country to testify to her "life-after-death" experience. During her sharing she narrated in vivid detail her experience of being hospitalized for 60 days, a few days of which she was in coma. During this time she was diagnosed as clinically dead. At that moment she experienced peace and joy in the presence of the angels, Mother Mary and Jesus Christ. All that time, her husband never left her bedside. Almost everyone listening was in tears to realize that God in his infinite mercy will be there when we cross the threshold of our human self to life everlasting.

It was an affair to remember with no stones left unturned to make the celebration a success. Kudos to the Breakfast Team for a job well done. This early, the Cebu BCBP members are all looking forward to a Grand 11th Ladies Breakfast Anniversary in the Year 2000.



paranaque

Chapter celebrates

July 10, 1999 was a "red-letter" day for members of BCBP Paranaque for on this day they marked the 5th anniversary of the founding of their chapter with the theme, "We Are One". BCBP Paranaque was spun off as a full-fledged chapter five years ago following the split of the Alabang chapter, then the only BCBP chapter south of Manila, into what are now the Las Pinas, Paranaque and Alabang chapters.

Paranaque anniversary



PHOTO CAPTIONS:

1. Paranaque Chapter leaders. L-R Omar Guzman (Chapter Life Director), Cathy & Rommel Tillah, (Unit Head) Nonie & Rene Cortes (Chapter Head) and Fe and Monching Sunga (Unit Head). 2. Well-wishers include Manny Banigan (National President) right at

calbayog

Cebu opens Calbayog outreach

BCBP Cebu recently completed BCLP 1 in their new outreach in Calbayog City, Western Samar. 11 couples and one single male for a total of 23 graduates finished the course and committed to serve God through the Brotherhood reports Boy Villanueva, the BCLP course leader. In the words of Tatang Sadi Saguisag, this is a good sign for Jesus started also His evangelization with 12 men.

A warm welcome is extended to the new Calbayog members: Semy/Lita Villanueva, Teod/Sunta Bergado, Sarce/Bebot Ventures, Ken/Chuchu Aquino, Nick/Babie Calumba, Ritz/Lucille Icalina, Vit/Gay Lacaba, Ver/Malou Porlares, Boy/Tess Santos, Filo/Aida Tobes, Boy/Lyn Amon, and Noel Sermence.

san fernando

Erap in Pampanga

President Estrada is welcomed by Pampanga leaders and other government officials during his recent visit to the province to launch various pro-poor programs. Flanking the President are Reps. Zenaida Ducut (seated left) and Francis Nepomuceno of the province's second and first congressional districts, respectively. Standing (from right) are Mt. Pinatubo Commission executive director Art Sampang, BCBP San Fernando member, Mexico trader Willie Katigbak, his son Joray,

Irene Eusebio; Clark International Airport Corp. (CIAC) executive vice president Salvador Arceo Jr., CIAC Director Ben Agabon, Angeles City Mayor Carmelo Lazatin, Guagua Mayor Pat Magcalas and CIAC Vice president Ricky Santiago. *Philippine Daily Star* August 23, 1999

legazpi

AGL/AAGL training held

On September 18, 1999, BCBP Legazpi held a half-day training for action group and assistant action leaders at the Simon of Cyrene Conference Hall in Daraga. Members of the Sorsogon outreach also attended.

The general program began at 1:30 p.m. with Bro. Medes Reynoso giving the orientation and objectives of the training. Other talks included in the program were the BCBP Organization Structure by Bro. Fedy Siapno, Action Group Meeting format by Sis. Amy Bolinas, and the ABCs of Discerning by Sis. Pat Lorenzo. After the merienda break, the participants were grouped into three workshop groups for simulation of the action group formats, namely: Biblia-Rosal with Sis. Lyd Adoremos and Bro. Bert Jimenez as facilitators, Life Sharing with Sis. Amy Bolinas and Bro. Ric Lee, and Look-Listen-Love with Sis. Cora Navera and Bro. Emong Moral.

Bro. Ely Salazar gave the recap talk which was followed by commitment and closing prayer by Bro. Fedy Siapno. (Source: *An Banhi*, Sept. 1999)

rizal

Rizal holds family retreat

BCBP Rizal chapter held a two-day family retreat at the fruit farm of Jack and Monette Tolentino last September 25-26, 1999 as an activity to foster unity and harmony in the chapter. Many brothers and sisters worked and sacrificed to make the affair orderly and successful, arriving the night before to bring food supplies, the sounds, a television for videoke singing, musical instruments, and the kitchen equipment.

As each family arrived, both husband and wife were required to sing a duet lest they pay a penalty of P100. After a sumptuous luncheon of barbecued chicken, tuna, lapu-lapu and snapper with coleslaw, the young ones and young once enjoyed an afternoon of parlor games with generous prizes for the winners. Dinner came in the form of a family Lord's Day celebration led by Max and Mimay Joaquin. Thereafter, fellowship and videoke singing lasted until the wee hours of the morning.

The Sunday early birds led by Jack and Didi hiked around the surrounding hills. After the Sunday morning worship, Pete Medina gave a talk on the theme of the retreat "Family". He defined the relationship of husbands and wives, the duties and responsibilities of each family member including the children, endeavoring to make everyone realize that their respective roles should enhance the family unity and their love for each other. He emphasized the importance of preserving the integrity of the family unit against attacks from the inside and outside, both morally and spiritually.

Capping the activities was the Sunday Mass celebrated by Fr. Luke.



founding anniversary

The chapter members gathered at the BF Citi Center along Elizalde St., BF Homes in Paranaque, on July 10 at 8 a.m. for a thanksgiving mass officiated by Fr. Ben Beltran of the Tondo parish. A sumptuous breakfast followed with a program featuring a raffle of door prizes, song numbers, a square dance, skit and spoof that showcased the talents of the various action groups.

in pictures



foreground, Fr. Ben Beltran (with jacket) and Louie Morales, middle. 3. Square dance enthusiasts displaying their talents include Pete and Rose Padre, Vic and Lorna Mendoza, Chuck and Ruffy Colayco, and Paul Ramirez. 4. Raffle of door prizes by Cathy Santos, Alex Guiao and Limmy Quiazon

bacolod south

Bacolod South holds Ministry Fair

It was a regular chapter assembly, like any other. But an undercurrent of festivity hung in the air last August 20 as the various ministry heads put up attractive posters and decorated the walls of their booths with ribbons and balloons. It was the day of the first Ministry Fair of the Bacolod South chapter. For several weeks chapter head Art Legarde, the six unit leaders and 29 action group leaders of the chapter had been building up interest in this event that targeted to get everyone in the chapter involved actively in service and to give substance to the earlier Balik BCBP campaign that had successfully revved up interest and attendance in chapter activities.

It was a full house at Benjamin Hall. The evening began with the music ministry creating a prayerful and joyful ambiance that prevailed throughout the praise and worship service led by Bro. Francis Yulo. His inspired scriptural sharing centered on Joshua's faith and obedience to God's command, a faith and obedience that enabled a ragtag Israelite army to topple down the mighty walls of Jericho. He reminded everyone that it is primarily God who makes all things possible in us and not our own abilities. Bro. Allan Gamboa reinforced this theme in his talk on 1 Corinthians 12, comparing our life-giving connection and unity with one another with the vital inter-related functions of the different parts of the body. Then each ministry was allowed a two-minute "advertising time" to explain its special service. As a final touch, Sis. Amanda Taruc read a passage on the distinction between a job and a ministry.

And then it was sign-up time! If there had been a contest, the Kid's Ministry of Bobby and Nining Tinsay would have taken the prize, decked out as it was with giant crayons, children's drawings and kindergarten paraphernalia. Pictures of medical missions, livelihood projects and feeding programs were the come-ons for Ed Ang and Tangloy Tan's Social Action Group. Some booths had picture displays; others relied on the charm and smiles of the ministry heads. All of the booths had their share of recruits as evidenced by the contented look on every ministry head's face by the end of the evening.

Indeed, great is the harvest in the Lord's vineyard.

kabankalan



Bacolod South's Service Team for Kabankalan Outreach headed by Mission Director Tony Garcia and Breakfast head Cabo Araneta. BCLP 2 had its commitment Night last May 29, 1999. Breakfast is now regularly held every other Saturday at Kabankalan. In photo is national treasurer Bobby Laviña, sharer during the breakfast.

The "E Age" !!

1. Home is where you hang your @.
2. A journey of a thousand sites begins with a single click.
3. You can't teach a new mouse old clicks.
4. C:\ is the root of all directories.
5. Pentium wise; pen and paper foolish.
6. Too many clicks spoil the browse.
7. The geek shall inherit the earth.
8. A chat has nine lives.
9. Don't byte off more than you can view.

bacolod south

The Ministry Fair: Conscripted into the Lord's Service

by Tess Alampay-Gaston. BCBP Bacolod South

A few days before the chapter assembly last August 20, my husband Sonny and I were persuaded by Art Legarde and Jun Vargas to head the Marriage and Family Ministry. While we knew that the BCMR, for which we would be mainly responsible, took place only once or twice a year we were very apprehensive about the other demands of the ministry. At best we were ambivalent about the wisdom of getting into it since both of us were involved in other services in the chapter. Sonny was beginning to be involved with the music ministry as a guitarist, in addition to his service in the men's breakfast. I had recently committed to help out in the ladies breakfast and Sonny and I were the head of the intercessory prayers for the current BCLP. But it seems that we can't just say "no, maybe or we shall see" to Art and Jun.

On the day of the chapter assembly and the ministry fair we didn't remember to bring any decoration for our booth except for a simple poster; almost all the other booths had something colorful to attract members to sign up. I had made some flyers to define the Marriage and Family Life Ministry, but that was all. Oh yes, Sonny remembered the ballpens on the chance that someone might sign up for this ministry that we ourselves weren't too clear about. I was even half hoping that if there were not

bacolod south

Mission and Life activities intensify

BCLP Bacolod South has intensified its activities as it enters the last few months of the Second Millennium. Its Brotherhood Christian Life Program #15 started on August 14, 1999, at St. Scholastica's Academy, Bacolod City, with Paul and Therese Jochico as course leaders. Assistant course leaders were Joselito and Yvonne Gaston. It is noteworthy that 50% of the 83 participants are in the 25-40 age bracket.

The member response to the chapter's Balik BCBP Campaign was most impressive with attendance in their August 20 chapter assembly more than double in number. A unique feature of the August assembly was the Ministry Fair. Similar to the Job Fair held by the DOLE, all BCBP members were asked to choose one or two ministries to serve in. This commitment to serve is expected to keep the members more actively involved not only in their chosen ministry but in the other activities of the community.

Eleven ministries were open to the members. These ministries and their respective heads were: Music Ministry headed by Oscar Gil and Nati Ascalon; Social Action, Dr. Ed Ang and Romulo Tan; Assemblies, Eduardo and Amanda Taruc; Men's Breakfast, Miling Jamili; Women's Breakfast, Ester Jamili; ACTS II (Youth Formation), Dominic and Tavie Velez; God's Little People (Kids Formation), Bobby and Nening Tinsay; Intercessory, Dr. Bonifacio and Gina Avelino; Liturgy, Annette Tan; Mission, Skippy and Jekjek Zayco; and, Marriage & Family Life, Sonny and Tess Gaston.

Every last Thursday of the month the chapter holds an evening of leadership formation. The focus for August was "reaching out to each other with love in the community" with the workshop activity handled by Renee Ledesma.

Another growth activity of the chapter that is held every other month is a day-long event with teachings and workshop sessions. The first three talks of the Christian Relationship Series were given on August 29 for chapter members as part of this growth series.

calamba

Outreach celebrates 3rd anniversary

The BCBP Calamba outreach of the BCBP Alabang chapter recently celebrated its 3rd anniversary with the theme "Growing In The Spirit". Members arrived for the occasion in different attire symbolizing the Fruits of the Holy Spirit, with each action group having a distinct outfit.

At 8 am Holy Mass was celebrated at the Riverview Resort and Conference Center. This was followed by the regular breakfast with guest sharers Bro. Omy and Sis. Rosanne Romero of the *Ang Ligaya ng Panginoon Community*. The program that followed featured a slide presentation that reminisced the various activities of the outreach in its three years of existence. The tribute and awards portion of the celebration acknowledged sharers and emcees for the past year, members with highest breakfast attendance, members bringing the most first-timers to the breakfast, and brothers/sisters who've contributed to the growth of the outreach. An award was given to the action group that depicted the theme in the most meaningful way. The celebration ended with the joyful singing of the BCBP song, "One Family".

The outreach began in 1996 and presently has about 102 members distributed among its seven action groups. It has through the assistance of its mother chapter organized its governance team composed of: Angel Sabas, outreach head; Rene Pantastico, life head; Mel Rebutica, mission and breakfast head; Marce Lantican, secretariat; and, Eugene de Guzman, finance.

Action group leaders are Rene/Alice Pantastico, Mel/Del Rebutica, Marce/Ayi Lantican, Eugene/Yolly de Guzman, Rene/Grace Palenzuela, Ernie/Bembi dela Resma, and Tonly/Miling Maunahan.

Regular men's breakfasts are held on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays with a joint breakfast on the 1st Saturday and a simultaneous breakfast every 3rd Saturday.

The outreach has just completed its 4th BCLP on October 30, 1999. Mel Rebutica was course leader assisted by Marce Lantican with Rene Palenzuela as head servant. It was held every Saturday at 2:30 pm at the Riverview Resort and Conference Center, Crossing, Calamba, Laguna. -Del Rebutica

10. Fax is stranger than fiction.
11. What boots up must come down.
12. In Gates we trust.
13. There's no place like home.com!
14. Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day; teach him to use the Net and he won't bother you for weeks.



enough people in this new ministry, it could get shelved for the time being and we would be free.

In my heart I dared Our Lord to send me some signs that we were intended for this ministry ... and that was exactly the meat of Bro. Francis Yulo's sharing and Bro. Allan Gamboa's talk that evening. Tailor-made to answer our doubts! God calls and we should have faith in him, not in ourselves!

The first to volunteer was sweetly smiling Tita Tueres. At 75 she remains an outstanding educator and lecturer of the community. She put to rest our apprehensions about assistance in creating educational programs for marriage and family enrichment. And as a clincher, she whispered humbly, "I am also in family counseling." Answered prayer!

That evening was a revelation of God's goodness. When I walked over to the Kid's Ministry to suggest that perhaps we team up for some activities, they agreed enthusiastically. Others that I invited not only said "yes" but also made "hakat" everyone in their action group and in the ACTS ministry. BCBP stalwarts like Jimmy and Suzette Montalvo and our mentor Allan Gamboa readily joined our group so that we ended up with a good cross section of members, especially of married couples who can help us fine-tune the direction of our ministry.

In retrospect, Sonny and I can see that God's answer to misgivings about ourselves was to line up all these good people behind our faltering, hesitant steps. We, who are so used to being in control of everything and relying on our own competence, can now relax and allow Him to take over. After all, it is His work.

maasin

Chapterhood: from the look of Jesus

Like a boy upon reaching adulthood, he has to struggle and be on his own. So chapterhood finally came to Maasin, after seven years and six months or so.

The BCBP outreach Maasin, a project of BCBP Cebu, became a chapter last July 17, 1999 with the installation mass held at the St. Joseph College, Gunfreda covered court in the poblacion of Maasin, the capital town of Southern Leyte. The officiating priest was Rev. Fr. Celso S. Rojas, co-pastor of Our Lady of Assumption Parish, on behalf of the Most Rev. Precioso Cantillas, SDB, DD, Bishop of Maasin, who could not make it to the affair. In his homily, Fr. Rojas talked on the "look of Jesus". This is the kind of look that transformed Zaccheus and Matthew, "moneygrubbers" (like many businessmen and professionals) into men of faith, who willingly shared with the poor what they possessed. It was the look of love for mankind that was mirrored in the eyes of Jesus.

Bro. Manny Banigan, national president, installed Bro. Rey S. Tan as chapter head, Bro. Joe Abot as life director and Bro. Dodong Miel as mission director of the new chapter. The new chapter head declared a status quo in the governance team. Its members are Basil/Inday Calapre, Romy/Bebing Estillore, Monching/Fe Gonzales, Royen/Virgie Segovia, Buddy/Tasing Paril and Lino/Daisy Gonzales. Bro. Nene and Sis. Marit Ravago act as members of the secretariat and Sis. Angie Flores as treasurer forever.

Attending the installation were brothers and sisters from the National Council, Cebu, Tacloban, Ormoc and Baybay, and Bro. Joe Coruna from Cagayan de Oro. Bro. Manolet and Sis. Karla Siojo from Greenhills chapter were the sharers for the breakfast on Sunday.

It was seven years and six months ago that, compelled by the "look of Jesus", the Cebuano conquistadores sought new horizons to preach the good news in the marketplace. They landed in Maasin and laid the foundation for BCBP. Who were these trailblazers? Bros. Nap Polotan (deceased), Larry Veloso, Sadi Saguisag, Ed Lising and their companions.

Special appreciation was given to these hard-working missionaries as Bro. Basil Calapre, himself a pioneer and the local counterpart, acknowledged them one by one. Missed was the presence of Bro. Tito Nemenso. Special mention was also given to the late Most Rev. Vicente T. Ataviado, then Bishop of Maasin for his all-out support for the BCBP.



Maasin governance team headed by Chapter head Rey Tan, last row 2nd from right.

MAASIN

Chapter Installation July 17, 1999

iligan

Dear Editor,

I was so excited to have my article featured in Kapatiran (July-August 1999, pages 10-11) but reading it was a disappointment. I feel that the substance of my original article was lost in the editing ... and not only that, the effort to make a boring historical essay exciting and colorful enough to keep the interest of the reader, was somehow put to waste. I cannot understand why a paper of national circulation, written and read by businessmen and professionals does not give adequate attention to the editing and proofreading of articles. The paper is good and the circulation is assured... why not give adequate time and effort to its preparation? I personally feel so sad about sloppy proofreading and editing job done on my article in particular. Please refer to paragraph 3 sentence #1; paragraph 4 first sentence and paragraph 8 last sentence. I'm even wondering why you had to insert sentence #1 in paragraph 3, it doesn't really fit in there. Besides, using the same metaphor twice in an article (see last paragraph) weakens the impact of the metaphor, the reason I carefully avoided that in the paper I submitted for publication.

We submitted the articles July 15 in time for the deadline... so there was really time to work on it and communicate to us the draft of the final output for any correction or comment. I'm sorry to bring this matter to your attention, but I guess it is the responsibility of the editorial staff as a matter of principle and journalistic ethic to give justice to the writers and readers of the journal, thus, this letter.

I trust you take this feedback as basis for improvement, not reason enough to be discouraged. Of course, I applaud the effort and time you expend for Kapatiran...

Yours in the service of the Lord,
Miriam P. Cue, BCBP Iligan

Kapatiran issue themes for the Year 2000**Banner theme for the Year 2000: FULLNESS OF LIFE IN CHRIST**

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Themes - 2000:</u>	<u>Chapter Focus Assignments:</u>
Jan-Feb	Commissioned for Evangelization	Puerto Princesa/Makati/Bacolod North
Mar-Apr	Authority in Service	Paranaque/Tuguegarao/Bacolod South
May-Jun	Stewardship	Alabang/Maasin/Baguio
July-Aug	Anniversary	—
Sept-Oct	Personal Integrity and Business	Greenhills/Ormoc/Davao
Nov-Dec	Life in Church and Community	Dumaguete/Dagupan/Quezon City

ed's reply**Dear Sis. Miriam**

Dear Sister Miriam,

Greetings in Christ! First of all, I share your disappointment in the final form of your article "Iligan at 6" in the July-August 1999 issue and I do apologize if the original intent of the writer was not realized. I spoke with Sis. Nancy Catan with whom I share copy editing responsibilities and she extends her apologies to you for this case of "over-editing". We had considered your article as a reportorial account and edited towards that intent. Although Kapatiran exercises editorial prerogative over contributions submitted to it, you have awakened us to a new phase that Kapatiran is approaching soon.

You see, when I started in Kapatiran in January 1998, I made a resolution not to write Kapatiran articles ourselves but to share that responsibility nationwide. You are now seeing the fruits of that. Although during that time the opposite was true. There were hardly any contributions and our knuckles were permanently white from writing the articles. In the July-August issue where you were featured, three chapters responded bountifully to the Chapter Focus challenge. We allow only 4-5 pages per chapter. Apparently, with a response like Iligan's, thanks to your help we may have to change that allocation. So we had to edit for space considerations. So now admittedly we have to rethink editorial policy and

condense articles (maybe ala Reader's Digest) with close cooperation from the writers (although this will take more time). I promise this will be on our agenda next meeting.

I do believe you are a good writer and I hope the Lord will continue to inspire you to write for Him, because that is our original prayer. We, in Kapatiran, have prayed that the Lord reveal all the writing talents nationwide to be harnessed for His service.

And that, dear sister, is why we are in this service, because it is an opportunity to glorify the Lord. And all of us without exception must be submitted to the will of the Lord. Once I find myself glorifying my own name or someone else's you will no longer find me here in this service for doing that will be a disservice. And as for time, I wish we had lots of it as you may have imagined but we don't. Nevertheless, this service is not on the backburners. We strive to make it a priority and many times we fail. We simply make it a point to stand up every time we fall.

I thank you for your constructive criticism and rest assured that it is taken well. This is the path the Kapatiran has to take to be God's worthy instrument in the marketplace. Please continue to send your contributions and say a prayer for all of us.

In His Majesty's Service,
Ronnie Caballero,
Managing Editor



Fun Under the Sun

Have you heard these prayers?

One Sunday in a small countryside church a young child was "acting up" during the morning Mass. The parents did their best to maintain some sense of order in the pew but were losing the battle. Finally the father picked the little girl up and walked sternly up the aisle on his way out. Just before reaching the safety of the churchyard, the little one called loudly to the congregation, "Pray for me! Pray for me!"

During the priest's prayer one Sunday, there was a loud whistle from one of the back pews. Gary's mother was horrified. She pinched him into silence, and after Mass, asked: "Gary, whatever made you do such a thing?" Gary answered soberly: "I asked God to teach me to whistle ... And He just then did!"

One night Mike's parents overheard this prayer: "Now I lay me down to rest, And hope to pass tomorrow's test. If I should die before I wake, That's one less test I have to take. Amen."

A five-year-old said grace at family dinner one night. "Dear God, thank you for these pancakes." When he concluded, his parents asked him why he thanked God for pancakes when they were having chicken. He smiled and said, "I thought I'd see if He was paying attention tonight."

A youngster's prayer. "Dear God, please take care of my daddy and my mommy and my sister and my brother and my doggy and me. Oh, please take care of yourself, God. If anything happens to you, we're gonna be in a big mess."

Overheard: "Lord, if You can't make me a better person, don't worry about it. I'm having a real good time like I am!"



Oneness in CHRIST

by Ricky Beltran, BCBP Rizal Chapter

Sharing in the Victory of our Lord Jesus Christ

Found atop our churches, at the end of our rosaries and at the center of our altars is the Holy Cross. It is Christendom's most powerful symbol for it signifies our Heavenly Father's limitless and unconditional love for us, it shares with us the victory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and through the Holy Spirit it calls us to be one in Christ.

God's plan for mankind, in the beginning when He created the world in His likeness, was for mankind to live forever in perfect joy with Him, that is to share in everything that was good and eternal. But because of Adam and Eve's unfaithfulness, man was separated from Him and what was good and eternal became evil and temporal. This original sin brought forth suffering, sickness and man's greatest enemy, which is death.

The cross epitomizes the very essence of Christianity. God's love for us is unfathomable.

His love consists in this "... not that we have loved God, but He has loved us and has sent His Son as an offering for our sins". (1John 4:10)

This act of love from God -- the death and resurrection of Our Savior Jesus Christ -- made us:

- The sons and daughters of God. We enter into the same relationship that Jesus has with his Father. Our identity is changed and we become sons and daughters of God. "To deliver from the law those who were subject to it, so that we may receive our status as adopted sons." (Gal. 4:5)
- Inheritors of His heavenly kingdom. We share in the eternal life of God. "This is God's dwelling among men. He shall dwell with them and they shall be his people and he shall be their God who is always with them." (Rev. 21:3)
- Brothers and sisters in Christ. As such, we should love our neighbors

who are our brothers and sisters: "Let us love one another because love is of God; everyone who loves is begotten of God and has knowledge of God, for God is love." (1 John 4:7)

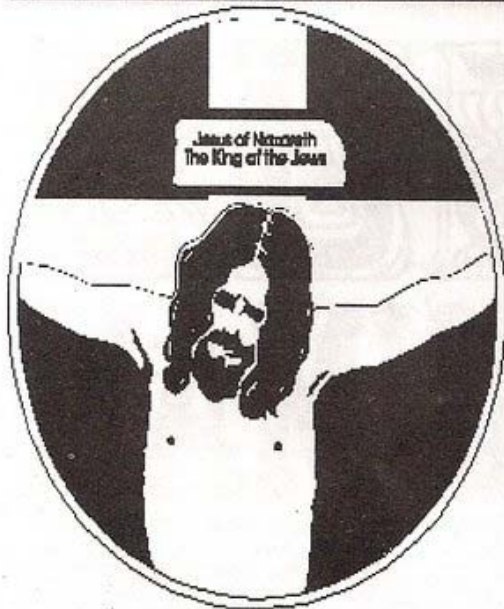
Christ dwelling in us and we dwelling in Christ

Therefore, what is the mark of a true Christian? Is it one who receives the sacraments regularly and does service in His Church without compensation? Is it a Catholic that wears the scapular around his neck and does work of charity whenever he or she can?

What makes one a Christian is a loving personal relationship with God. Our whole life becomes an expression of this relationship. We cannot become sons or daughters of God and we cannot inherit the Kingdom of God without being true brothers and sisters in Christ. Christ who is the Son of God became man and in so doing he made us His brothers and sisters. The mark of a true Christian and the test of an authentic disciple of Christ are our loving relationship with God in Christ.

How? It is by having a personal or brotherly relationship with Christ, being one in Christ. It is, as individuals, our union and fellowship with the Lord Jesus, Christ dwelling in us and we dwelling in Him. An example of this fellowship is coffee and water. When mixed they become one, no longer coffee and no longer water but one. This oneness is a day-by-day walk with him, opening our heart to His word, letting His light shine upon us and thus letting ourselves be changed by the power of Christ which will result in our righteous behavior and love towards our brothers and sisters, our fellow members of the human race.

The symbol of a Christian is the cross of Jesus Christ. God's love for us is manifested through His Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Just as Christ loved His Father, we too must love God. And our love for God may only be manifested by loving our neighbors, our brothers and sisters in Christ. Thus the meaning of the cross: the vertical plank points upwards attesting to our love of God and the horizontal plank symbolizes our reaching out with outstretched hands to our brethren.



The View from the Cross

Today, the victory of the cross is being challenged by secularistic and self-centered movements such as the New Age, which attempts at making man his own god. As Neil T. Anderson points out in his book entitled "The Bondage Breaker" man cannot be his own god because he comes into the earth spiritually dead. He adds that the earthly and man-centered view which Satan and his emissaries are promoting must be replaced by the perspective that Jesus introduces to His disciples in the wake of St. Peter's self-preserving rebuke:

"If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it." (Matthew 16:24-25)

Christ statement above gives us the fundamental guidelines to stay within the victory of the cross and to endure intimately with our walk with Christ Jesus.

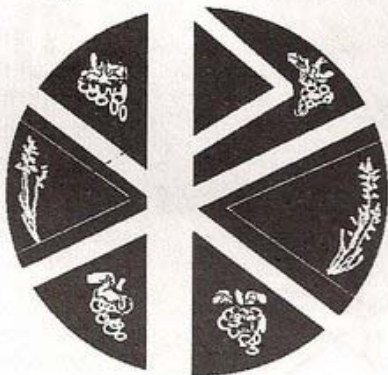
Anderson defines these guidelines verse by verse. We deny ourselves that which was never meant to be ours -- the role of being God in our lives. When we deny ourselves we invite God to take the throne of our lives, to occupy what is rightfully His, so that we may function as a person who is spiritually alive in Christ. By the cross of Christ, we have been forgiven because He died in our place and we are delivered because we died with Him. Therefore, we are both justified and sanctified because of the

cross. When we pick up our cross, we affirm our identity as children of God and therefore brothers of Christ and therefore strive to live daily to please our heavenly father.

Moreover, he points out that we must follow Christ by being led by the Holy Spirit down the path of death to self. And when we seek worldly well being such as titles and positions, accomplishments and possessions, we will lose them. At best we can only possess these worldly values for a lifetime, only to lose everything for eternity.

Are we truly one in Christ?

To answer that question, We must examine how we have conformed to the commandment -- To love one another. "A new commandment I give to you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13:34 - 35)



A simple test suggested by Rey C. Stedman in his writing entitled "1John: The Fruit of Fellowship with Christ" as St John advised the Ephesians. Let us examine our basic Christian responsibilities in life. If we were to be tested, how would we fare out in our responsibilities in the following as: 1. husband / father, 2. wife / mother, 3. to our children 4. to our work / profession and 5. to our parish / community.

St. John taught us that as Christians we must proclaim Christ's truth to everyone we live with or we encounter, that we live holy and righteous lives and that we love to the point of forgiving those that have hurt us the most.

So, have we lived our lives in truth, righteousness and love? Let us try to meditate on these three aspects by answering the following questions:

- **truth** Christ is the way, the truth and the life; How would Christ have been as a spouse to your wife/husband, father to your children, employee of your company or servant of your community or parish;
- **righteousness** One cannot be Christian if he lives an unholy life. How have you brought holiness to your family, workplace and church?
- **love** The third mark of a Christian is that he begins to love -- not those that love him, Jesus remarked that anyone can do that -- but to love those who do not love you, to treat kindly who have mistreated you, to return good for evil, to pray for those who spitefully use you, to welcome and treat kindly those who are against you and trying to hurt you. Have we forgiven the hurts done to us and the persons in our families, work places and communities that have given us pain and misery?

Having a personal relationship with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ should give us the assurance that everything will be well and in good order even in times of trials and tribulations if we put our trust in God's love. If God is our Father, trust him. He has a plan for us. We cannot expect anything better. "For I know well the plan I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare, not for woe! Plan to give you a future full of hope." (Jer. 29:11)



Jesus showed us the way to true Christian love by dying on the cross. He also taught a new way of life, - what it really means to live as a Christian. Did Jesus die in vain? Or do we call ourselves Christians and take up the challenge hurled by Jesus to follow in his footsteps. What is our response?

A Reflection for Christmas and the New Year

JESUS

is HUMAN

by Cris Ti-in, BCBP Tacloban

In the midst of the commercialism and distractions of the holiday season, Cris Ti-in invites us to step aside a moment and reflect on Jesus' humanness and the meaning of Incarnational Spirituality in our lives. He challenges us to find Him, not in a crib ensconced in the belen, but in the treasure hidden in the field of our own respective experience.

In my long years' stay in Mt. Carmel Seminary, taking priesthood, I encountered so many inquiries from different people, intellectual and unintellectual. One time a man asked me a question while I was taking shelter in his little cottage when heavy rains abruptly fell. He asked, "Why is there a need for Jesus, the Son of God to become human?" I was about to answer him when he started driving his young chicks back to their shelter but these young chicks scattered around until they were trembling, shivering and some were already dying of coldness and wet. They never attempted to go inside, they preferred to be under the rain and exposed to danger. That man got mad and said, "Oh, how I wish I could be a chick so that they could easily understand me, that what I was doing was for their own good."

The wish of that man, to be a chick, so that he could be understood by the other chicks, was exactly the answer to his question. Jesus, the Son of God, became human so that He could be easily understood by us humans. Jesus became fully human when He entered into our human condition, by becoming like us through the Blessed Virgin Mama Mary. He simply shows us the way to God. He is our way and He leads us in the way to holiness, not by denying our being human, but precisely in and through the graceful living of our human lives. In our daily lives we experience and discover Jesus. In the ordinary events of our daily life Jesus is present, calling us to follow Him, calling us to share divine life in and through our experiences. That's why we share our experiences with the Lord with our brothers and sisters specially during Breakfast Meetings, because in every moment Jesus calls, "Follow Me." That is why He allowed Himself to be born from the womb of Mama Mary and become human like us. This is called Incarnational Spirituality.

The greatest obstacle to Incarnational Spirituality is that most people seem to find it very difficult to believe that the affairs of our daily life have a spiritual dimension. The fact that



GOD
BLESS
YOU

Jesus became flesh does not seem to make much difference. My five years being a member of the BCBP together with my very supportive wife Memie, has given us a very healthy opportunity through hearing different life sharings during Breakfast Meetings to discover that we are all on similar journeys, seeking God in our daily human experience. That's the way of Incarnational Spirituality.

The world of the "spiritual" has been identified with "soul" and the "other world." Also spirituality to some people means doing certain kinds of things, such as going to church, obeying the law, praying the rosary, attending religious activities of the BCBP such as Holy Retreats, Assemblies, Action Group Meetings, Breakfast Meetings, Teaching Nights, and many more.

All people need a spirituality that fits who they are and the circumstances of their daily lives. This applies to all aspects of life: work, play, leisure, sexuality, marriage, family, politics, economics, business, etc. What's in the head is not necessarily in the heart. What's in the head does not necessarily translate into values, priorities, choices, and behavior. I can know about Jesus and still live an unchristian life. I can know Jesus and still not allow Him to make any differences in my attitude toward life.

We cannot say we really know Jesus, this person who is God, but who is also flesh and blood. I cannot say I know much about his human experience as a little boy, or as a teenager. I don't know how He felt about Himself.

If He got pimples, was He ashamed of them? How fast could He run? How many glasses of wine could He drink before He got drunk? I don't know if He really liked girls. I don't know how He felt when He came home late or forgot to do the chores Joseph and Mama Mary asked Him to do.

There is so much about Jesus that I don't know. Indeed, I find that I hardly know Him at all. But one thing is for sure, I know Jesus is human. I discover Jesus in every experience, in my everyday ordinary experience. So the question now takes on a wondrous new turn. How will I ever learn about Jesus if I don't learn about my own human condition? How can I come to know and follow Jesus if I don't dare to become human myself?

And so I begin to feel something stirring inside me, a kind of longing, a desire, a sort of hunger. I really would like to get to know Jesus. I want to accept the question He gave us: "Who do you say I am?"

The above question is so exciting! It means our moral and spiritual life must be rooted and centered in the person of Jesus, not in a code of law. How can I teach about Jesus, if I haven't gotten to know Him in a much more personal way? Thank God, I am not alone. Many theologians and laypersons and even some religious communities all over the world wrestle with the same question: "Who do you say I am?"



So many people have been confused and misled and have come to mistrust their own experience, instincts and intuitions. They really did know Jesus, had a real "feel" for Him in their daily lives, but were afraid to trust their hearts. As I look into my own experience, I find myself beginning to ask: What has Jesus to do with my experience? How can I find Jesus and come to know who Jesus is by bringing faith to bear on my ordinary daily experience?

I have come to believe that personal growth and development, both as human and as Christian, are dynamic and communitarian. I grow through a process of reflection, as being practiced during our BCBP Action Group Meetings – in the light of faith – on my

experience. Books, professors, as well as BCBP teachings, lectures are all important resources, but I grow only from within, through this ongoing process of reflection on my human Christian ordinary experience. This change of focus and direction brings me fresh hope. More than ever I begin to feel that life can make sense. I begin to feel that I really can come to know who Jesus is, not by going on some far-off journey or climbing the intellectual staircase, but by looking into my own ordinary experience in the light of faith and Holy Scripture. I can discover the hidden treasure in the field of my own experience. As I try to align my priorities with the gospel, Jesus becomes more real to me as I see Him alive and active in others' lives and in my own life.

Finally, I am beginning to discover who Jesus is in the sufferings I experience. Just recently on Oct. 24, 1999, I underwent surgical operation for acute appendicitis at the Bethan Hospital, Tacloban City. Although my doctor had warned me about possible infection because of the badly damaged appendix and reddened skin around the wound of my operation after two days, to his great surprise five days after the operation everything was normal and okay and I felt fine. Jesus is always kind and merciful; I did not have any feeling of pain. Some visiting guests said it was because I was an obedient patient. However, I know it was more than that. I had entrusted everything to Jesus. He wanted to let me feel His presence and the gentle touch of His Holy Spirit through this event. And I also experienced the beautiful and caring support of my family and my BCBP brothers, sisters and other friends.

Now I begin to understand how Jesus learned real obedience through what He suffered in His humanness. In and through this event of my operation, the more I came to know Jesus as gentle, helpful, and merciful.

In summary the coming of Jesus leads us to our humanness. He asks us to experience Him in our moment-by-moment, day-to-day activities. His coming leads us to the way of the cross. And finally His coming and His cross leads us forward and upward to a renewed life and fresh, vibrant hope. Let our prayer be to come to know Jesus ... and our own humanness ... this Christmas and in the coming Jubilee Millennium, the Year 2000.



**Ricky
Beltran**

**Rudy
Flores**

**Danny
Silbor** POLET AND
JENG TIANO

**Buttons
Sison**

**Benjie
Cruz**



the editorial board,
columnists and
editorial team
wish all brothers
and sisters the
most blessed
Christmas and
Spirit-filled New
Year!

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: Pinky Lim, Ely Salazar, Mariz Segui, Ted Berjuega, Ching de Ocampo, Meds and Emy Reynoso, cahrie Balunzo, Leonida Rehiva-Labayani, Trixie Despabiladeras, Romeo Du, Eduardo Roy, Dennis Tudtud, Manuel Dum dum, Tess Alampay-Gaston, Del Rebutica, Miriam P. Cue, Ricky Beltran, Phil. Daily Star, An Banhi

KAPATIRAN

The national magazine of the Brotherhood of Christian Businessmen and Professionals. Vol. XIII No.5 September-October, 1999

EDITORIAL BOARD: Manny Banigan
Fernando de Larrazabal
Nancy R. Catan
MANAGING EDITOR: Ronnie Caballero
ASSOCIATE EDITOR: Sammy M. Ulanday
EDITORIAL TEAM: Buttons Sison
Benjie Cruz
Ricky Beltran

Danny Silbor
Annie Salvador
Polet and Jeng Tiano

**Computer
Technology Support:** Rudy Flores

NEWS AND INFORMATION BUREAUS

LUZON BUREAU

- Alabang Polet & Jeng Tiano
- Dagupan Ted Siapno
- Greenhills Johnny Filart
- Las Piñas Bong Loder, Jun Medina
- Makati Annie Salvador, Danny Silbor
- Parañaque Noel Azarcon
- Puerto Princesa Edwin Tan
- Quezon City Ric Galing, Buttons Sison
- Rizal Benjie Cruz, Ricky Beltran
- Baguio Cecilia Estrada-Castro
- Calamba Ruben Macairap
- Cavite City Cynthia Matas
- Legaspi Marjorie Goncena
- Lipa Flor San Gabriel
- Lucena Pete Medina
- Manila Nancy Catan
- San Fernando Danny Lazo
- Tuguegarao Nene de Leon

VISAYAS BUREAU

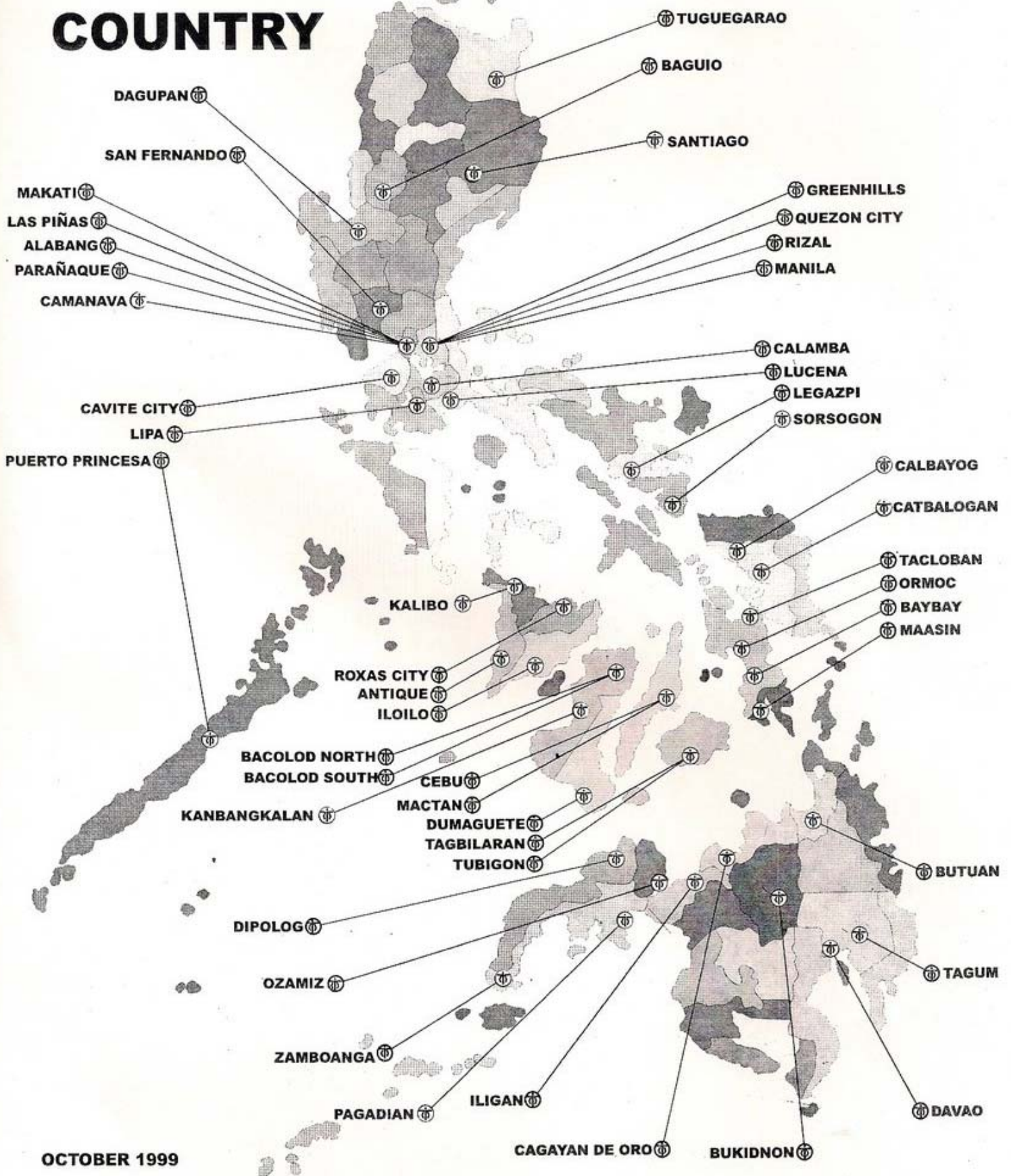
- Bacolod North Karina M. Jugo
- Bacolod South Theresa "Ating" Jochico
- Cebu Cholo Bernard
- Iloilo Ellen Certeza
- Mactan Baby Pobre
- Tagbilaran Jun Amora
- Antique c/o Iloilo
- Baybay c/o Ormoc
- Dumaguete Jaybee Imbo
- Maasin Rey Tan
- Ormoc Reyna Pongos
- Roxas City Rene del Rosario
- Tacloban Wilfred Maneja, Cris Tiin
- Tubigon c/o Jun Amora

MINDANAO BUREAU

- Cagayan De Oro Charisse Fortich
- Iligan Bobby Borromeo
- Davao Tess Llacer
- Bukidnon c/o Charisse Fortich
- Butuan c/o Charisse Fortich
- Ozamiz c/o Iligan
- Tagum c/o Tess Llacer
- Dipolog c/o Dumaguete

The KAPATIRAN Magazine is the official publication of the Brotherhood of Christian Businessmen and Professionals. It is published once every two months in the Philippines with editorial and business offices at Rm. 31 P&L Condominium, #5598 South Super Highway corner Arellano Ave., Palanan, Makati City, Metro Manila with Tel Nos. 804-0611 - 12 loc. 216 & 242, DL/Telefax No. 551-1973 and Fax No. 5215645, E-Mail Address bcbp-nc-@i-manila.com.ph. Contributions are encouraged; however, they shall be subject to editing and selection. Pictures and illustrations are welcome.

THE BCBP COUNTRY



Give your business a new face.

Is your business running your life?

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.



BROTHERHOOD OF CHRISTIAN BUSINESSMEN AND PROFESSIONALS

Unit 31, P&L Condominium 5598 South Superhighway cor. Arellano Ave. Makati City
Tel: 804-0611-12 loc. 216 and 242; Tel./Fax: 551-1973 E - Mail: bcbp-nc@i-manila.com.ph