



KAPATIRAN

M A G A Z I N E

June 2008



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We celebrate the BCBP's 28th National Anniversary in this issue with a variety of messages, sharings and features, all interspersed with pictures of that wonderful weekend in Tagbilaran, Bohol.

The sharings during the Anniversary Breakfast were so inspiring that we are including them, with very little editing, for your enjoyment and reflection. As you read them, ask yourself “What is the Lord saying to me through this sharing?”

Throughout the worship assembly, the breakfast sharings and the continuous fellowship with both old and new friends, several messages stood out: Gratitude, Humility, Obedience, Sense of Community, and Retirement.

The Sense of Community was especially strong during the opening assembly and worship with the several thousands of brothers and sisters from all over the BCBP country wearing similar shirts and joining hands as one voice in praising and worshipping God. Truly awesome!

For me, the national anniversary is an annual event not to be missed. With this issue focus we bring to the forefront some of our memories both in words and in pictures.

See you next year in Baguio!

Nancy R. Catan

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BCBP 28th Anniversary Message

Albert Uy, RCD, Tagbilaran & Dumaguete

Our Focus Was Changed

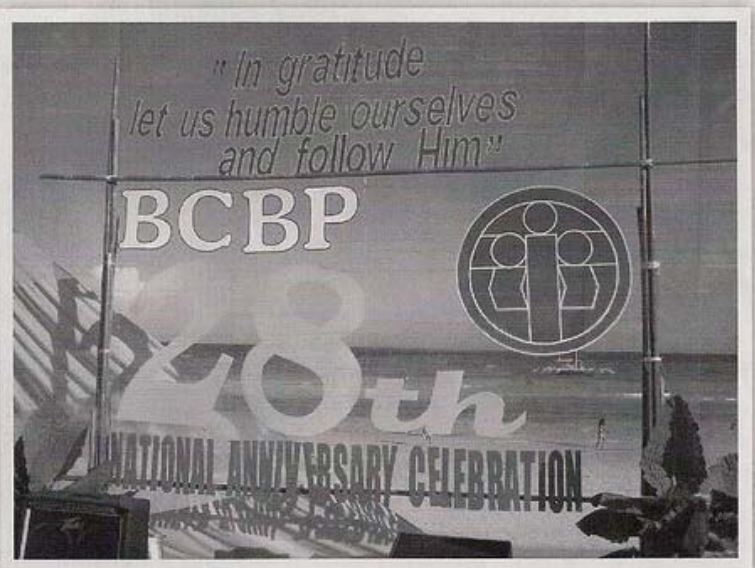
Since the seed of the Brotherhood was planted in Tagbilaran in 1992, we've always co-mingled with many of our brothers and sisters in the community. That is why hosting this 28th anniversary not only brought us excitement and joy, but it also stirred within us the sense of thankfulness to our Lord.

It was the Lord who emboldened the members of our Committees with the thought that He is with us all the way because it is His Kingdom that we are building after all.

Indeed, hosting this event changed our focus from our needs to the needs of others. Because of this, we were strengthened in faith, hope and love. That our theme, "In gratitude, let us humble ourselves and follow Him," touched all of us to the core, is truly God's way of bringing us to where He wanted us to be. The example that Jesus Christ showed us in His life is the way of the servant.

With these reflections, let me just ask each anniversary participant to say a tiny prayer of thanksgiving ... for the gift of life, good health, loved ones, family, friends, and community ... for sustaining us in our struggles and trials. Then each day we live will be a celebration of life itself, and the goodness of our God!

Looking forward, we ask the Lord to guide us as we move on. We pray for His blessing, that we may not be led astray, that we may grow more in love for one another, that we may be enriched through service and be courageous in bringing about change in the marketplace. Let us pray for one another, and hope that one day we may all reach the fullness of our Christian life. **K**



**BCBP 28th
Anniversary Message**

+Leonardo Y. Medroso, DD, Bishop of Tagbilaran


Being Christian is Experiencing a Loving God

My heartfelt felicitations to the Brotherhood of Christian Businessmen and Professionals! 28 years of dedicated service, this simply manifests God's love to His people. His holiness, Pope Benedict XVI, in his encyclical letter *Deus Caritas Est* said, "We have come to believe in God's love: in these words the Christian can express the fundamental decision of his life. Being Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction." This experience of a loving God is what drives us to share this same love to others. Collaborating in providing our poor brothers and sisters their basic needs is a duty of love. Your twenty-eight years of service is proof enough that you responded to God's call to love one's neighbor.

Moreover, this encounter with a loving God results in a life that is full of gratitude, as evidenced with your theme, "In gratitude, let us humble ourselves and follow Him.". Christian gratitude is not simply a matter of courtesy. Authentic gratitude is an expression of the whole life of the Christian person after experiencing the saving love of God through Jesus Christ in the Holy Spirit. After realizing that we are just little creatures in front of a God who unselfishly gave His love to us despite our unworthiness, we Christians cannot do otherwise but humble ourselves in loving obedience by following His will. In a society where our very own self is vulnerable to envy and self pity, the two obstacles of becoming grateful, we are called to have the sight in order to see the many gifts that God has given us and to have the insight in order to see the gifts when they are not obvious.

Moreover, the Christian is not just grateful but he/she is also hopeful. The two attitudes of being grateful and being hopeful go together. The Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, in his encyclical letter, *Spe Salvi*, said that it is our faith in the Risen Christ that renders in us the sense of gratitude and hope.

In this age when humanity is threatened with the crisis of hope, when people are at the brink of desperation due to rugged individualism, relativism, human autonomy, and selfishness, it is my fervent hope that the BCBP becomes a channel of gratitude, humility, and gratitude to everyone.

Congratulations and best wishes! 



BCBP 28th Anniversary Message

Herbert Schneider, S.J., BCBP Spiritual Director

Looking at Four Areas for Growth

Happy Anniversary!

Anniversaries offer us a wonderful opportunity to look back and to see the hand of Jesus guiding and forming the BCBP and making it effective in evangelizing in the marketplace. Only looking back at the last five years or so, I see the Lord calling our attention to four very important aspects of our life.

The first area concerns our brotherly and sisterly relationship within the BCBP community. The leadership has emphasized the importance of active servant love for one another, because it is an essential without which the BCBP as the Lord intended it to be would not exist.

The second area concerns our witness in the marketplace and the professions. The BCBP has been engaged in a campaign for honesty even if no one else should live this way. Before ever calling others to be honest, the call goes to every member of the BCBP because we all know preaching honesty without being honest is hypocrisy.

Thirdly, the Lord has called our attention to formation of all in the BCBP. Without formation of members and of leaders, BCBP members will not be capable of living out more and more fully the commitments we have made with the Lord and with one another. Without formation, members will not be trained to engage in our common mission in the right way.

Fourthly, we have been called to take a good look at whom we are evangelizing and to see whether we have been faithful to the Lord in this area. The mission of the BCBP is to evangelize decision makers in industry and the professions and through them bring about changes in the business world and the professions for justice, honesty, and genuine development of our country. The Lord is calling us to make sure we do the mission to which He has called us and not some other type of work.

I see in the above the Lord's love of the BCBP guiding it, strengthening it, and equipping it for the mission of evangelizing the marketplace and winning the marketplace for him. Let us rejoice in the Lord on our 28th anniversary and go forward with great confidence in Jesus' ongoing guidance and help. ✠



**BCBP 28th
Anniversary Message**

Larry Veloso, Chairman Board of Trustees

God Alone...

Greetings of Peace and Joy in the Risen Lord!

By the grace of God, we are celebrating 28 years of blessings, guidance and inspiration from the Lord who has grown the BCBP from a single breakfast in Makati in 1980 into what it is today – a nationwide organization with chapters and outreaches in most of the major cities in our country. Indeed God has been so generous to us. "In gratitude, let us humble ourselves and follow Him", for He alone gives meaning and direction to our lives and to our community. He alone can show us the way to live out the Vision and Mission that He has given us in the BCBP. God alone...

In order to follow Jesus, we need to focus on Him. We need to fix our attention on the Lord Jesus and allow Him to show us the obstacles that prevent us from becoming one with Him and with our brothers and sisters. We need to spend regular time each day to seek and to know what the Lord is trying to tell us through the happenings in our lives. We need to read the Scriptures and meditate on the Word of God each day so we can get to know Him, love Him, recognize His voice and follow Him whenever He calls and wherever He wishes to lead us.

As we come together to celebrate as one community, let us use this joyful occasion to renew our commitment to follow the Lord Jesus and to love one another.

May our Blessed Mother, who is our model of a faithful disciple, help us to follow our Lord Jesus Christ faithfully as we continue to bring Jesus into the marketplace and win the marketplace and the professions for Him. ✠



Bible Sharing




C.O.M.M.U.N.I.T.Y.

Our 28th Anniversary Celebration led all of us who participated into a sense of the wonder of "Community". During Friday afternoon's grand worship everyone wore similar T-shirts that promoted oneness and unity among brothers and sisters.

Let us examine some biblical references pertaining to the letters in "Community". Ask yourselves (individually, or share in your action groups): What do these verses mean to me? How do they apply to my being a member of the BCBP?

C – Conversion.	1 Peter 1:23
O – Opportunity ... to be good.	Gal. 6:10
M – Mass and the Eucharist	1 Cor. 11:23-30
M – Mercy	Matthew 5:7
U – Unity	1 Peter 3:8-9, Colossians 3:12-13
N – Need	Luke 6:38
I – Imitating Christ	John 21:16
T – Teach	Matthew 5:13-16
Y – Yes, Amen, Let It Be So	2 Cor. 1:19-20

As you finish your reflection, say a prayer for the BCBP, its leaders and members, and for yourself to answer the Vision and Mission of the BCBP, to call on the Holy Spirit to empower the BCBP as a Christian community to make a true and lasting impact on the marketplace. 

Forum with Fr. Herb

Is the BCBP a transparochial organization?


Q: Is the BCBP a transparochial organization? How should we as a chapter/outreach relate to parish priests?

Fr. Herb: "Transparochial" refers to any organization that draws its members from more than one parish and, because of this, is not a parish organization, but a diocesan organization and should be directly under the diocese. In fact, in the archdiocese of Manila (under Cardinal Rosales), all organizations like BCBP, Ligaya, etc., were all classified as transparochial communities.

The BCBP is not really a transparochial group in the above sense. It is a national organization. As a whole it relates to the Catholic Church through its membership in the Council of the Laity. Since it has chapters in different places, it is also a diocesan organization, but not a parish organization,

because it draws its members from the different parishes. It should relate to the bishop and not to a parish priest. The bishop may appoint a priest to be his liaison to the BCBP, but that still would not put the chapter under a particular parish priest.

It would be very helpful for the BCBP not to tie itself to a parish church or hall in order not to give the impression as if it were just one more parish organization. Its venues should be business establishments not parish halls as far as possible.

How do you deal with parish priests? First, we should explain that the BCBP is a national organization and that the local chapters get directives regarding their mission and life from the central office. Secondly, we should relate the chapter to the diocese and explain to the bishop that this is part of a national organization and that we do want to do our mission within the diocese, but that this mission is not parish work, but outreach to the business and professional sectors. 

The BCBP Challenge

By **Bobby Laviña**, BCBP President



*“Let us humble ourselves
and follow Him”*

I have recently been traveling to install new Chapter leaders in various cities. Whenever we select new leaders, some of the priorities change and that is part of the dynamic nature of any community. In fact, I believe that in the BCBP, the Lord leads us to choose leaders whom we need at that particular time in accordance with His will. But whatever the priorities are of the incoming governance, I hope all BCBP Chapters and outreaches will develop the national theme for this year : “In gratitude, let us humble ourselves and follow Him.”

This was the theme launched at the 28th National Anniversary held in Bohol last April. In 1TIMOTHY 6,17-19 it says:

Tell the rich in the present age not to be proud and not to rely on so uncertain a thing as wealth but rather on God, who richly provides us with all things for our enjoyment.

Tell them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous, ready to share, thus accumulating as treasure a good foundation for the future, so as to win the life that is true life.

All BCBP members are leaders in their families, in their businesses and in their communities. Many of us are well known in our circles as being successful in developing a God fearing family or a profitable business or an unblemished reputation.

Unfortunately, for some of us, it is when we succeed that we sometimes forget to be grateful and humble and obedient to the Lord's bidding... when we begin to think about success as being our own doing...no credit to the Lord who cares for us and picks us up whenever we fall... no acknowledgement of the contributions of people around us-- spouse, children, officemates, and others who supported us all the way to the peak we have reached... no recognition that our Lord is the source of everything we have and everything we are.

The theme for this year is a call to go back to this reality that we are fully dependent on Christ. A call to focus our eyes on Him who will teach us, who will guide us and keep us on the straight and narrow path, who will provide and care for us, who will be there when we have failures as well as successes, who is and forever will be our strength and our salvation. Who constantly calls us to service.

Let us heed the call of this year's theme and be real followers who emulate the real leader. Let us show our gratitude to the Lord by humbling ourselves and following Him alone particularly in helping those in darkness, those in need.

In addition to the qualities of GENEROSITY, HUMILITY AND OBEDIENCE, I wish to advocate another virtue: the virtue of GENTLENESS.

I know that as businessmen and professionals, we are constantly bombarded with the desire to achieve. Pushing, shoving, determined exertion and even some aggression are the accepted ways to get ahead. Gentleness seems to be absent. To live successfully and significantly, however, we have to learn to be gentle with ourselves and with others.

Although I am sure there are benefits to one's blood pressure by being gentle, the motivation of gentleness is the welfare of the other. Gentleness is characterized by openness to the ideas of others. Gentleness also implies inclusiveness— *pananatiling bukas sa lahat, anuman ang uri*. Its presence leads to tolerance (*pagiging mapagtanggap sa kapwa*) and then to forgiveness.

Don't be too disappointed when you don't achieve the success you strive for and go easy on those who may not yet have reached the goal.

Firstly, because we are all limited. We all make mistakes; all run out of steam and lose

our way. In fact, sometimes, we may have to start all over again. We cannot, by ourselves, make everything happen. We are dependent on God's grace and on the contribution of others and there is a time and a season for everything.

More importantly and to quote Charles Ringma,

"We are invited to live this kind of gentleness because that is the way that God has modeled for us. We are graced, not dragged, into the Kingdom. We are loved, not forced onto the path of reconciliation and peace. If God is gentle in his care for us, so should we be kind to ourselves, let alone to others...Gentleness walks the path of forgiveness where we not only forgive others for their faults but ourselves as well for our stupidity."

God bless us all! ✠



Worship

By Nancy R. Catan, BCBP Manila

SING JOYFULLY TO THE LORD

*Sing joyfully to the Lord, all you lands;
 serve the Lord with gladness;
 come before him with joyful song.
 Know that the Lord is God;
 he made us, his we are;
 his people, the flock he tends.
 Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
 his courts with praise;
 Give thanks to him; bless his name, for he is good:
 the Lord, whose kindness endures forever,
 and his faithfulness, to all generations.
 Psalm 100:1-5*

One of the highlights of each BCBP anniversary is our Friday afternoon grand worship assembly where several thousand BCBP brothers and sisters join in singing, praising, and worshipping the Lord. This worship assembly instills in each participant a strong sense of community and oneness, bonding us together as we worship the Lord in spirit and in truth, in song and in praise, in prophecy and through praying with and over one another. Always the presence of the Lord and the Holy Spirit is felt strongly and palpably throughout the afternoon.



The highest occupation of the Christian life is worshipping the Lord so it is most appropriate that we begin our anniversary celebration, and each BCBP meeting, with praise and worship. Psalm 100, a favorite BCBP song, is a digest

of instructions on how to worship the Lord.

Who should worship the Lord? Verse 1 tells us that God wants the whole world to worship and give thanks to Him. Why are we to go into all the world and share the Good News? So that all we meet and the whole world will one day be able to make a joyful noise unto the Lord.

How should we worship the Lord? With gladness, with a joyful and thankful heart, by serving, singing, submitting and sacrificing.

Serve the Lord with gladness, v. 1. We are to serve the Lord with gladness because there's joy in our hearts and because the joy of

the Lord gives us strength for our mission in the marketplace. We serve in the BCBP with gladness as we join hands together in willingly and joyfully influencing our work areas, business associates and business

practices. We serve exclusively for we cannot serve the Lord and someone else at the same time. But we can serve others for Jesus' sake.

Come before his presence with singing, v.1. Oftentimes it is the joy and exuberance of the music ministry and the songs that attract and keep people coming back for more, in BCBP breakfasts, in praise assemblies, even in action group meetings. Singing should never become so routine that we sing the songs with our mouths but our thoughts and hearts are roaming around the world. Think about the words and rejoice in the words you sing. St. Augustine maintains that "Singing is praying twice."

Know that the Lord is God, he made us, his we are; we are his people, the flock he tends. v.3. Praise is both an action and an attitude of the heart, and one way to praise God is to submit to Him. We submit as creatures to the Creator. We are not self-made, though sometimes we may have the mistaken idea that we are. God has made us what we are; what we make, what we become is our gift to God. We submit as children to the Father. We submit as sheep to the Shepherd. As we develop

in relationship with Him, we submit to His authority.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving. v.4. In Old Testament times, the people sacrificed animals on an altar. Today our sacrifice as we enter the Lord's presence is our time, our talents and skills, our treasure or tithes. We even are called upon to sacrifice our negative and angry feelings as we offer a sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, even when we don't feel like praising.

Why should we worship the Lord? Verse 5 clearly tells us. We experience His goodness in our lives, and we see the wonders He works in other's lives. We see His mercy and His kindness and know in our hearts that they will endure forever. We rejoice in His faithfulness, his reliability and stability. God is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

Next time we meet in BCBP assembly in our respective chapters or outreaches, let us open our hearts, our spirits and our mouths to offer up the joyful shouts of praise and worship and thanksgiving. Let our praises be heard in heaven, in the marketplaces, in our homes, and in everything we do. All for His glory! **K**



Anniversary Sharing

By **Doy Nunag**, BCBP Tagbilaran North, BCBP Corporate Secretary



Retirement, BCBP, New Projects and the Lord

Welcome to Bohol! While I spent all my professional life in Manila, I regularly came home to my roots and my taste for things Boholano has never faded. As they say, "You can take the man out of Bohol but you can't take Bohol out of the man."

I was born and raised here in Bohol, the third of 10 children. I went to Manila for college and law school and stayed on as I joined a

multinational law firm, where I did quite well in the specialty fields of corporate law and inbound foreign investments. At a relatively young age, I became an international partner of what was then the biggest law firm in the world.

Later in my career, I became the managing partner of our Manila office. I married a pretty law school classmate, Ludichi, from Cagayan de Oro, and we have three children; two months ago our first apo was born.

My sharing this morning is not about my career as a lawyer, but about what happened to me after I left the practice. Much of my story is about the power of prayer, about how faithful a guide, provider and friend the Lord is, His dramatic timing and how He uses the Brotherhood as His instrument.

Our life in the BCBP began in 1992 in

the Alabang Chapter. In 2000, we moved residence to Quezon City and were endorsed to the Quezon City chapter. When I retired and started to spend more time in Bohol in 2004, I was adopted by the Tagbilaran North Chapter. My multiple chapter transfers, plus my involvement with the Mancom as Corporate Secretary, have given me the chance to meet and make a lot of friends in many places in the country.



Why did I retire early? About 5 years ago as I approached my 55th birthday, I started to seriously daydream about retiring early from our law firm where I had been working for thirty years. My wife, our children, our

action group members joined me in praying for discernment. Although my family was supportive of the move to retire, still I was hesitant in letting go of the substantial perks that came with my job ... worldwide travel, the security and prestige of the job, plus its substantial income.

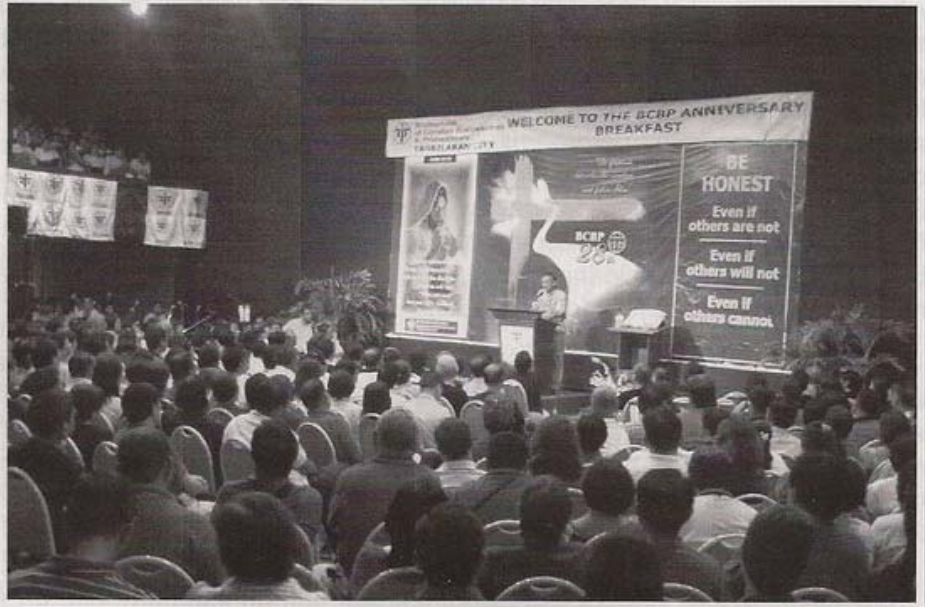
Then, along came an emphatic sign. My closest friend in the office, a very hardworking partner, suffered a massive stroke and died after 4 days in the ICU, a few months before his 50th birthday, leaving behind his wife and three very young children. My wife asked

me: "O ano, do you still have doubts about retiring?" The message was very clear: "Life is short. Don't spend it all in the office." And so I promptly handed in my early retirement papers!

Within a month after retiring I came home to Bohol to start a new project completely unrelated to the legal profession. I had no business plan, no experience as an entrepreneur, no previous business experience. I began to build, what I initially thought would be a small beach resort but which eventually evolved into a serious commercial operation.

From the very start the Brotherhood was involved in the project in many significant ways: the architect and the structural engineer came from the Alabang Chapter, heavy equipment, gardening supplies, most construction supplies, fruits and vegetables, and even laundry services came from Tagbilaran North brothers. My pick-up truck was serviced by a brother from Tagbilaran South. Early on, I sought the counsel of the business and financial gurus in the BCBP in Metro Manila just to assure myself that my project was not completely crazy. And every now and then, I consult a brother from the Pasay-Villamor chapter who is a veteran in the hospitality industry. Some of our printed materials are done by a Quezon City brother. And the list goes on and continues to grow.

Indeed the Brotherhood is an amazingly rich resource. You can call on it, as I have, for help in many varied fields. You name it, chances are the BCBP has it. And, most importantly, the spiritual support, the prayers of caring brothers and sisters in the BCBP, have helped me stay on course as I ventured into



unfamiliar waters. The power of community prayer should never be underestimated.

In the course of doing this project, we went through some tough times, a lot of them, mostly because of funds running low. During these times, as in times of plenty, we prayed as a family and submitted everything to God. And always, the Lord comes to the rescue, just in time. There were so many close calls which have led us to believe that if the Lord did not want this project to be complete, it would have been stopped long ago. Nahum 1:7 is particularly reassuring: "The Lord is good; He protects his people in times of trouble; He takes care of those who turn to Him."

For me, one big bonus from retirement and the resort project is that it has pulled our family closer together. When I was still in law practice, my children did not know much about my job. All they knew was that I was always in a barong or a suit, I had a nice office, did complicated stressful work and came home late.

Now we do a lot of things together -- we have long discussions about resort operations, and here in Bohol, we even wear the same outfit -- shorts, shirt and sandals or slippers. My second son, who is the most cost conscious, calls my attention when he thinks I give too much discounts. My eldest son,

continued on next page

who works in the U.S., regularly emails his suggestions. My daughter, who is into the arts, argues with me about the color of the drapes, the size of the signage, the type of shampoo and soap we use in the bathrooms, the choice of items to sell in the boutique, and so many little details. My wife checks if we have fresh flowers at the reception counter, if we still have barako coffee, or if her cleaning instructions to housekeeping were strictly followed.

I don't know if this is the most efficient way to run a business, but it certainly is an enjoyable and fulfilling way of doing it. I could not have planned for a better, more pleasant, healthier, and more profitable bonding activity for the family than this resort project.

Now, after about two years of operation, we are proud to report that our family project, the Amarela resort, is making a positive impact in the marketplace. We have demonstrated that our own local style in architecture, furniture and décor is well appreciated by domestic and foreign guests. We have received favorable comments for showcasing traditional manifestations of the Boholano's faith in God

and veneration of the saints, such as antique crucifixes, santos, the Christmas locally crafted Filipino belen. And in every room there is a Catholic bible, not the ones distributed for free by other denominations.

Beyond physical appearance, we try hard to protect and project traditional Filipino values of hospitality, integrity and good morals. We caution guests against display of indecent behavior, and discipline employees on issues of integrity and questionable moral behavior.

The Lord has truly blessed us and guided us throughout, from urging my early retirement, to providing for my family with this project. He has faithfully sustained us in planning, building, organizing, operating, marketing, and especially in funding Amarela. He got us started, He keeps us going, and He knows best where to take us. If we did it on our own, we would not get anywhere.

Psalm 127:1 says it all: "Unless the Lord builds the house, in vain do its builders labor." ✠



Anniversary Sharing

By Maning Decasa, BCBP Tagbilaran/Siquijor

Standing Up for the 'Right'



I had always believed that when you commit yourself to follow the Lord and stand up for His Gospel, He will look highly on His favored one! However it took me many years to realize that God's purpose was a bit different than mine, that His favors are not quite what I expect.

I am Manuel Ingles Decasa, 56 years old, from the town of Batuan, Bohol. It is in the center of the province and some 51 kms away from Tagbilaran. Our family is very religious, as perhaps the majority of families in Bohol are.

My first experience in standing up for what I believed was right happened during the time when our country and the Filipino people were experiencing despair, hatred, and a worsening peace and order situation. I was doing well during my second year in college, when a group of seminarians came to me in the guise of standing for truth and justice, to fight for the rights of the poor people. Seeing their sincerity and the situation in our province, I stood up, firmly believing that in their truth and justice cause. Little did I know that I was slowly being introduced to the world of Marxism and the principles of a godless society and communism.

I thought that what I was doing was right. But I began to realize that I was not anymore attending and believing in the Eucharist, and I was slowly drifting away from the foundations

of my Catholic belief. God's timely intervention and the declaration of Martial Law, brought me to my senses. Had I followed this idealism, I would not be standing before you this morning, as some of my so-called comrades are now in the underground movement.

I believe now the fight for justice should be founded on our faith, and the search for it should be within the perspective of the Gospel and Jesus' teachings.



Later on I fell in love with the BCBP and with Jesus. I served in various capacities and services. I was filled with God's fullness, with my faith renewed and my life refocused. Now I was faced with the challenge of standing up for His Gospel and the Mission and Vision of the BCBP.

I work for a government agency and at one time was appointed as the OIC in our provincial office. Aside from my official functions, I was also in charge of entertaining guests from the Central Office and from other regions in the country who regularly came to visit our province. My immediate supervisor would see to it that these guests were entertained with food, drinks, karaoke singing sessions, pasalubongs, and even women as part of their having a "wonderful" time here. Money was not a problem. My supervisor would ask me to bloat office expenses in my capacity as OIC so we could have the money to finance these anomalies and worldly expenses.

I was bothered by this, because these



practices are contrary to the Gospel values and to our teachings in the BCBP community. Praying for God's mercy and strength, I called my subordinates for a meeting and told them "This should stop." We prepared a letter addressed to our supervisor telling him in the gentlest way that these practices were all wrong, illegal, and contrary to the ethics of a government employee and official. There was no reaction, as if nothing happened. I began praying to God for comfort and relief from this burden.

Not long afterwards I obtained a masteral degree scholarship that took me away from my official functions for a year. I thought this was God's answer to my prayers. But when I returned from my schooling, my trials began in earnest.

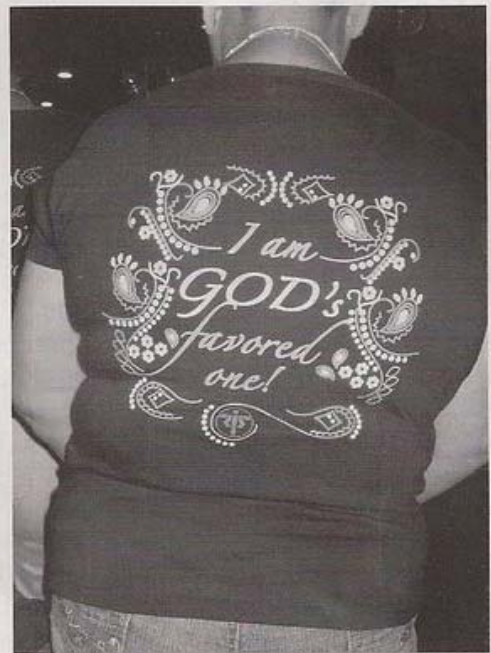
I was transferred to our regional office. My supervisor belittled me and the BCBP. Perhaps wanting to "punish" me for reporting rather than following his unjust ways, I was again transferred to our field office in Siquijor, away from my family. Much worse, I was bypassed for two opportunities for promotion.

There were no evenings when I did not question God in my prayers, and there were no prayers that did not include my family, especially my growing children. I was afraid that they may fall into the ways of the world since they had no father on hand to guide them.

Slowly answers began to unfold, and the light began to overcome the darkness. Soon I found myself in the BCBP community again as our brothers in Tagbilaran opened an outreach in Siquijor. Being from Tagbilaran I was asked to be the Outreach Coordinator. To be honest with you, it is not an easy mission, considering that the island is noted for the big waves one encounters going there, and its mysticism among others.

But the mission team was undaunted and until now the community is still holding on. Growth may be slow, and trials may seem endless, but I admire the sincerity of the mission team who have vowed to nurture and cultivate the seed planted by the Brotherhood.

All this led me to realize why I was brought here, even that perhaps I should be thankful for my supervisor's transferring me to Siquijor eleven years ago. I really have wanted to go



home to Bohol for all these years but the Lord has given me a new meaning to my existence, an answer to my questions, a mission to fulfill, a life to live and a community to grow with.

Recently with the lack of priests in Siquijor and the people's hunger for God, I was asked to help out as a Lay Minister. This ministry involves mainly the conduct of the Celebration of the Word every Sunday in all the barangay chapels where the priest is unable to go. We conduct a "dry mass", all the parts of the Holy Mass except the Consecration. I love this work. I can see how people who are hungry for God are being nourished by God's word.

Slowly, God is putting order into my life, and His wisdom and generosity cannot be outdone. Despite my absence and the apprehensions I had about my children, they became successful in their studies and have become morally upright children of God. All of this happened because I stood up for what is right, for what a Christian should be, and for what a BCBP member should live for.

Today after eleven years in Siquijor I still pray to be transferred back to Bohol. But more so, I pray for real justice and truth, based on the Gospel and faith; and I pray, as I ask you to also pray, for our community in Siquijor, for strength, guidance and faith. ✠



Anniversary Sharing

By **Rene Cortes**, BCBP Paranaque, National Vice President and NSC for Mission



“This, too, shall pass”

These four words – “This, too, shall pass” – are four words I want you to take with you after you hear my story.

My story is not uncommon. My life is littered with success amidst personal struggles, abundance, and challenges, ups and down in family life and business life. I'd like to believe that my experiences are a testament to our shared belief that no matter what happens, if our bonds with God, our families, and our brothers and sisters and friends are strong, we will somehow survive even the toughest of times.

I'm 55 years old, father of four grown-up lads, and the elder of two boys, the second of three children. My parents are a study of contrasts. My father spent 11 years in the seminary and almost became priest. Hailing from a family of idealistic scholars, he worked



in government all his life. My mother was a teacher who grew up in a family I can best describe as spontaneous, candid, fun-loving

and adventurous storytellers, with a family history of intrigues and escapades. In contrast, the uncles and cousins on my father's side were too serious; my visits to them were full of newspaper readings with the motto of 'less talk, no mistake'.

My tertiary years were spent in the twin pursuits of excellence and popularity. I was a good student and a campus leader, even considered the local glamour boy. I soon alienated myself from God. After college I took up a sales career, traveled a lot, met many nice ladies, among them Nonee, who is now my wife. After our wedding, I got the best surprise from her, a scrap book that contained pictures and letters of all my girlfriends in chronological order. Her picture was last, as if saying, “Your macho days end with me, Rene!”

At work I rose through the ranks quickly: supervisor after three months, sales manager at 27 in a multinational company, Director of Sales and Marketing at 33. A few years later I was promoted to head a strategic business unit that won awards in Asia-Pacific for Outstanding Profit Performance.

Despite all this I felt so empty inside. Stress was slowly catching up on me, and I felt there was a black hole, a big void that needed to be filled. I was such a very demanding and results-oriented boss that co-workers and employees began to avoid me.

There were instances that when I joined others during lunch that they would excuse themselves one after another, and leave me eating alone.

A walk towards God comes in many forms and ways, mine happened in Davao City. Most hotels were fully booked then so I shared a room with a former boss, a macho like me whom I knew quite well. There had been times we courted and dated the same girl. What got my attention was that he prayed and read the bible before sleeping.

I mocked him at first because I couldn't believe that one like him could change. But when he started talking about the Brotherhood, sharing his joy as a result of his conversion, I wanted to have what he had and go through that joyful change experience myself.

During my first breakfast, seeing the smiling faces, hearing men sing to the Lord, and tasting the best hot chocolate at the Alabang Country Club, I felt my emptiness being filled and being relieved of my stress. But it was the bible passage of the sharer that inspired me to continue attending. He quoted Magtthew 11:28-30. That same year, 1986, Nonee and I enrolled in and finished the BCLP without a single absence. This was perhaps the first turning point in my walk with God.

Things weren't all smooth sailing after we joined the BCBP. My eldest son underwent open heart surgery. Eight months after that I myself suffered a heart attack as a result of the stressful life I had led in previous years, poor diet, heavy smoking and late nights out. In both these trials, God worked miracles through the generous help and caring concern and daily prayers of BCBP brothers and sisters.

I retired from corporate life and have been running my own business for seven years now, distributing consumer packaged goods in parts of Metro Manila and Southern Tagalog. The business is really God's gift, having prayed for



it a long time. It hasn't all been rainbows and roses though. In times when we were down to our last savings, God answered our prayers through friends, brothers, relatives and former colleagues who came to our aid.

Early last year we lost a big principal, and despite all efforts, had to reduce our costs and personnel to the bare essentials. Nonee and I can feel that God is at work in the business as we continue to work in His. He uses day-to-day situations to surprise us and make us feel He is there for us.


Paying taxes is an important part of business. In 2005 we were assessed a tax that we felt did not consider a lot of operating costs we were entitled to declare. The assessment was arrived at without even opening our books. We talked and appealed for the examiners to sit down and reassess but all we got from them were notices of examination and letters threatening court litigation. Days after almost falling into the trap of negotiating a settlement, amnesty was declared for that year for those delayed in filing tax returns. God truly has His mysterious ways of preventing us to compromise and being harassed simply because we desire to pay the right tax. Having availed of the amnesty, our board decided to donate the balance of the correct tax to charity.

We are still walking through a painful and difficult period but we continue to hang onto God's promises knowing He will see us

through. His intervention is never late; new developments are very encouraging. We have found that trials and difficulties may happen for a purpose, to cultivate and strengthen our faith in God. Faith brings comfort, builds hope, brings strength in times of trouble, takes the sting out of difficulties and brings peace out of worry and confusion.

This, too, will pass. It's so comforting a thought. It will pass because God's love and mercy will carry us through. He will lift us from the depths of despair with this simple promise of hope.

This, too, will pass. And it is in community with BCBP brothers and sisters that the difficult times are made easier, as their loving care and persistent prayers uphold us.

This, too, will pass. All for God's glory! 



PSD in 2008

By Art Legarde, NSC for PSD

PSD Thrust for 2008

The basic thrusts of the BCBP's Programs and Services Directorate, PSD, for this year 2008 focus in four areas: Social Action, Advocacy, Celebrations, and Communications/ Secretariat.


Our Social Action activities center on implementing and strengthening the EcoReach Program by involving the chapters in the Evangelization through Spiritual Teachings of the EcoReach groups of nanays. To increase the coverage of this program we will seek to intensify collection of donations by collecting a yearly donation of P500/BCBP home through the Alay Kay Nanay Bottle contributions. Regular reporting of the financial status of the Eco Reach Program will be implemented.

In addition to the Eco Reach program, we intend to identify and implement other "Pro Poor" programs.

BCBP Advocacy for 2008 will zero in on our Be Honest Campaign. We are encouraging all chapters and outreaches to post and/or place Be Honest Campaign materials in strategic places in their respective areas. We hope to implement the Be Honest Oratorical Competition nationwide within the year.

The PSD thrusts re Celebrations include campaigning for maximum attendance at BCBP National Anniversaries, as well as for regional and chapter activities.

Our fourth area of focus for 2008 involves Communications and Secretariat tasks. All chapter, outreach and national directories are being updated. Article contributions and subscriptions to the KAPATIRAN are being encouraged through every chapter's Secretariat.

In all of these PSD Thrusts for 2008, we enjoy every member's active participation, for this is what helps make our BCBP community vibrant and meaningful. 



BCBP BREAKFAST DIRECTORY 2008

CHAPTER/OUTREACH	VENUES	DAY	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	CONTACT PERSON	CELL PHONE
METRO MANILA								
CAMANAVA	Max's Restaurant, EDSA, Cal.	SAT	S	M	J	M	Rod Cobankiat	09178974546
GREENHILLS	Club Filipino	THU	S	J	M	M	Dick Palma	09163003737
QUEZON CITY	Max's Restaurant, Sct. Tuazon	SAT	S	M	J	M	JR Lioanag	09189037411
RIZAL	Max's Restaurant, Taytay	SAT	M	J	M	S	Marius Sienes	09175457341
MARIKINA	Max's Restaurant, Blue Wave Mall	SAT	J	J	J	S	Ronnie Avelino	09273065077
ALABANG	Ayala Alabang City Club	SAT	M	S	M	J	Lito Pascual	09173287785
LAS PIÑAS	Max's Resto, Philam	SAT	J	M	S	M	Arnold Torres	09177944765
MAKATI (Wed)	Max's Restaurant, Glorietta 3	WED	J	S	M	M	Caloy Co	09189272243
MAKATI (Sat)	Chateau, Greenbelt, Legaspi St, Mkt	SAT		J		S	Ricky Gutierrez	09209711771
MANILA	Jade Vine, J. Bocobo cor UN Ave	FRI	J	S	M	M	Ernie Supan	09154035018
MANILA NORTH	Chowking Puregold Mall, Tayuman	SAT	J	J	J	J	Bong Rivera	09174236838
PARAÑAQUE	Jollibee, Santana Grove, Sukat	SAT	M	J	M	S	Jun Ignacio	09175272392
PASAY CITY	Chowking, Macapagal Ave cor EDSA	SAT	M	J	M	S	Evans Opina	09268494025
PALAWAN NORTH	Linda Hall, Skylight Apartelle	SAT	J	-	S	-	Ferdie Galang	09209021797
PALAWAN SOUTH	Ardent Hotel, San Miguel	SAT		S	-	J	Nelson Caabay	09178196768

NORTHERN & CENTRAL LUZON

BAGUIO	Pines View Hotel, Legarda Road	SAT	M	J	M	S	Ver Colcol	09064903928
CANDON, Ilocos	Ara Marey's Restaurant	SAT	J		J		Robert So	09214809372
DAGUPAN	J-Star Plaza, M. Pinkies, L-Jam S	SAT	J	-	S	-	Abing de Venecia	09064735953
URDANETA	Ciudad Ferdinandina	SAT	-	J	-	M	Ariel Noranda	09179676671
LAOAG	M-Michoice Resto, J-Palazzo dLaog	SAT	-	M	-	J	Sydney Santiago	09175700100
SAN FERNANDO, L.U.	Sea & Sky	SAT	J	-	S	M	Vic Ancheta	09208943313
TUGUEGARAO	Delfino Hotel	SAT	M	M	S	J	Gary Hernandez	09173902413
SANTIAGO, ISABELA	Mc Donald's, Maharlika Road	SAT	M	J	J	J	Willy Simbul	09175487046
BAYOMBONG	Governor's Palace, Solano	SAT	-	J	-	J	Oscar Bacena	09187809316
APARRI	ST. Patrick Hotel	SAT	J	-	J	-	Angel Rabago	09279437744
ANGELES	KM 85 Food Rest. Sta. Maria	SAT	-	J	-	S	Meng Evaresto	09189401614
BALANGA Bataan	Crown Royale Hotel	SAT	J	J	J	J	Oca Banzon	09175760982
BULACAN	Max's Rest., Guiginto, Bulacan	SAT	J	M	J	S	Cris Constantino	09065035858
BULACAN North/Pullilan	Max's Rest., Pullilan, Bulacan	SUN	J	J	J	J	Eric Reyes	09209010930
CABANATUAN	Village Inn, Mabini Homes	SAT	J	J	M	S	Ed Mateo	09209538540
OLONGAPO	Max's Restaurant, Magsaysay Drive	SAT	J	J	J	J	Nestor Publico	09209519791
SAN FERNANDO, PAMP.	Villa Conchita R/ McDonalds (S/Mens)	SAT	J	J	J	J	Wesley Alonzo	09176091516
TARLAC	La Maja Rica Hotel	SAT	-	M	-	M	Ferdie Liwag	09175664726

SOUTHERN LUZON

BACORR	K of C Bldg, Molino	SAT		M		M	Rey Cordova	09189120400
BATANGAS CITY	Alpha Hotel	SAT	M	J	S	M	Manny Rosales	09178443295
NASUGBU	Nasugbu Parish Hall	SAT		J		J	Dan Pasia	09209035490
BIÑAN-SAN PEDRO	Max's Restaurant	SAT	J	M	S	M	Alex Madrid	09178019808
CALAMBA	Riverview Resort	SAT	J	M	S	M	Henry Francisco	09282934395
CALAPAN	Chowking, Calapan	SAT	M	J	S	M	Rod Umali	09175040832
CAVITE-IMUS	Jollibee Makro, Imus	SAT	J	M	S	M	Nooky Umali	09189489234
DAET	Golden Palace & Restaurant	SAT	-	J	-	J	Buddy Madarang	09214811275
GEN TRIAS	Tempura Resto, Gov Drive, Manggahan	SAT	J	M	S	M	Boy Castro	09195714042
GUMACA	Chowking Restaurant	SAT	M	J	M	J	Hector Babista	09209028461
LIPA	Luntian Restaurant, Lipa City	SAT	M	J	M	S	Jun Latay	09178566345
LOS BANOS	Chowking, Vega Ctr, Grove LB	FRI		M		M	Mar Perilla	09283038341
LUCENA	Guisseppi Restaurant	SAT	M	J	S	M	Joji Aranilla	09209095545
SAN PABLO	Coco Palace, Nat'l Hi-way	SAT	M	J	M	J	Vic Longno	09175445315
STA. ROSA	Max's Restaurant, Balibago	SAT	M	S	M	J	Danny Narceda	09217450853
TAGAYTAY	Taalena Restaurant	SAT	M	M	M	M		
TANAUAN	Darasa Fiesta Resort	SAT	J	-	M	-	Poi Hernandez	0917 8872352
LEGAZPI	Quick & Hearty	SAT	-	J	M	S	Ric Quiambao	09182430637
NAGA	Champagne Garden	SAT	S	J	M	M	Tony Concepcion	09286354000
SORSOGON	Jollibee Sorsogon	SAT	M	-	J*	-	Gie Diaz	09178051687
PINAMALAYAN MINDO	Floras Resto	SAT	-	-	M	-	Bon Lim	09189364081
SAN JOSE MINDORO	Sikatuna Beach Hotel	SAT	-	M	-	L	Nachor Urbina	09062550868

VISAYAS

BALAMBAN	Balamban Nat'l High School	SAT	-	J	-	M	Boy Beltran	09176209795
BANTAYAN	Jelas Restaurant	SUN		J		J		
BOGO Cebu	Bogo Central School - Conf Hall	SAT	J	-	J		Rolly Caballes	09154007150
CEBU NORTH	City Sports Club, Ayala	SAT	J	M	S	M	Vic Lerias	09196801705
CEBU SOUTH	Sacred Heart Ctr., D. Jakosalem	SAT	J	S	S	M	Rod Ngo	09176200180
CEBU CENTRAL	Casino Espanol de Cebu	SAT	M	S	M	J	Rey Monteclaro	09179703075
CONSOLACION	Orosia Restaurant, Consolacion	SAT	-	J	M	M	Archie Alivio	09173327522
MACTAN	Crown Regency Suites	SAT	M	J	S	J	William Cejas	09173216550

BCBP BREAKFAST DIRECTORY 2008

CHAPTER/OUTREACH	VENUES	DAY	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	CONTACT PERSON	CELL PHONE
MANDAUE	Family Choice Country Mall	SAT	M	J	S	J	Marz Diez	09164037009
TALISAY Cebu	Chowking, Talisay	SUN	-	J	-	S	Henry Burgos	09173262219
BAIS	PPC	SAT	-	M	-	J	Wardo Villanueva	09214899401
DUMAGUETE-NORTH	Bethel Guest House	SAT	J	M	S	-	Tony Tero	
DUMAGUETE-SOUTH	Plaza Ma. Luisa	SAT	M	-	J	-	Fiel Ornopia	09209098401
SIQUIJOR	Webs Legacy Inn	SAT	J	-	J	-	Tata Quilicot	09169638026
SAN CARLOS	Carmel's	SAT	-	J	-	M	Joy Tambis	09209142042
TAGBILARAN NORTH	JJ Seafood V* / Prawn Farm ICM**	SAT	-	J*	S**	M**	JV Bullecer	09209109638
TAGBILARAN SOUTH	La Roca Hotel	SAT	-	J	M	S	Gus Pascual	09173063388
TALIBON	Talibon Pension House	SUN	-	J	-	J	Cleto Garcia	09208016808
TUBIGON	JJ Rest., 2/F Pub Market	SUN	-	J	-	M	Boy Caga	09202321369
NAVAL, BILIRAN	Marina's Seaside Inn	SUN	J	J	-	-	Juan Pastor	09157754885
BORONGAN	Café Se Le Vee	SAT	-	J	-	J	Sonny Uy	09177222803
CALBAYOG	DPC Function Hall	SUN	J	-	J	-	Dads Callosa	09216304902
CATBALOGAN	Maqueda Bay Hotel Rest.	SAT	J	-	J	-	Jaime Barnales	30880
CATARMAN	DCC Annex	SUN	-	J	-	J	Jess Laodenio	09168763219
TACLOBAN	Le Jardin Garden Resto	SAT	-	S	M	J	Ronnie Sanopo	09177825567
BAYBAY	Parish Center	SUN	-	J	-	S	Tom Londina	
MAASIN	Ampil Function Hall	SUN	J	-	S	-	Monching Gonzales	09264724717
ORMOC	Pongos Hotel	SAT	-	J	M	M	Perok Rodriguez	09173060904
SOGOD	Sogod Bay Lodge	SAT	J	-	J	-	Adrian Alquiza	09185702685
HILONGOS	Holy Name Society Social Hall	SAT	J	-	J	-	Maring Fulache	
PALOMPON	PACCI	SAT	J	-	M	-	Edwin Cortez	
BACOLOD NORTH	Quan / Casa Noble*/Quan&Jollibee**	SAT	M	M	S**	J*	Marlon Geriane	09279984906
BACOLOD SOUTH	ExecInn / L'Fisher /JollibeeLS*	SAT	M	M	S*	J	Pepe Ledesma	09177070057
BACOLOD EAST	BCBP Activity Center	SAT	M	-	M	-	Ogle Ascalon	09209269851
BINALBAGAN	Sn Teodoro Hall	SAT	-	J	-	J	Liby Frias	09173008968
KABANGKALAN	Snackee Restaurant	SAT	-	J	-	M	Albert Garcia	09228115476
SILAY	BCBP Center, Santan , Rizal St	SAT	M	M	S	M	Nonoy Catugas	09212406882
VICTORIAS	VMC Fastfood	SUN	-	-	M	J	Martin Osano	09275192490
	Marjhuns	SAT	-	L	-	-		
ILOILO	Amigo Terraces Hotel	SAT	J	M	S	M	Ramie Salcedo	09189426362
MOLO	Jollibee UPV	SAT	J	M	S	M	Tom Cheng Chua	09193007978
KALIBO	Nazareth Home	SAT	S	J	M	M	Jack Acaling	09186978112
BORACAY	Tropical Guest House Str 3	SAT	J	J	J	J	Rey Tagua	09194903590
ROXAS	Pizza Junction, Rizal St.	SAT	J	M	S	M	Jess Diaz	09209213448

MINDANAO

BUTUAN	Luciana Convention Center	SAT	M	J	-	J	Lazer Lapa	09198840839
CDO EAST	Max Fried Chicken Toribio	SAT	M	M	J	S	Gerry Garcia	09209007495
CDO WEST	VIP Hotel	SAT	M	S	J	M	Cons Arce	09189083613
DAVAO	Royal Mandaya Hotel	SAT	M	S	M	J	Wally Tapia	09177081079
DIGOS	CAP Building	SAT	-	J	-	J		
GEN. SANTOS	East Asia Royale Hotel	SAT	J	-	J	-	Francis Carlos	09177267679
MALAYBALAY	House Malibu	SAT	J	-	S	-		
SURIGAO	Gateway Hotel	SAT	J	-	J	-	Jun Bayana	09208344407
TAGUM	CAP Bldg., Tagum City	SAT	-	J	M	J	Boy Galagala	09177197790
VALENCIA	Taipan Restaurant	SAT	-	J	-	S	Nick Baliguig	09067714431
DIPOLOG	Top Plaza Hotel	SAT	-	J	M	S	Berto Uy	09176423432
ILIGAN	Madelicious Native Foods	SAT	M	J	-	J	Mike Magsalin	09198971597
KAPATAGAN	Alsons Palace	SAT	J	-	J	-	Femie Legaria	
OROQUIETA	Kamayana sa Oro	SAT	J	-	J	-	Jun Sugue	09156892332
PAGADIAN	Pinchik Restaurant	SAT	-	J	-	J	Joe de Pedro	09178194168
ZAMBOANGA	Astoria Hotel	SAT	J	-	J	-	Boloy Mendoza	09179858475
IPIL	Sibugay Hotel	SAT	-	J	-	J	Mon Villafuerte	09166806880

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The Vision of the Brotherhood of Christian Businessmen and Professionals

Life in Christ in all its fullness for
businessmen and professionals.

John 10:10

The Mission of the BCBP

We provide a way of life and a
Community where businessmen
and professionals, guided by the
Holy Spirit, can experience Christ
through a continuing process of:

Conversion to a personal
relationship with Christ;
Commitment to the values
espoused by Him, and
Commissioning as disciples and
to advocate the Good News in the
marketplace.

The Brotherhood Core Values

Love for God
Love for Country
Love for Community
Commitment to the Lord's Work

