

Kapatiran



BROTHERHOOD OF CHRISTIAN BUSINESSMEN AND PROFESSIONALS

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[No news this issue from Cagayan de Oro, Cebu, Dagupan, or Iloilo.]

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1993 DECLARED BCBP ACTION YEAR

National Council president Manny Banigan acting on the decision of the National Council has announced that the year 1993 must be an action year for the Brotherhood with the goal to spread the mission and the vision of the BCBP as far as possible. "We cannot be complacent in our current situation nor can we allow the BCBP to allow the other partners in Mission to blaze the trail for us," Manny Banigan said. "We must set the trend and be the leaders the Lord wants us to be."

The Council envisions an activity-filled year with new chapters and outreaches being established, new leaders being developed, and as many members as possible being tapped for service for the Lord and for the Brotherhood.

Metro Manila chapters must expand from within the Metro Manila area itself and reach outwards to other areas in the Philippines. Likewise Cebu and Dagupan must now go beyond their borders to spread the Good News. New breakfasts are to be opened and cultivated.

Target areas beyond Metro Manila that the National Council has initially identified are: Luzon - Calamba, Lucena, Batangas, Naga, Olongapo, Baguio, Tuguegarao, and Laog; Visayas - other places in Cebu and Leyte; Mindanao - Davao, Zamboanga, and Gen. Santos.

Banigan is asking all chapters and outreaches to forward their respective plans for the year to the National Council as soon as possible for monitoring and proper coordination by the Council.

BCBP SECRETARIAT ADDRESS:
Palm Bldg., 4033 Yague St.
Makati. T-813-0970, 880-809



More BCBP Bazaar pictures on p. 12 and 13.

**CONGRATULATIONS
TO THE NEWEST
BCBP CHAPTER**

BACOLOD

*May the Lord
continue to bless you
abundantly.*

BREAKFAST SPECIAL BEING PLANNED

A new activity of the Brotherhood, the Breakfast Special, has been approved by the National Council for implementation during the first half of 1993. Patterned after the regular weekly men's breakfasts, the Breakfast Special will target senior level executives, have a top-level invited guest speaker/sharer, and be held in one of the 5-star hotels in the Makati business district.

The objective of the Breakfast Special is to make the business community more aware of the BCBP and what it is doing in the marketplace. Fernando de Larrazabal, Managing Director for Luzon, is tasked with coordinating and overseeing the Breakfast Special with the Makati chapter of the Brotherhood responsible for planning and bringing it to fruition.

YEAR-ROUND PROGRAM FOR MT. PINATUBO VICTIMS

The National Council has put into motion the machinery for setting up a year-round program of relief and trade training for victims of Mt. Pinatubo. Bobby Lavina of the Nat'l Council will handle the details and implementation of this BCBP-wide project.

All BCBP chapters are requested to generate cash donations for the project; the funds raised will be used to teach Mt. Pinatubo victims useful skills and trades that will benefit them on a more permanent basis than just occasional dolcouts of goods. It is envisioned that once such a continuing program is designed, the Brotherhood will look for partners who can help in its implementation.

PROCEDURE FOR SPONSORING A NEW OUTREACH

The National Council has drawn up guidelines for those chapters who desire to set up new outreaches.

1. The sponsors (from the "mother" chapter) of the new outreach should make an official call on the local Ordinary, explaining their intentions for setting up an outreach in his diocese.

2. They should provide the bishop an explanation of the BCBP's mission, vision and structure. The purpose of this is informative, as well as to minimize any future misunderstanding with the diocese or the parish where the outreach may be located.

3. The sponsors should request a written approval from the bishop whenever possible. This request can be explained as an S.O.P. necessary to obtain approval from the National Council.

(Cont. on p. 8)

CHAPTER SERVICE ASSIGNMENTS

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

Lamentations 3:22-41

1993 BCBP-WIDE ANNUAL ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE

With Lead Chapters Indicated

Annual Report [The 1992 Annual Report will be presented to the body on April 2 during First Friday Assembly. The formal report will be released by the end of April and will also be reprinted in the June issue of the KAPATIRAN.]	April	Greenhills Chapter
Family Day	after Holy Week	Alabang Chapter
BCBP Anniversary	June	Makati Chapter
Sports Fest [Sports activities will be programmed throughout the period with the Awarding Ceremonies being held during Children's Day in December.]	March - December	Las Pinas Chapter
Children's Day [This will be combined with the BCBP Bazaar.]	1st week of December	Quezon City

ALABANG NEWSBREAK



The Alabang Choir puts their hearts into the song as they serenade during the Christmas breakfast of the chapter.

Commitment Night Festivities

Alabang's Christian Life Program 21 came to a rousing finish on November 28, 1992 during its Commitment Night at the Alabang Country Club. 53 new members joined the Brotherhood consisting of five action groups formed into one new unit.

Fr. Ben Beltran's homily on the trinitarian nature of God and its implication on a service-oriented spirituality for Christians provided both old and new BCBPers valuable insights for the Christmas season and the new year.

Cathy Tillah and Ed Adriano emceed the repertoire of stage talents exhibited during the evening's program that included the Balagtasan cum Greek chorus, the Broadway Cats Cast's rendition of "Amazing Grace", the song and dance of the man in a box, the conviction of the Bad Boy *et al* in a court of justice, and the confessions of five philosophers. The service team chipped in with two numbers—a polyphonic "Yahweh, You Are Near" ushering in a note of Advent, and Fe Atendido's sharing on a meditation on gratitude.

The evening closed fittingly with the singing of "Father, Make Us One" in new lyrics set to a modern tune. One with a classical bent can't help but recall a parallel from the long past: "*O quam bonum et quam jucundum est fratres habitare in unum.*" (Ps. 132:1)

CLP 21 course leader team was Charlie/Josie Carballo, assisted by Bobby/Fe Atendido. Chuck/Rufi Colayco served as intercessory team heads, Manny/Reggie Jimenez as head servants, and Alex/Jo Tan as music ministry heads.

Welcome CLP 21!

Group I - AGLs Joe/Nanette Ferreria
Sonny/Carmeling Liwanag
Doy/Ludichi Nunag
Bobby/Terri Palacios
Freddie/Else Rodriguez
Jun/Reggie Samson

Group II - AGLs Joey/Nessie Angeles
Errol/Annie Albano
Alex/Baby Arcilla
Joey Fineza
Herman/Liza Penaflores
Mike/Leila Santiano

Group III - AGLs Rey/Linda Trinidad
Boy Bombais
Joey/Melly Caillan
Toni Danao
Joey Garcia
Baggy/Ayden Munoz
Ards/Gay Navarro
Francis/Marlene Sogono

Group IV - AGLs Mon/Josie Sedilla
Jesus/Esther Capiz
Dexter/Jackie Deyto
Mac/Remi Macarandang
Ipe/Sari Magno
Cathy Roque
Rev. Fr. Dennis Pepito
Jun/Mila Villanueva

Group V - AGLs Ted/Connie Diaz
Mario/Olive Angeles
Benjie Cipcon
Yolly Kauer
Mike del Prado
Joey Lopez
Eddie/Ana Reyes
Dennis Salvador
Richard/Hedy Uy

These five action groups compose the newest unit for the Alabang Chapter with Charlie/Josie Carballo as unit leader team.

SWAT Swoops on Pinatubo Village

The Social Welfare Action Team, SWAT, of the Alabang chapter visited and distributed relief goods and clothing to about 241 families at the Pinatubo relocation area in Sta. Ines, Pampanga, last Dec. 27, 1992. The relief assistance was coordinated through the parish priest of Mabalacat, Pampanga.

The team was headed by Freddie Pe Benito and accompanied by chapter head Pete and Rose Padre. The team members on the visit were Tony Espedido, Ralle and Bing Ramirez, Emil and Marriette Paz, Ferdie, Jojo and Andy Baena, Caloy Pineda, Roger Gonzales and doctors Roger and Fe Ramos who extended medical check-up services.

Getting The Right Start

1993 ushered in new beginnings for the Alabang Ladies' Breakfast. The ladies started the year with a fellowship held on Saturday, January 9, at the Acacia Room of the Alabang Country Club. About 80 women, including a guest from Indonesia, attended the morning of fun and games. In order to give everyone an opportunity to get to know more sisters, table assignments were given, and during breakfast the ladies had ample time to introduce themselves to each other telling something about their families.

There were lots of prizes that had been donated by brothers and sisters of the Alabang chapter for the winners of the games. Nene Tayag and Josie Carballo who co-emceed the morning's activities said that the games tested how well the women knew each other, beginning with the knowing of each others' names, as well as how well they worked as a team.

(cont. on p. 5)

ALABANG NEWSBREAK

Some Things I Learned About Children

April R. Javier, Alabang Chapter

I accepted Tito Ferdie's challenge to direct the children's Christmas play without the slightest hesitation. You see, I like plays, I like directing, I like Christmas, and I like children. "This should be fun," I thought. Immediately I set a schedule and mapped out a plan according to everything I've learned from my drama electives and workshops and from years of watching plays. "This should be easy," I enthused.

What I experienced, however, had nothing to do with plays nor Christmas. And hardly anything I've learned from the theater prepared me for directing that show.

I first met the kids for auditions. Finding good actors and actresses in that pack by practicing Christmas carols was not a problem. The script called for 3 girls and 4 boys only but I couldn't resist their whimpers so I ended up with a cast of 11.

Huddled in a circle after a prayer, I briefly narrated to them the plot of the story. Then I laid out our rehearsal schedule and in a grave tone asked for their full cooperation. They sat quietly, attentive to my speech, and I smiled to myself thinking, "I am getting through to them." One boy then importantly asked, "Can I wear rubber shoes with my costume?" My jaw fell from my smile.

It took me two more rehearsals to realize that the kids did not pay attention to the story of the play. Neither did they care about how they looked nor sounded on stage. They were just happy to be on a stage with friends to play with.

Rehearsals gave me a chance to verify popular conceptions about children. That children have a very short attention span, that they are easily distracted, that they are hyperactive --- all true. But did you know?

(cont. on p. 5)

"The Christmas Child", presented by the Alabang Children's Formation, was the focal point of the chapter's Christmas breakfast.



From The Children's Corner

Christmas season '92 was a busy one for the children's formation members of Alabang chapter.

After practicing every Saturday in November, the group received the "Most Harmonious" award during the Children's Choir Festival on Nov. 29 at the BCBP Bazaar. A repeat performance generated enthusiastic applause during the Alabang chapter's Christmas breakfast on Dec. 11. It was also during the Christmas breakfast that the children presented the play "The Christmas Child" directed by April Javier (Youth Formation).

In the afternoon of Dec. 20, the Alabang children trouped to visit the children at the St. Rita Orphanage where individually wrapped gifts were distributed. From the orphanage, they "caroled" at the unit Christmas parties of unit leaders Magbanua, Cortes and Carballo.

The children's concluding activity for the season on Dec. 22 was a party hosted by chapter head Pete and Rose Padre at the Padre's residence. Present at the party were Louie and Lily Morales and other Alabang brothers and sisters.

The Children's Formation would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for generously supporting their activities.



The children at St. Rita's Orphanage respond to the Children's Formation caroling with their rendition of Christmas songs.



The Christmas spirit is high during the gift giving time at the Orphanage.

The Things I Learned...

from page 4

1. At least one kid must go to the bathroom every 10 minutes.
2. Kids have energy to run all day but tire easily by sitting still.
3. Elephants have better memory than kids.
4. They don't eat well when they order from a menu.
5. Their appetite infallibly returns upon spying a snack counter.

Being a child a heart, I thought I had kids all figured out. There is still much I have to learn about children I now admit. Against everything I've read and heard about them, there is nothing like spending time with them to discover what is going on in their heads. To be able to understand their actions. To see what is around us through their eyes. After all, don't you think it's simply wonderful how children can go about a play and not worry about the story as long as they are on stage with friends to play with?

If only we can move along as worry-free in our stage of life and be as happy with what we have been given ... just like children.

Come, Celebrate With Us!

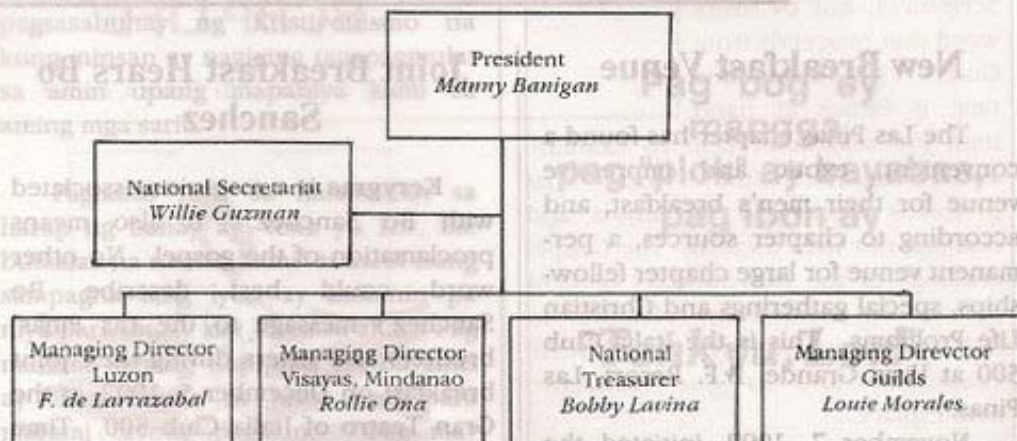
The Alabang Children's Formation celebrates their 5th Anniversary on the 3rd Saturday of February '93.

Getting the Right Start...

from page 3

The two-fold objectives of the Ladies Breakfast are to (1) evangelize newcomers, and (2) promote sisterhood among the women members. In line with these objectives, the program for the year will include a variety of activities, such as sharings, teachings, special workshops and fellowships. What an exciting year ahead awaits the Alabang ladies!

THE BCBP GOVERNMENT



THE NEW BCBP ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

On July 3, 1992, Fr. Herb Schneider announced the reorganization of the Brotherhood of Christian Businessmen and Professionals, specifically at the national level, in response to the need for a more structured BCBP organization to meet the vision and mission of the BCBP. The last half of the year was spent in setting up, staffing and streamlining the BCBP organization. What, then, does this new BCBP organizational structure look like?

A National Council has been formed to govern the overall activities of the Brotherhood. Manny Banigan is the president of the Nat'l Council. The four members of the council are Fernando de Larrazabal, Managing Director for Luzon, Rollie Ona, Managing Director for the Visayas and Mindanao, Louie Morales, Managing Director for the Guilds, and Bobby Lavina, National Treasurer. Willie Guzman, head of the national BCBP secretariat, assists the council. Rollie Ona has the additional responsibility of being the Corporate Secretary for the Brotherhood.

The managing directors are tasked with coordinating and strengthening the BCBP chapters within their respective areas of responsibility. The

managing director for the guilds is responsible for establishing business and professional guilds among the BCBP members as a means of helping transform the marketplace.

In addition to the above responsibilities, each member of the National Council has been asked to serve as an advisor for one of the Metro Manila chapters. Bobby Lavina is advisor to Quezon City chapter, Larry de Larrazabal to Greenhills chapter, Manny Banigan to Makati chapter, Louie Morales to Las Pinas chapter and Rollie Ona to Alabang chapter.

The Managing Director for Luzon (or the Visayas and Mindanao) sits as chairman of the Chapter Directorate which is composed of the chapter heads of the chapters in his respective area of responsibility. The chapter directorate will meet regularly to exchange ideas and coordinate efforts in bringing the BCBP's mission and vision into the marketplace.

Since the promotion of several of the former chapter heads to the national level, new chapter heads have been designated for the Metro Manila chapters. They are: Pete Padre - Alabang, Joey Estagle - Las Pinas, Jess Manalo - Makati, Rollie Aberion - Greenhills, and Benjie Quinto - Quezon City.

LAS PINAS CHRONICLE

New Breakfast Venue

The Las Pinas chapter has found a convenient, exotic and impressive venue for their men's breakfast, and according to chapter sources, a permanent venue for large chapter fellowships, special gatherings and Christian Life Programs. This is the Italia Club 500 at Vista Grande, B.F. Resort, Las Pinas.

November 7, 1992, initiated the venue for the men's breakfast in the Italia Club's Impresario room. Now every Saturday, the brothers gather for breakfast and fellowship in this stylish country club.

CLP Commitment Night

On the feast day of St. Catherine of Laboure, November 28, 1992, CLP 20 participants celebrated their Commitment Night at the Gran Teatro of Italia Club 500 as the new members of the Brotherhood renewed and pledged themselves to be followers of Christ. They committed to make their lives available for service to the Lord and to live as Christian businessmen and professionals. As one by one the graduates answered the call, the audience realized that the Lord of the Harvest had heard their prayers and brought them more workers for the marketplace.

The night also occasioned the appointment of Rene/Lulu Leandro as the unit leader couple for the new BCBP members of CLP 20. Romy and Nel Oller were designated as course leader team for CLP 20.

Joint Breakfast Hears Bo Sanchez

Kerygma is a magazine associated with Bo Sanchez. It also means proclamation of the gospel. No other word could best describe Bo Sanchez's message to the Las Pinas' brothers and sisters during their joint breakfast on December 5, 1992, at the Gran Teatro of Italia Club 500. Time seemed suspended as each and every hearer of the way the power of the Holy Spirit worked in Bo's life prayed that some of this power would likewise change his/her life.

Weekly Bible Study Series

The Las Pinas chapter is sponsoring a 16-week bible study course which will be conducted by Fr. Gerry Tapiador at the Magallanes Parish Center every Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. Session #1 began on January 12. The course as explained by Fr. Gerry in his orientation session is an overview and explanation of the biblical foundations of Christian doctrine.

Awards are being given out during Commitment Night of CLP 20.



WELCOME CLP 20!

Tony/Linda Cantor
Art/Nori Plazo
Joe/Glo Chave
Greg/Gina Romer
Carole Jocson
Mags Panga
Rudy Fernandez
Sol Advincula
Dindo/Lot Tanchoco

Gerry/Remy Castillo
Ed/Ginny Qulazon
Tito/Jackie Fernandez
Jullus Aguas
Nanette Legasp
Jim/Sandra Agbayani
Manolo/Selbs Picornell
Jess/Shirley Garcia
Eddie/Linda Tirado

Romy/Gle de Leon
Vos/Lette Suarez
Mon/Josie Mateo
Ver Jazul
Pauline Mockon
Bong/Joy Valdes
Met/Del Rebutica
Fred/Lotta Perdon
Ding/Cory Mendoza



The Las Pinas brothers and sister mingle with the Mt. Pinatubo evacuees

Relief Goods To Zambales

A caravan of three vans from Las Pinas chapter zoomed way out of Manila to Zambales on the Feast Day of the Immaculate Conception, Dec. 8, 1992, to bring the chapter's collected relief goods to Gala Sa Katihan, a relief center near Subic and San Marcelino, Zambales. The caravan's members were Joey/Tess Estagle, Lito/Chit Francisco, Ric/Lina Gloria, Pons/Girlie Fallarme, Ernie/Lalet dela Cruz, Pete Bertis and Rod Boquiren.

Around 150 families encamped at Gala sa Katihan welcomed the food, dried fish, clothes and medicines that were distributed. Children were clothed, the sick comforted and given medicines.

Pervading over the entire area was the presence of Mt. Pinatubo's rivers and deserts of Lahar. The resulting hunger, disease and poverty etched in the faces of the settlement families deeply affected the Las Pinas brothers and sisters. On their way back to Manila the group pondered on the "what" and "how" of ways to more permanently help Mt. Pinatubo victims.

You can preach a better sermon with your life than with your lips.

LAS PINAS CHRONICLE

St. Thomas Aquinas Book Club Formed

On Dec. 27, 1992 interested members of the Las Pinas chapter met at the residence of Joey and Tess Estagle to organize a Book Club. After discussing the club's organizational guidelines prepared by the club's coordinator Bong Loderio, the group formulated these objectives: the book club shall provide opportunities for intellectual, spiritual and social growth for BCBP members, and be an intellectual platform for attracting new members into the BCBP.

The Book Club's activities for 1993 include monthly meetings at which members will review and discuss at least one book a month, the preparation of book reviews and movies for publication in the KAPATIRAN, and the sponsoring of an annual literary competition among BCBP members.

Placed at the disposal of the Book Club are some 2000 volumes from the libraries of BCBP brothers and sisters with subject matters ranging from scriptures, theology, philosophy, literature, classics, Nobel prize writings, history, biography, science and math, etc. Anyone interested in joining the St. Thomas Aquinas Book Club may contact Bong Loderio at tel. 521-8723 or 58-59-06 or see him at the St. Thomas More Law Center, Room 209, Don Santiago Bldg, Taft Ave. in front of PGH, Ermita, Manila.

Governance Team Draws Up 1993 Plans

After the sharing of Bo Sanchez the Las Pinas chapter governance team held a chapter planning session. Presided over by chapter head Joey Estagle, the team brainstormed and drew up chapter plans, actions and objectives for the year 1993. BCBP national president Manny Banigan reiterated the vision and mission of the Brotherhood as the directive principle for these plans.

Each group spelled out its programs for the year. Rem Gopez of the Mission Team is eyeing several outreach openings. The Formation Team under Perry Domingo has lined up a 16-week Bible Study that will be given by Fr. Gerry Tapiador (this began January 12), with a BCMR scheduled for early February. Mon Malinao of

the Teaching Team looks forward to training more and more effective leaders and teachers for marketplace evangelization.

The Service Support Group under Lito Francisco has retained the traditional beehive of activities for 1993 with the addition of the organization of a book club that will be a recruiting center for potential BCBP members while at the same time will act to provide opportunities for brothers and sisters to widen their intellectual, spiritual and social horizons. The St. Thomas Aquinas Book Club will be coordinated by Bong Loderio.

The Secretariat under Milton Mendoza will issue a special BCBP calendar of activities for the whole of 1993. Preparations are afoot for holding CLP 21 beginning Feb. 6 at the Impresario room of Italia Club 500, reported course leader Romy Oller.

Las Pinas 1993 Governance Team

Chapter Head	Joey Estagle
Mission Team	Rem Gopez
Teaching Team Head	Mon Malinao
Formation Team Head	Perry Domingo
Service Support Group Head	Lito Francisco
Breakfast Coordinators	Frank/Marisa Nuguid
Secretariat Head	Milton Mendoza
Treasurer	Pons Fallarme
Chapter Adviser	Louie Morales
Unit Leaders	Milo Panlilio, Jimmy Porciuncula
	Rudy Eco, Rene Leandro

The Silence of Prayer

Souls of prayer are souls of great silence. We cannot put ourselves directly in the presence of God if we do not practice internal and external silence. We need silence of the tongue in order to hear God speak, silence of the eyes which will always help us to see God, silence of the mind and of the heart to bring us closer to our Lord. The essential thing is not what we say but what God says to us and through us. In this silence we will find new energy and true unity - the energy of God, and unity with his thoughts, his prayers and his actions - the unity of our life with his life.

Mother Teresa, "Jesus, the Word to be Spoken"

QUEZON CITY NEWS

Q.C. Couple Win Free Trip To Hongkong

During the RFM Christmas Breakfast hosted by Joey Concepcion last December 18, 1992, some members of the Quezon City chapter won prizes in the Christmas raffle sponsored by RFM President Joey Concepcion. The Con-dura refrigerator was won by a couple from Cosmos Bottling Corporation, a subsidiary of RFM Corporation. The grand prize, a free trip for two to Hongkong, was won by Dodo and Jon-jon Sta. Maria, members of the chapter's mission team and the music ministry.

The Q.C. chapter mission team presented a Christmas song and dance number to the delight of everyone at the roof deck of the RFM Corporation building. Sharers during the occasion were Tony and Sarah Panahon. Mr. Joey Concepcion delivered the Christmas message. The Christmas breakfast was well attended by BCBP brothers and sisters from different Metro Manila chapters who joyfully fellowshiped with the managers of the RFM group of companies.

CLP 21 To Start Feb. 8

The Quezon City chapter will open its first Christian Life Program for 1993 with the usual orientation session on Saturday, February 6, 1993. Final venue for the CLP will be announced, although according to chapter mission coordinator Roy Calleja, venues being considered are Sacro Costato and the Church of Divine Mercy in Sikatuna Village.

Course leaders for this CLP, CLP 21, are Noli and Bong Tiongson, with Pete and Del Ignacio as assistant course leaders. Servant couple are Jojo and Weng Odina. Discussion group leaders are: Pancho/Nanette Jamlig, Oca/Helen Ongkiko, Fred/Ditas Medina, Louie/Susan Ferrer, and Alex/Lulu Brillantes.



Joey Concepcion gives Christmas message during Jan. 18 RFM breakfast.



Tony and Sarah Panahon share their testimony at the RFM Christmas breakfast.



RFM breakfast goers listen intently to the sharers.

Anniversary Breakfast on Feb. 13

The Men's and Ladies' Breakfasts of the Q.C. chapter will hold a joint breakfast on Saturday, February 13 at their regular breakfast venue, the Aberdeen Court Restaurant, 1403 Quezon Ave., Q.C. to celebrate the chapter's breakfast anniversary. Details of the program will be announced on Feb. 6 during the regular men's breakfast of the chapter.

PROCEDURE FOR

from p. 2

4. There must be an evaluation of the growth potential for the proposed outreach. Information could be obtained from the local Chamber of Commerce or from various trade associations, which can indicate the size of the economy in the area.

5. A local core group of at least fifteen couples should be organized. This number is essential in order for the group to build enthusiasm among themselves and invite other prospective members; otherwise, breakfasts and CLPs may not have the attraction to get others interested. Starting a breakfast and a CLP simultaneously has proven successful in some outreaches.

6. The sponsoring chapter must have sufficient trained manpower resources to adequately provide initial sharers and the staff to man the CLP.

7. The sponsoring chapter must have or be able to raise up the necessary funds to start the operations.

8. If the sponsor is an outreach, an approval, as well as a commitment from the supervising Chapter to assume responsibilities to help the sponsoring outreach, is required.

9. At this point the entire file of the proposed outreach containing the above detailed information is forwarded to the National Council for action. Only after the Council has acted and approved the proposal will the sponsor start actual operations in the outreach. Action by the National Council will be made within two weeks.

10. As a public relations gesture, the bishop and/or the parish priest should be invited to the start-up operations of the new outreach.

BACOLOD NEWSBEAT

On January 23, 1993, the BCBP Bacolod Outreach became a full-fledged chapter, the eighth BCBP chapter in the Philippines. Read all about it in the next issue of the KAPATIRAN.

PROCEDURE FOR APPOINTING A CHAPTER

The sponsor (the supervising or "mother" chapter) is required to provide the National Council the following information in order for the Council to approve and formally appoint a chapter.

1. The sponsored outreach should have at least a minimum of 150 members who have completed the CLPs, the Culture Talks, the BCMRs, and for the leaders, the necessary training to take over the leadership responsibilities. The outreach must be able to stand on its own merits, without any outside assistance. This is essential for smooth running of their organization, and especially so, if they, in turn, plan to have their own outreach.

2. The sponsored outreach must have been in operation for at least two years and is fully integrated into the overall BCBP system.

3. The sponsored outreach must independently be able to fund their operations and pay the chapter dues to the BCBP's National Government.

4. The appointment of the Chapter Head is to be made by the National Council, based on the recommendations of the sponsoring chapter. If there are several outreach members who meet the high standards for chapter head, then bio-datas of each should be submitted for final choice by the National Council.

1992 Capsules

August. The month started with the commitment night of the second CLP in Iloilo. A group of brothers and sisters from Bacolod ferried to Iloilo to attend. Course leader Toti Diaz of Bacolod gave the commitment talk. A week later BCMR #2 was held with Lito and Edith Urgino serving as couple-retreat master; 27 couples from Bacolod and 3 from Iloilo participated. The last day of the BCMR was climaxed by a Re-Commitment Assembly for the whole community. Toward the end of the month, the CLP training sessions began.

September. The exchange of sharers between the Bacolod Outreach and the Cebu Chapter resumed with Bill Dixon as the first sharer from Cebu. On September 19 and 20, all Bacolod members attended a 2-day recollection, with the second day exclusively for the leadership team. The month ended with the start of CLP #6 with unit leader Nene and Lyn Gamboa as course leaders.

October. A leadership training session was conducted by Bo Sanchez and the Bacolod BCBP was asked by the Renewal Commission to organize the half-day affair. About 150 leaders from 7 renewal groups attended. The Iloilo Men's Breakfast celebrated its first anniversary on October 17 with a delegation from Bacolod in attendance. The couple sharer for the joint breakfast were Mari and Chichi Martinez of the Cebu Chapter.

Two days after, the members of the Governance Team held a 1-day recollection at the prawn farm of Tutay and Marissa Corral. It was a very significant day for the Lord touched those attending in a very special way. His message to the group was from Rev. 2:4: "You have forsaken your first love." It was a command for the leaders to love and serve one another as they had done in the early days of the Outreach. It was also a reminder that they would have to take the lead and set the example in all things. The month ended with the BCBP Singles assisting the CYA team from Manila in conducting a Crossroads Retreat.

November. The Baptism in the Holy Spirit for CLP #6 was held on November 21 for the 28 couples and 6 widows taking the course. Actually, it was a joint activity with the BCBP Singles who were holding a separate CLP for 31 male singles. This is in line with the singles' development year as they prepare for their becoming a Lingkod ng Panginoon group in Bacolod. The commitment night for the couples was scheduled for December 12, 1992.

5. Once the outreach has been approved for chapter appointment, there will be formal ceremonies held at an appropriate time with representatives from the sponsoring or "mother" chapter and members of the National Council present. The new chapter will then commence to function as a fully recognized BCBP chapter with the chapter head sitting as a member in his respective Chapter Directorate.

**DEADLINE FOR
SUBMISSION
OF NEWS, ARTICLES,
SHARINGS AND
ADVERTISEMENTS
FOR APRIL-MAY
KAPATIRAN IS
MARCH 5**

A joyful heart is the health of the body. *Prov. 17:22*

MAKATI UPDATE

Jess Manalo New Chapter Head

Makati chapter head Rollie Ona formally announced the appointment of Jess Manalo as the new chapter head during the chapter's prayer assembly on Friday, January 15. Rollie will be assuming new responsibilities on the National Council of the BCBP.

During the assembly, Jess Manalo discussed some of the plans for the chapter for 1993. Foremost is the finalization of the streamlining of the chapter's organization that has been ongoing since September 1992.

A chapter secretariat has been organized headed by Jules Villamor, with Manny Bade handling the Treasury and Ogie Angeles and Chito Zabarte Plans and Programs. News and Information Head is Annie Salvador.

Ronnie Caballero takes over as Mission Director to be assisted by Vic Cuna. Jun Catan will handle the outreach program, particularly the Navy and military outreaches. CLP program head is Joey Aranaz. Eddie Go is the new Men's Breakfast Head while Annie Salvador continues as Ladies' Breakfast Head.

Chapter Life Director will be concurrently handled by Jess Manalo, assisted by Art Olarte who will be responsible for coordinating the unit leaders. Jun and Beth Ginete are in charge of BCBP-wide activities, assisted by Nards and Donna de Guzman.

The chapter's service team is headed by Cheng and Lucy Legaspi; they are assisted by Mike and Mee Reyes. Appointed to head the following teams are: Alex/Ester Uychoco - Music Ministry; Virgie Carino and Cynthia Gaite - Service Group; Popy/Susan Vasquez - Venues and Chito Constantino - Property Management.

Andy and Odette Nanagas head the Life Support Program team that handles arrangements for chapter assemblies, recollections, Lord's Day and liturgical services for the chapter.

Question And Answer Corner

F. de Lorrazabal

Death or Life

Q - The Church's stand is against the death penalty, but I am personally for it. However, it bothers me to think that I may be wrong. What is your opinion?

Bothered

Dear Bothered,

The Church has not taken an official stand either for or against the death penalty, although some Church authorities are against it. They quote God's fifth commandment - "Thou shall not kill." Some catechisms quote the same commandment in a slightly different language - "Thou shall not commit murder." On the surface both appear identical, but are they?

Killing in self-defense and killing to protect the lives of loved ones, or killing in a just and righteous war is permitted by the Church. It appears that there are just and unjust killings. Where does one draw the line? This brings us to another question - does the state have the right to exercise its authority to punish offenders of heinous crimes, with death? I believe the answer lies in the reply of Jesus found in Matthew 22:21, "Then give to Caesar what is Caesar's, but give to God what is God's." Here he gives the state the authority, when it comes to mundane affairs.

The bible has this to say about the death penalty, "If a man strikes another with an iron instrument and causes his death, he is a murderer and shall be put to death." (Numbers 35:16) Reading further through verse 21, there are five different situations where the Lord justifies the death penalty. In the same chapter, verses 31 through 34 he further expounds situations where a murderer deserves the death penalty.

In answer to your question, it is my honest opinion that the death penalty is not only proper, but a duty that the state reserves to protect the innocent.

I Absolve You

Q - Some friends who have left the Catholic Church ridicule my going to the sacrament of confession. They claim that only God has the power to forgive sins. They question why I can't confess directly to him. How will I answer them?

Lita

Dear Lita,

Catholics are often challenged and accused of usurping the power of God when a priest ministers the sacrament of Confession (Reconciliation or Penance). Some of these separated brothers consider this blasphemous because God alone can forgive sins. The Catholic Church has never claimed that she can forgive sins. The Church forgives sins by the power of Jesus. In human terminology, we can say Jesus gave the Church his Power-of-Attorney, where he empowers his Church to act in his behalf. The priest

(Continued on next page)

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS....

from page 10

absolves sin only through the power granted the Church by Jesus Christ. In effect, it is Jesus and not the priest who forgives sin.

Let me further elaborate by quoting Jesus, "As the Father has sent me, so I send you." (John 20:21) By this statement he transfers the authority vested in him by the Father, to his apostles. He follows this statement by giving the apostles the power - "Receive the Holy Spirit. (John 20:22) With this authority and empowerment Jesus now instructs them, "If you forgive men's sins, they are forgiven them; if you hold them bound, they are held bound." (John 20:23).

In this gospel of John, Jesus clearly and authoritatively empowers the Church to forgive or retain sins. This explanation should suffice but unfortunately, some will still continue to question the Church.

If they are real friends, they should respect your beliefs as you should respect theirs. If they should continue bugging you, I suggest that you avoid them and find other friends who can respect your beliefs.

Should you have any issues you would like clarified or questions you would like to ask, we encourage you to send them in to the KAPATIRAN's "Question and Answer Corner" c/o The Editor.

Good thoughts are beautiful flowers,
promoting good deeds and making others
happy, thereby enriching our lives and
bringing us happiness.

Author Unknown

The most natural beauty in the world is
honesty and moral truth. For all beauty
is truth.

Shaftesbury

A child is not a vessel to be filled,
but a lamp to be lighted.

Author Unknown

BCBP BREAKFAST VENUES

MEN'S BREAKFASTS

- Wednesdays** MAKATI : Beverly Hills Deli, Greenbelt
DAGUPAN : Pinkee's Restaurant
(1st, 3rd Wed. only)
- Thursdays** GREENHILLS : Club Filipino, Greenhills
- Fridays** MANILA : Savory, Escolta cor. Jones
RFM: RFM Bldg., Pioneer St.,
Mandaluyong
- Saturdays** ALABANG : Ayala-Alabang Country Club
BACOLOD : Roli's Drive-in Restaurant
CAINTA-MARIKINA: Shakey's
Sta. Lucia East Commercial
Marcos Highway, Cainta
CEBU : Fernando's Sunburst Restaurant
ILOILO : Amigo Terraces Hotel
LAS PINAS: Italia Club 500,
Vista Grande, B.F. Resort, Las Pinas
QUEZON CITY :
Aberdeen Court Restaurant,
1403 Quezon Ave., Q.C.
PALAWAN : Kamayan Restaurant
TAGBILARAN : JJ Seafood House
(2nd, 4th Sat. only)

6:15 FELLOWSHIP

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

JOINT BREAKFASTS

- 1st**
Wednesdays MAKATI : Beverly Hills Deli
Saturdays LAS PINAS: Italia Club 500,
Vista Grande, B.F. Resort, Las Pinas

LADIES' BREAKFASTS

- 2nd Wednesdays** MAKATI : Nandau Restaurant, Greenbelt
2nd Saturdays ALABANG : Ayala-Alabang Country Club
BACOLOD : Cozy Nook Restaurant
CAGAYAN DE ORO : Kundiman
Restaurant
QUEZON CITY :
Aberdeen Court Restaurant,
1403 Quezon Ave., Q.C.
Las Pinas: Italia Club 500,
Vista Grande, B.F. Resort, Las Pinas
3rd Saturdays CEBU : Fernando's Sunburst Restaurant
Last Saturdays ILOILO : Amigo Terraces Hotel

LADIES' LUNCHEONS

- 3rd Thursday** GREENHILLS : Beijing Gardens,
Shaw Blvd.
(Center for Peace)
3rd Saturdays DAGUPAN : Pinkee's Restaurant

The BCBP children from each chapter sang



... and played the drums ...



... and danced



... rejoicing in the Lord ...



Happy Birthday, Jesus!





The name of the game is
B-I-N-G-O



Hinda Pa Kami Laos!



B
C
B
P
B
A
Z
A
A
R



Look who's on
candid camera?



'92

A day full of fellowship, fun, bargains and of course, FOOD!



What Gifts Has The Holy Spirit Given You?

As members of the Brotherhood of Christian Businessmen and Professionals we have all received the baptism of the Holy Spirit. During this experience of being prayed over for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit into our lives, we were asked if there were any particular gifts of the Spirit that we would like to receive. And from the sharings during commitment night and in our action groups later on, we know that many, if not all of us were blessed with these gifts.

This is one way that the Holy Spirit reveals his presence in our lives - through the gifts that He bestows on us. We can marvel and wonder as we remember the first time we prayed over a member of the family and he was healed, or the time that we fervently prayed for relief from financial

difficulties and the next day the exact amount of money we needed was received. Or on our son's birthday, instead of the 20 people expected for lunch, more than 60 showed up and the food multiplied and multiplied!

Many Are The Gifts

These instances of experiencing the gifts of miracles, of healing and of faith (intercessory prayer) are fairly ordinary occurrences in the Catholic charismatic renewal. But I believe that many of us do not really realize the wide array of gifts that the Holy Spirit has in store for us. Do we consider being able to serve others, or having a knack of encouraging others to live as Christians or sharing our time, money and possessions with the

less fortunate as gifts of the Holy Spirit? Many of us don't and, yet, the scriptures, the Word of God, tells us that they are His gifts.

The prophet Isaiah gives us the first list of seven gifts available to those who follow Jesus: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord. (Isaiah 11:2-3) St. Paul presents us a list of nine gifts of the Spirit in 1 Cor. 12:4-11. Although these are the more commonly known lists of gifts of the Holy Spirit, there are references to other gifts throughout the New Testament. You may refer to the accompanying table listing some of the more common spiritual gifts and their biblical references.

(cont. on p. 15)

A LISTING OF COMMON SPIRITUAL GIFTS Found in the New Testament

Administration	the ability to direct God's people and manage God's work wisely; giving direction and control to the work of the Church (<i>Rom. 12:8; Exo. 18:13-27</i>)
Apostleship	the ability to preach the gospel and set up Christian communities; being a pioneering missionary (<i>Eph. 4:11</i>)
Discernment	being able to distinguish truth from error; the ability to know if a prophecy or message in tongues really comes from God or not (<i>1 Cor. 6:1-5; 12:10; Heb. 5:14</i>)
Encouragement	encouraging and persuading people to follow God's Will; may be used to challenge, to rebuke, to urge and to comfort (<i>Rom. 12:8; 2 Cor. 1:3-4</i>)
Evangelism	being able to effectively communicate the gospel and to witness to others about Christ (<i>Acts 1:8; Eph. 4:11</i>)
Faith	trusting God to meet the needs of His people and His work no matter what obstacles there may be; includes the gift of intercessory prayer (<i>1 Cor. 12:9; Heb. 11; James 5:15</i>)
Healing	being able to cure physical and emotional illnesses (<i>1 Cor. 12:9; James 5:14-16</i>)
Interpretation of Tongues	the ability to translate the spiritual truths uttered by a person speaking in tongues (<i>1 Cor. 12:10; 1 Cor. 14</i>)
Knowledge	the ability to study, learn and organize spiritual truths so that they'll be useful in God's work, does not necessarily include teaching (<i>1 Cor. 12:8</i>)

(cont. on p. 15)

Building Up The Body of Christ

St. Paul teaches us that the main purpose of the gifts of the Spirit is to build up the church - the body of Christ. (1 Cor. 12:7) Vatican II's "Dogmatic Constitution on the Church" states:

It is not only through the sacraments and Church ministries that the Holy Spirit sanctifies and leads the people of God and enriches it with virtues. Allotting His gifts "to everyone according as he wills", He distributes special graces among the faithful of every rank. By these gifts He makes them fit and ready to undertake the various tasks and offices advantageous for the renewal and up-building of the Church... These charismatic gifts, whether they be the most outstanding or the more simple and widely diffused, are to be received with thanksgiving and con-



solation, for they are exceedingly suitable and useful for the needs of the Church. (no. 12)

Each one of us, and all of us collectively, then have the great responsibility of knowing what gifts the Holy Spirit has given us and of using these gifts not merely for our personal gratification but for the strengthening of the Body of Christ - the Church, our parish, the Brotherhood of Christian Businessmen and Professionals.

Why Are We Not Using The Gifts?

In a National Service Committee newsletter some years ago, BCBP

Spiritual Director Fr. Herb Schneider observed that "there are many, many charismatic prayer groups that hardly experience and exercise the gifts, except one. Many of the groups have received a wonderful gift of praise and worship. ... But one hardly hears a prophetic word, a message in tongues with interpretation or a simple short, inspired word of encouragement or exhortation. Can this be one of the reasons why some groups do not grow, but survive for a while and then slowly dwindle and fade out?"

In our chapter assemblies and in our action group meetings, how often do we hear a prophetic word, or a word of wisdom, or a message in tongues with interpretation? Perhaps we are not exercising the gifts available to us because we simply do not understand these gifts very well.

Take for instance, the gift of prophecy... It is a common belief that

(cont. on p.16)

LISTING OF COMMON.....

from p. 14

Miracles	performing special works that can't be explained by laws of nature (1 Cor. 12:10; Mark 16:17-18)
Prophecy	speaking the Word of God clearly and persuasively leading people to obey God; speaking to men for edification, giving help, encouragement and comfort; giving a special revelation or new truth from God (1 Cor. 14:3, 24)
Serving	helping others in the practical work of the Church; showing spiritual responsibility to fellow Christians (Rom. 12:7; Acts 6:1-6; 1 Peter 4:11)
Sharing	earning and giving money and possessions for the needs of God's people and God's work; the gift of being sensitive to the needs of others and generous in helping meet these needs (Rom. 12:8; 2 Cor. 8, 9; Luke 6:34-38)
Shepherding	the ability to lead people into a life of Christian service (John 10:1-16; 1 and 2 Timothy)
Showing Mercy	comforting and helping those in need, especially in a physical way like nursing the sick, feeding the poor (Rom. 12:8; Luke 10:30-37)
Teaching	being able to understand and explain God's Word clearly to others (Rom. 12:7; 1 Tim. 4:11-16)
Tongues	the ability to express spiritual truths in languages or sounds not understood by the speaker; almost always praising God rather than preaching or prophecy; considered different than praying in tongues (1 Cor. 12:10; 1 Cor. 14)
Wisdom	the ability to apply the knowledge of God's Word in specific situations in the work of the Lord (1 Cor. 12:8; Prov. 8 and 9; 1 Cor. 2:1-16)

GREENHILLS BULLETIN

CLP 19 Graduates 33

Thirty-three participants successfully completed the Greenhills chapter's Christian Life Program 19 during commitment night ceremonies on Dec. 5, 1992 at the RVM Convent. In the Spirit-filled ambience, chapel lights were turned off after the Holy Mass for the candle-lit welcome ceremony.

After the group presentations and sharings that included a video of how the CLP had changed the participants' lives, awards (complete set of song books) were given to those who had had perfect attendance; BCBP stickers were also distributed. The new BCBP members were formally welcomed into the chapter during the January 15 chapter assembly.

The CLP 19 team leader was Willie Pelino, ably assisted by Yette Herrera. Roy Siojo headed the service team.

Marikina-Cainta Breakfast Opened

A new BCBP breakfast venue was opened last November 21, Saturday, at Shakey's Restaurant in Sta. Lucia East Commercial along Marcos Highway in Cainta. A melting pot, this breakfast venue intersects the four municipalities of Cainta, Marikina, Antipolo and Quezon City and targets the businessmen and professionals residing in these four towns.

The 69 men who attended the first breakfast included first-timers from the area and regular BCBP members from the Greenhills and Quezon City chapters. This latest breakfast is actually a joint project of Greenhills and Quezon City.

Welcome CLP 19!

Giler Cabral
Jette/Myra Gavino
Nanny/Jenny Lim
Jun/Hayns Prudente
Bobby/Edna Sandico
Jun/Dory Igoy
Manny/Josie De Jesus
Dante/Cora Magdangal
Franco/Bang Chingcuanco
Oca/Dessa Cruz
Edgar/Dona Padilla
Virgilio/Josie Raymundo
Elmer/Cyril David
Jo/Merle Garcia
Rolly/Mila Jalilali
Badong/Robie Lagunda
Joey/Christie Evangelista

*PRAYER DIGS THE CHANNELS FROM THE RESERVOIR OF GOD'S BOUNDLESS
RESOURCES TO THE TINY POOLS OF OUR LIVES. - ANON.*

What Gifts Has the Holy Spirit Given You?

from p. 15

having the gift of prophecy means that you can tell what is going to happen in the future. Some of the O.T. prophets were really inspired to predict future events, but it is the other aspect of prophecy that manifests itself in the Church today. Prophecy today in charismatic gatherings is a message from God spoken clearly and persuasively, encouraging the group (the Body of Christ) to obey God perhaps in a certain area of spiritual growth. A prophecy always brings people closer to the mind of God.

What Is Your Gift?

God wants every Christian to discover his or her gift. How do we do this? By trying several kinds of Christian service, then asking ourselves these questions:

a. Do I feel comfortable using this gift?

b. Have others said that I seem to have this gift? Sometimes others recognize our gifts sooner than we do.

c. Does God bless others, especially the Body of Christ and the BCBP, when I use this gift?

d. Does use of this gift bring me a feeling of joy and peace?

If you can answer "yes" to all four questions, then you have discovered your gift! And remember, that most of us receive more than one gift. (1 Peter 4:10; 1 Cor. 12:7,11) We should also remember that some gifts are for everyday use (evangelism, serving, showing mercy, etc.) while others may be for a particular or special use (prophecy, tongues, miracles, discernment of spirits, etc.).

Using Our Spiritual Gifts

Above all, what is needed is our strong and unwavering faith that the Holy Spirit will provide us the gift that

we most need exactly when we most need it. We need to pray every morning when we awake that the Holy Spirit will make his gifts manifest in our lives during the day in a way that will build up and strengthen us personally, and, more importantly, the Body of Christ present in our families, our marketplace, our parish and in the BCBP.

During Christmas we received gaily wrapped packages. Did we open them immediately, or do we still look at them jumbled under the Christmas tree wondering what is in them? During our baptism in the Holy Spirit, we received the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Are we using these gifts, or are we still wondering if we really did receive any gift or not?

Receiving a gift is one thing. Opening and using the gift is another thing. Are we opening and using the spiritual gifts that the Holy Spirit has given us?

- Nancy R. Catan

Making Change Work

To make "change" work, there must be a positive climate for change in the workplace. To establish this climate:

- + Ask employees to suggest ideas for the next change just after the last change. This will reinforce change as the norm, get them to thinking in longer time spans and involve them more deeply in the entire change process.

- + Provide meaningful tasks, especially during the "change" period, that use employees' old skills. A person will accept change faster if he is able to transfer and adapt some of his old skills to the new task.

- + Provide constructive and immediate feedback about the positive - and negative, if any - effects of the change with systems in place for continuous improvement as the change proceeds. Research shows that about 50% of the performance problems that occur during a change are because employees aren't kept informed about what is happening.

- + Put employees on teams with others they don't know. This will provide valuable cross-learning.

- + Reward people for acting - not waiting until they have all the information. Reacting to the information available at the moment is a characteristic of success during change.

Source: *International Management Review*, Vol. 1, No. 11



"The cost of living doesn't bother me as much as the cost of borrowing."



"My previous experience was as a kindergarten teacher... you look a little tired—put your head down on your desk and rest a little while."



MEETINGS

Better Meetings

Set the size of the meeting to fit its purpose. The more individuals are expected to contribute, the smaller the meeting group should be. If a group is too large, contributions will be shallow or people will be left out.

If a meeting is for—

- Intensive problem solving
- Problem identification
- Informational reviews and presentations
- Motivational meetings

The ideal size is—

- 5 or fewer
- 10 or fewer
- up to 30
- no limit

Source: Lin Gensing, *A Small Business Guide to Employee Selection* (ISC Publishers)

From An Executive's Notebook

Organization Politics

People who move ahead in their companies or organizations usually make use of, consciously or unconsciously, some form of political savvy.

Patricia Fry in her article "Surviving Office Politics" (Encoders, Inc., Sept. 1992), describes this type of politics as being able to deal with people tactfully, knowing whom to count on to get something done, and knowing how to use what and whom you know in a positive way to reach your goal. Politics is simply being able to get things done by making friends, not by leaving enemies behind.

Organizational politics emphasizes the primary communication skills of knowing what to say and when to say it as well as listening intelligently and developing an intuitive sense - gut feeling - about what is really being said "between the lines".

An executive to get ahead should understand the structure of his company (or organization) so he can align his goals with its needs. He should be sensitive to what is going on, do something about it, and go the extra mile in helping move the organization forward in a positive way without giving in to the frustration of those who purposely or unconsciously throw roadblocks in his way.

A Word of Advice

SIRACH 8: 1-19

MY MATERNITY LEAVE or, How The Lord Spoke To Me

Maan Aragon, Quezon City Chapter

I gave birth last July 18, 1992 to an 8 lbs. baby girl by Caesarean section. As I got out of the hospital on the third day, the nightmare had already started.

It was on the day I gave birth that our househelp had left us. This left Ricky, my husband, and I, our 11-yr. old daughter and 2-yr. old son and the baby to fend for ourselves. Fears and anxiety flooded me. When Ricky left for work, I cared for the two younger children, fed the baby hourly and did the regular household chores such as washing, ironing, cleaning, and cooking, while still recovering from the C.S. Day in and day out the things to be done were never ending!

Our 2-yr. old found it difficult to no longer be the center of attention. Carla, our 11-yr. old, had problems being part of the work brigade and still finding time for her studies. Ricky and I were not spared our own quarrels and irritations. We didn't have time anymore for ourselves, even snatching time out for resting was a luxury. I couldn't wait to get back to work - away from these responsibilities and quarrels and unending routine.

Being in the Brotherhood for six years didn't spare Ricky and I this painful experience. Coming into my prayertime I would always wonder

why the Lord put us in this situation. Why did He allow us to go through both physical and emotional difficulties?

In search of answers I found myself opening further my venue of communication with the Lord by attending the Ladies' Breakfast after being absent for some time. I was touched by the sharing, her story seemed to be a replay of mine. What stuck in my mind were how committed she was to the Lord, how her priorities had changed, and most of all, how she had completely surrendered her life to the Lord and to her husband as well.

On my way out I chanced on the booktable and saw "One Heart Full of Love" by Mother Teresa. As I bought the book, I knew that what I needed was this kind of Love. And as I began reading the book, the Lord revealed himself to me in almost every passage. I felt my spirit uplifted and my relationship with Him growing stronger.

Tying all these events together, I realized then the answer to my questions. The Lord had given me this maternity leave to have time to reflect on my priorities.

Though I had been doing my role as a wife and mother, I realized that I

saw them as mere responsibilities and obligations. I had forgotten the most important ingredient - LOVE. As Mother Teresa aptly said, "Faith in action is love and love in action is service." I also pondered on the concept that for love to be real, it must involve the giving or sharing something of yourself, even to the point of pain. And for one to give true love, he/she has to be in union with God in prayer.

As I further reflected, true love does not have to be painful for us to give if we are in close relationship with the Lord for He will give us the grace and will to let our cup of Love just overflow and touch people. This capacity to love embraces also our openness to forgive and to ask forgiveness.

My mission became clearer. I first resolved to keep my prayertime regular. And to make all these commitments even stronger, I went to confession to purify myself of those sinful ways and attitudes which had separated me from the Lord. Only after thus preparing myself spiritually did I dialogue with Ricky on those things that we had taken for granted and I asked his forgiveness for my self-centeredness and insensitivity.

Now I can thank and praise the Lord for renewing me again in the vocation of LOVE He has given me - that of being a daughter of God, a wife and a mother. I thank Him for my maternity leave and all its trials for this experience has strengthened my faith allowing me to share with others the happiness, the peace and the love that I now enjoy.

Make Way For The Lord

Jane Manalo, Makati Chapter

"He will push you to serve and serve, neglecting your family and other obligations. He will provide you with noble reasons and the best of intentions until you trip yourself in his snare. On the other hand, self-condemnation, disguised as humility is likewise the devil's way of stopping you from growing in faith through service.

Thus, I have learned that the gift of discernment must always be

resorted to. And it is mainly through prayer and scripture reading that we can find our way clear of such "push-and-pull" distractions and step out in faith and in His service.

I still feel inadequate but I know that the Lord is always more than happy to receive the best and worst in me. I still get distracted and sometimes my priorities get jumbled but I know that when I turn to the Lord in prayer and in His Word, He will clear the way for me to serve Him as He wants me to serve Him.

We are often called to serve in the Brotherhood, in our parish and perhaps elsewhere. We want to serve but feel inadequate. Or we feel we must serve just because someone says we are needed. More often than not when we are faced with prioritizing we get to deviate from our original tasks as projects get derailed due to distractions.

In a talk my husband and I recently attended, the speaker said that if the evil one fails to distract in front of you, he will try to push you from behind.

Maghapon kaming magkasama sa bahay ng tatlong-taon kong anak na si Bibo (pinaikling Buhay Isaias B. Ocampo). Buhat nang mag-full time ako sa bahay noong 1990 ay laging kami na ang magkasama sa lakaran, sa pagsisimba, sa pamamalengke. Kabuntot ko siya saan man ako pumunta dahil wala naman akong mapag-liwanan.

Enjoy naman kaming pareho sa aming pagiging anino ng isa't isa. Ordinaryo sa amin na sasakay ako sa tren (dugtong-dugtong na silya) at magbabayad ako sa drayber; habang uminom ng gatas ay kakanta ako ng tono ng isang ads sa TV; bibilib ako sa pagtalon niya dahil siya si "Machoman" o si "Superman", depende kung ano any suot niyang damit.

Pero isama mo naman siya sa misa at mas nakasusunod pa siya sa pari kaysa sa mga malalaki nang lumalabas kung oras ng sermon at naninigarilyo na pagkatapos ng komunyong. Ayaw niyang maiwan kung pupunta kami sa prayer meeting at kuntodo de taas pa siya ng kamay sa pagkatana ng "Dalorens" [The Lord Reigns] at ng "Ama Namin." At basta mayroong maysakit sa amin, mauuna pa siya sa pagsasabing "Hamo, Pagagalingin ka ni Jesus" sabay unat ng kanyang kamay para mag-pray over sa iyo.

Mabilis pa nga siyang maka-discern dahil pagkagaling niya sa altar ("ipagdadasal kita ke Jesus") ay babalikan ka niya at sasabihing "Gagaling ka na. Sinabi ko na Kay Jesus na pagalingin ka Niya."

Ganoon kalaki any tiwala niya sa Diyos na ngayon ay unti-unti na niyang nalalabanan ang kanyang takot sa dilim. "Kasi matapang ang angel ko at lalabanan namin ang momo. At saka, huhulihin ko sila kasi pulis ako."

Lahat kami sa bahay, at pati na ang aming mga kapitbahay ay natutuwa

kay Bibo - una ay dahil sa kanyang kadalaldalan at matatas ng pagsasalita, at pangalawa ay sa nakaaaliw niyang pagsasabuhay ng Kristiyanismo na kung minsan ay nagiging tagapagmulat sa amin upang mapahiya kami sa aming mga sarili.

Paglabas niya sa halamanan sa harap ng bahay ay "tenk yu Lor, me bulaklak na naman kami" at kahit isang sampagita lang iyon ay kukunin pa niya para ibigay kay Jesus sa altar. Pag marami kaming napipitas na bayabas ay "Kasi regalo ni Jesus iyan para marami tayong pagkain." Pag may kumalabog na mangga sa likod ng bahay, "Yeecy, binigyan tayo ng mangga ni Lor, galing yan sa langit kasi mahal niya tayo."

At tila malakas naman yata ang coordination nila ng Holy Spirit na sa tunog pa lang ng mga nahuhulog sa likod-bahay at sa bubong ay alam na niya kung ano iyon. Nang humangin



Si Bibo at ang kanyang Papa Obet.

nang malakas at may tumunog sa bubong - "Ayun, bayabas! Pinahulog ni Lor para makakain na ako ny pam-palakas."

Biniro namin siya' na iyon ay mangga dahil malakas ang tunog. "Hindi! Pag 'plok' sa bubong e bayabas. Pag 'bog' sa likod, iyon ang mangga," paliwanag ni Bibo na patangu-tango pa.

Oo na sana dahil suko na kami na nabara kami nang gabing iyon. Pero

**Pag "bog" ay mangga,
pag "plok" ay bayabas,
pag ibon ay**

"Tenk yu, Lor!"

Nene Bondoc Ocampo,

Quezon City Chapter

Pinamugaran pala ng mga ibon ang mga uka ng puno kung kaya't maraming inakay ng maya. Parang condominium ng mga ibon na nag-silayas ang mga yaya/nanay kaya puro ang mga sisiyap-siyap na inakay ang nakuha namin.

Lahat kami ay tuwang-tuwa sa mga ibon lalo na si Bibo. Sarisari ang sinasabi at plano namin sa mga ibon na talagang abala ang mga utak namin. At noon kami naisahan na naman ni Bibo.

Nakatingala siyang hawak ang tatlong inakay. Naglululuntag siya habang malakas na sinasabing "Tenk yu Lor sa himulog mong mga ibon. Tenk yu Lor sa bigay mo

sa aming ibon. Masaya na kami. Tenk yu Lor! Tenk yu Lor!"

Oo nga naman. Plano na kami ng plano para sa pagpapalaki ng mga ibon ay ni hindi pa kami nag-papasalamat kay Lord.

Thank you, Lord, na ibinigay Mo sa aming pamilya si Bibo. Gaya ng nakasaad sa kanyang pangalan, siya ang nagbibigay-sigla sa amin; at sa maraming pagkakataon, siya ang ginagamit mong tagapagmulat sa amin. Amen.

Reflections on LENTEN THEMES THAT MOLD BCBP LIFE

Bong Lodero, Las Pinas Chapter

Man does not live by bread alone, says the Scriptures, but by every word that proceeds from God. No opportune time is better at hand than the season of Lent to examine and reexamine the word that proceeds from God, to adjust and readjust our lives thereto. The Gospel readings of the five Sundays of Lent provide us themes for reflection to help us live out our lives in our BCBP community and in our respective marketplace.

The Theme of Temptation

Matthew 4:1-11, the Gospel reading for the first Sunday of Lent, narrates how Christ was led by the Spirit to the wilderness and tempted by the Evil One. Christ met these challenges head on and overcame them. He overpowered the temptation of food, the temptation of signs and the temptation of earthly gods. Having been overcome by the God-man, does this mean that the same temptations have vanished forever from the human horizon?



The temptations remain. For Jesus it was necessary for his humanity to pass the gauntlet of temptations as a part of his human experience. Certainly, as followers of Christ we are subjected to and assailed on all sides by the same temptations. One temptation that we in the Brotherhood must shield ourselves from is the temptation to confuse our work in the



marketplace with social and secular objectives.

This Gospel sounds a call for us to temper our activities with the Word of God. For it is the Word of God that can mold us into Christ-like beings. If we are spiritually healthy, we can always overcome the temptations already conquered by Christ.

How is my spiritual health?

The Theme of Law and Moral Life

The Gospel reading of the second Sunday of Lent, taken from Matthew 17:1-9, tells of Jesus taking with Him Peter, James and John to a high mountain to witness the Transfiguration.

Our affiliation with the BCBP consists in following Christ to this high mountain where our lives have undergone a transfiguration. This is more than a mere reduction of the gospel message to a rule of life; we have experienced in us the death and resurrection of Christ. We have died to our old selves and have risen to a new life in Christ, a real and authentic moral life.

Am I persisting to live and abide by the moral life that transfigured my pre-BCBP life?

The Theme of Living Water

The liturgy of the third Sunday of Lent is based on John 4:5-42, the narrative of the

Samaritan woman by the Well of Jacob. Together with the theme of living water we see trellised the themes of bread, worship and harvest. Here the theme of living water is shown to be associated with salvation; Christ raised up water to a sacramental level in the sacrament of baptism.

Just as Jesus revealed the fullness of the new religion to the Samaritan woman so also we as members of the BCBP are entrusted with the mission of revealing and communicating Christ to the marketplace through our BCBP culture.

Is my relationship with the marketplace deepened and nourished with the Word of God, the living water?

The Theme of Light

The story of the healing of the



blind man in John 9:1-41 sets out the theme for the fourth Sunday of Lent. Crisscrossing with the theme of light are the themes of a new birth and of "being sent" to accomplish the work of salvation. In this reading Christ proclaims himself the Light of the world.

We underwent baptism in the Holy Spirit. Now we are sons and daughters of light with the mission of dispelling the darkness in the

cont. on page 21

marketplace. And this mission is truly a spiritual battle wherein we must follow St. Paul's injunction to put on the armor of God, the armor of light.

Have I donned the armor of Light, have I thoroughly prepared myself for the struggle to pierce the darkness in the business world?

The Theme of Victory Over Death

On the fifth Sunday we read John 11:1-45, the narrative of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead, a prefiguring of the resurrection of Christ.

Death is an ever present reality making our life very fragile. Human history is full of the constant struggles of man to assert himself over death. But it is through Christ's resurrection that the definitive conquest over death is seen. Christ challenged death, met it eye to eye and overpowered it once and for all. The Christian at his baptism conquered death in principle and his growth in the Christian life is his personal conquest of death.

Our life in the BCBP is one that involves our dying to our old selves and our rising to a new life in Christ. In our mission to evangelize the marketplace we must seek to be a living testimony of this new life in us, even as we strive to fan the fading embers of Christianity in the marketplace into new flame.

Can I truly say that my life reflects the new life in Christ at least enough so that those whom I seek to evangelize can see Christ in me?

Delay

I loved Thee late
Too late I loved Thee, Lord,
Yet not so late
But Thou dost still afford
The proof that Thou wilt bear
With winning art,
One sinner more
Upon Thy loving heart.
And may I prove,
When all my warfare's past,
Though late I loved Thee,
I loved Thee to the last.

St. Augustine

I set the Lord ever before me ... You will show me the path to life, fullness of joys in your presence, the delights at your right hand forever.

Psalm 16:7, 11

THE LAST SUPPER

Jesus planned his last Passover meal with his friends very carefully.

Because of the danger, they had to meet in secret. Jesus booked an upstairs room in Jerusalem and Peter and John were sent on ahead to prepare the meal.

The traditional Passover meal

This meal is still eaten by all orthodox Jewish families, to remember the time when Moses led them out from slavery in Egypt. It begins with a prayer and the blessing of the first cup of wine.

Then each person takes herbs and dips them in salt water. The father of the family takes one of the three flat cakes of bread made without yeast, breaks it in half and puts some aside.

Next the story of the Passover is remembered and a Psalm sung. The second cup of wine is then passed around.

Usually at this point the family wash their hands, ready for the meal.

To begin the meal, grace is said and the bread distributed. Bitter herbs dipped in a big bowl of sauce are then given around. A meal of roast lamb follows. This special Passover lamb reminds the Jews of the lamb killed by each family in Egypt on the night of the first Passover.

At the end of the meal, the family sings some hymns together and the fourth cup of wine is passed around.

The Passover story

The people of Israel had become slaves in Egypt when God called Moses to challenge the king (Pharaoh) to let them leave. He refused. God gave him many opportunities to let the people go peacefully, but it took ten terrible disasters before he agreed. The last was the death of the firstborn son in every Egyptian family.

To protect themselves, the Israelites were told to kill a lamb and mark the doorways of each house with its blood. When the Angel of Death visited the Egyptians, he 'passed over' each house marked with the blood of the lamb. That is how the festival came to be called the Passover.

A special meal

Jesus made some important changes to the traditional Passover meal that night:

★ Jesus went further than the washing of

hands. He tucked a towel around his waist and washed all his disciples' feet. (This was usually done by a slave as the guests arrived at a gathering.)

When they asked why he did this, Jesus told them that he was setting them an example of humble service. This was how they should treat each other in future.

★ Half-way through the meal, Jesus took the bread that had been put aside, broke it and handed some to each man. 'Take and eat it,' he said. 'This is my body.'

★ Jesus took a cup of wine, handed it to each disciple and said, 'Drink it, all of you; this is my blood which seals God's covenant (or agreement), my blood poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.'

Jesus used the bread and the wine in this way, to show that he was the new Passover lamb, ready to give up his own life to save people from death. He

asked his followers to continue this special meal, to remind them of what he had done for them. Today it is called the Lord's Supper, Eucharist, Holy Communion or the Mass.

Accounts of the Last Supper can be found in Matthew 26:20-29; Mark 14:17-25; Luke 22:15-38; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25.

Christians today share the bread and wine of 'the Lord's Supper' in memory of Jesus' sacrifice for them.



From "Jesus, The Man Who Changed History" by M. Doney

BEING PERFECT

One Minute Meditations

by Fernando de Larrazabal

(1)

"The Son of Man will come...and will repay each man according to his conduct."
(Mt. 16:27)

How does Jesus expect us to conduct ourselves? He said that we should be perfect as his heavenly Father is perfect. Does Jesus expect us to be perfect, human that we are, with our weaknesses and frailties? What Jesus meant here was for us to shoot for perfection. We should set goals, although unreachable for the time being, but goals that we can work on towards accomplishment.

A couple of decades ago, there was a British track athlete who set for himself a goal to reach the mile run in four minutes, something which was considered at the time a human impossibility. He worked hard at it and finally after years of training, he not only reached his target, but surpassed it. The important thing is trying and as we try, Jesus who loves us will help and guide us to reach the goal we set for ourselves.

(2)

"...They are blind leaders of the blind. If one blind man leads another, both will end in a pit." (Mt. 15:14)

Jesus accused the Pharisees of being blind leaders of the blind. We have today some Pharisees which we Catholics should be wary about. We have to be watchful and avoid such leaders who may lead us to confusion. We have to entrust our spiritual direction to only those to whom Jesus entrusts his Church. There are many so-called leaders who do not preach truthfully the word of God. They are confused and can only lead others to confusion. Our spiritual life is too important to be left in the hands of those who have anointed themselves as leaders.

It is unfortunate, but we find ourselves surrounded with false leaders who twist scriptures either by design or ignorance. They invoke falsely God's permission to lead and teach. We must be careful whom we allow to lead us lest we end up in a pit. Trust only the leadership of the Church.

An Easter Thought



*I wonder if Christ had a little black dog,
All curly and woolly like mine,
With long silken ears and little round nose
And eyes so tender and kind.
I'm sure that He didn't because I have read
How He prayed in the garden alone,
When all of His friends and disciples had fled,
Even Peter, the one called "the stone".*

*And I'm sure, oh so sure, that the little black dog
With heart so tender and warm,
Would never have left Him to suffer alone,
But, creeping up under His arm,
Would have licked His fingers in agony clasped,
And counting all favors as lost,
When they led Him away, would have trotted behind,
And followed Him right to the cross.*

-Anonymous

Reconciliation Only Through Christ

Vic Cuna, Makati Chapter

In his inaugural speech and other pronouncements since then, President Fidel V. Ramos is basing his administration on a clear call to reconciliation. As a devout Christian and God-fearing man, it is his policy to change his enemies into his friends, of society with open arms so that everyone will be able to live in a regime of peace, harmony and justice.

Various sectors of our society have advanced different views on how reconciliation will be achieved, forgetting, however, that it is only through our Lord Jesus Christ that we can truly be reconciled, both in deed and in spirit. And for reconciliation to be meaningful, we have to learn how to forgive and keep on forgiving from the heart as Jesus has commanded us to do. Then, after forgiveness, restoration through God should ensue.

For the President to succeed in his avowed policy of reconciliation, he needs not merely our support and cooperation, but more importantly, our prayers. Let us all pray for the Holy Spirit to guide President Ramos - and each one of us - in forgiveness, reconciliation and restoration for ourselves and for our country.

Death shortens our way to heaven, but grace sweetens our way to heaven.

-Anon.

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FINGERPRINTS. FOOTPRINTS. SIGNS.

Fingerprints. Crackers stuck to the walls with peanut butter in crazy-cut mosaic patterns. Pieces of building-block castles scattered hither and yon. Muddy footprints connecting garden to sala. Sticky piano keys. Here a shoe, there a sock, everywhere are signs of our grandchildren, ages 7 and 4, who stay with us daily after school hours until their Dad and Mom pick them up to take them home. How noisy and full of energy they are! How quiet it is when they are gone!

As I go about picking up after they leave in the afternoon, their lively presence is clearly evident in the signs that they have left behind them. And even as I rejoice in a quiet moment, I look forward to the exuberance and joy in being alive they will bring with them the following day.

Jesus came and lived among us a long time ago. And He left many signs of his presence among us even after his death - the sick had been healed, the blind could see, the lame could walk, a new hope had come alive.

We remember Jesus for his holiness, his goodness, his love and compassion, his justice and mercy. These are the things that last. People even today, some 2000 years afterwards, can know Jesus by these signs that are still present for all to see. Everyone who knows Jesus wants to get closer to Him, wants to be with Him. Because we know Him by these signs, we look forward to His Presence in our lives.

We come and go; we meet people. As businessmen and professionals we are in positions of influence over and with people. What kind of "signs" do we leave behind us for people to see? I have met people who delight in leaving "smokescreens" hovering in the air, confusing and masking their presence. There are some people I have met that I resolve to avoid because of the negative "signs" they bring into my life. Many people I look forward to seeing again and again because of the good feeling I have when with them.

As I try to follow Jesus and walk in His way, I wonder what "signs" of my presence will be remembered . . . here on earth . . . and what "signs" of my life will be remembered . . . in heaven . . .

Nancy R. Catan



THE TWO CALVARIES

Fr. Guido Arguelles

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

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

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

The Calvary without Christ and

The Calvary with Christ.

THE CALVARY WITHOUT CHRIST:

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

To all these calvaries, Christ offers his own:

THE CALVARY WITH CHRIST:

- the calvary of asceticism that makes man inwardly free.
- the calvary of life in the spirit that produces a longing to be with Him.
- the calvary of purity that enables one to live in love.
- the calvary of weakness that serves as the basis for community.

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

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

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

*There is a calvary for those who accept the cross.
There is an even greater calvary for those who reject it.
By all means - be crucified but with Christ -
and thus be crucified unto salvation.
Or insist on being crucified without Christ and thus
be crucified unto damnation.*

The world - Pope and Bishops, Presidents and Kings, husbands and wives, children and parents, capitalists and laborers, communists and socialists, black and white, Easterner and Westerner - all of us are thus faced with a question that is also an answer:

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

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