

April 2014

## Chapter Leaders Attend Training-Retreat

Forty-three servant leaders composed of AGLs, ULs, directorate and ministry heads had a wonderful time learning, bonding and planning the activities of the chapter while attending the Leader's Training held on March 22, 2014 at the Sto. Nino Spirituality Center located at a hilltop of Tulo-tulo, Consolacion, Cebu.



*Mactan leaders*

Aimed to refresh the leaders of their shepherding roles and spiritually motivate them to achieve the chapter's banner, "114 for 2014", the training, which started in the afternoon, had three talks namely:

Talk 1 – AGL as Servant Leader  
by Bro. Chad Condor

Talk #2 – Heart for God by

*Bro. Eli Trinidad*

Talk #3 – Belonging and Experiencing Life Together in a Community by Orly Manuel

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### Special points of interest:

◆ Holy Week - Apr 13-20

◆ 34th National Anniversary - Apr 25-26

## Mactan Chapter Hosts Sectoral Breakfast



*The filled up venue*

Five first timers and three graduates were the harvest made on the first Sectoral breakfast of year 2014 done on March 29, 2014, it being the fifth Saturday of the month.

Early morning of that beautiful day members of host chapter, Mactan, came early to Monte-

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### Leaders Attend... (continued from page 1)

As in any other BCBP activity, the fellowship night always give every participant the opportunity to bond and unwind. As participants share food, play games, sing songs and laugh together, spirits are lifted and stresses are relieved.

On the second day of the retreat the participants came up with action plans to achieve the chapter’s banner.

“To be forewarned is to be forearmed” is AMD Nelson Dauz’s parting exhortation to the participants.



Eli Trinidad  
Cebu-South



Chad Condor  
Cebu-South



Orly Manuel  
Mactan

The speakers



The venue



The sharers, Asis and Agnes Militante

### Mactan Chapter... (continued from page 1)

bello Villa Hotel to greet brothers and sisters from Mandaue and Consolacion. Over two hundred members came to the fellowship and were greatly blessed to have come.

The couple sharer, Asis and Agnes Militante, RCD North –East Samar-Leyte area, shared how they survived the wrath of typhoon Yolanda and

boldly declared: “It is by faith that we survived”.

All the preparations taken by the host chapter paid off as the sectoral breakfast turned out to be another exhilarating and Spirit-filled experience. The music was great, with the emcee, Martin Pusta, ably managing the entire activity.



The sharers with the first-timers

*Life challenges are designed not to break us, but to bend us towards God.*

## Chapter Finishes “40-Days in the Word”



The participants in discussion

The “40 Days in the Word”, a devotional method of Bible Study that the chapter rolled out last February 8, 2014 ended on March 15, 2014.

The video lesson presented in six sessions by famous author, pastor Rick Warren, taught each participant an effective and beautiful way of praying with the Scriptures.

The last session, though not well at-

tended, taught each participant how to use the six methods of Bible meditation using a specific scripture verse.

If done faithfully and regularly, the “40 Days in the Word” teaching will greatly enhance one’s prayer life thus meeting the program’s goal of knowing the Word, Loving the Word and Living the Word.



## Intercessory Ministry Goes on Pilgrimage

On the afternoon of March 15, 2014 some chapter members joined the intercessory group on a pilgrimage to the Shrine of the Black Nazarene at the Angel of Peace chapel at Cansujong Talisay City.

The group pre-arranged the visit so that a mass could be celebrated for the group at 3o’clock. After the Holy Mass the group were prayed over and anointed with holy oil by Fr. Patrick, the officiating priest.

The group then pro-

ceeded to the nearby building where the life-size statues of the Seven Joys and Seven Sorrows of St. Joseph are on display. The group prayed together moving around the seven statues.

Snacks were shared before the group went home.



The group praying



The life-size images of the scenes in St. Joseph’s life

*Little prayers for little things fly heavenward on little wings, for no prayer is too great or small to ask God who hears them all.*

## Lenten Message of Pope Francis



***“He became poor, so that by His poverty you might become rich” (cf. 2Cor 8:9)***

*Dear Brothers and Sisters,*

As Lent draws near, I would like to offer some helpful thoughts on our path of conversion as individuals and as a community. These insights are inspired by the words of Saint Paul: "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich" (2 Cor8:9). The Apostle was writing to the Christians of Corinth to encourage them to be generous in helping the faithful in Jerusalem who were in need. What do these words of Saint Paul mean for us Christians today? What does this invitation to poverty, a life of evangelical poverty, mean for us today?

### **1. Christ's grace**

First of all, it shows us how God works. He does not reveal himself cloaked in worldly power and wealth but rather in weakness and poverty: "though He was rich, yet for your sake he became poor ...". Christ, the eternal Son of God, one with the Father in power and glory, chose to be poor; he came amongst us and drew near to each of us; he set aside his glory and emptied himself so that he could be like us in all things (cf. *Phil 2:7; Heb 4:15*). God's becoming man is a great mystery! But the reason for all this is his love, a love which is grace, generosity, a desire to draw near, a love which does not hesitate to offer itself in sacrifice for the beloved. Charity, love, is sharing with the one we love in all things. Love makes us similar, it creates equality, it breaks down walls and eliminates distances. God did this with us. Indeed, Jesus "worked with human hands, thought with a human mind, acted by human choice and loved with a human heart. Born of the Virgin Mary, he truly became one of us, like us in all things except sin." (*Gaudium et Spes*, 22).

By making himself poor, Jesus did not seek poverty for its own sake but, as Saint Paul says "*that by his poverty you might become rich*". This is no mere play on words or a catch phrase. Rather, it sums up God's logic, the logic of love, the logic of the incarnation and the cross. God did not let our salvation drop down from heaven, like someone who gives alms from their abundance out of a sense of altruism and piety. Christ's love is different! When Jesus stepped into the waters of the Jordan and was baptized by John the Baptist, he did so not because he was in need of repentance, or conversion; he did it to be among people who need forgiveness, among us sinners, and to take upon himself the burden of our sins. In this way he chose to comfort us, to save us, to free us from our misery. It is striking that the Apostle states that we were set free, not by Christ's riches but *by his poverty*. Yet Saint Paul is well aware of the "the unsearchable riches of Christ" (*Eph 3:8*), that he is "heir of all things" (*Heb 1:2*).

So what is this poverty by which Christ frees us and enriches us? It is his way of loving us, his way of being our neighbor, just as the Good Samaritan was neighbor to the man left half dead

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*Beautiful lives are those that bear loads of care for other lives; beautiful souls are those who show and share the love of Christ wherever they go.*

## Lenten Message ... (continued from page 5)

by the side of the road (cf. *Lk 10:25ff*). What gives us true freedom, true salvation and true happiness is the compassion, tenderness and solidarity of his love. Christ's poverty which enriches us is his taking flesh and bearing our weaknesses and sins as an expression of God's infinite mercy to us. Christ's poverty is the greatest treasure of all: Jesus' wealth is that of his boundless confidence in God the Father, his constant trust, his desire always and only to do the Father's will and give glory to him. Jesus is rich in the same way as a child who feels loved and who loves its parents, without doubting their love and tenderness for an instant. Jesus' wealth lies in his being *the Son*; his unique relationship with the Father is the sovereign prerogative of this Messiah who is poor. When Jesus asks us to take up his "yoke which is easy", he asks us to be enriched by his "poverty which is rich" and his "richness which is poor", to share his filial and fraternal Spirit, to become sons and daughters in the Son, brothers and sisters in the firstborn brother (cf. *Rom 8:29*).

It has been said that the only real regret lies in not being a saint (L. Bloy); we could also say that there is only one real kind of poverty: not living as children of God and brothers and sisters of Christ.

### 2. Our witness

We might think that this "way" of poverty was Jesus' way, whereas we who come after him can save the world with the right kind of human resources. This is not the case. In every time and place God continues to save mankind and the world *through the poverty of Christ*, who makes himself poor in the sacraments, in his word and in his Church, which is a people of the poor. God's wealth passes not through our wealth, but invariably and exclusively through our personal and communal poverty, enlivened by the Spirit of Christ.

In imitation of our Master, we Christians are called to confront the poverty of our brothers and sisters, to touch it, to make it our own and to take practical steps to alleviate it. *Destitution* is not the same as *poverty*: destitution is poverty without faith, without support, without hope. There are three types of destitution: material, moral and spiritual. *Material destitution* is what is normally called poverty, and affects those living in conditions opposed to human dignity: those who lack basic rights and needs such as food, water, hygiene, work and the opportunity to develop and grow culturally. In response to this destitution, the Church offers her help, her *diakonia*, in meeting these needs and binding these wounds which disfigure the face of humanity. In the poor and out-cast we see Christ's face; by loving and helping the poor, we love and serve Christ. Our efforts are also directed to ending violations of human dignity, discrimination and abuse in the world, for these are so often the cause of destitution. When power, luxury and money become idols, they take priority over the need for a fair distribution of wealth. Our consciences thus need to be converted to justice, equality, simplicity and sharing.

No less a concern is *moral destitution*, which consists in slavery to vice and sin. How much pain is caused in families because one of their members – often a young person - is in thrall to alcohol, drugs, gambling or pornography! How many people no longer see meaning in life or prospects for the future, how many have lost hope! And how many are plunged into this destitution by unjust social conditions, by unemployment, which takes away their dignity as breadwinners, and by lack

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*God often use small matches to light great torches. No matter how small you feel in this world, you are always big in God's eyes because you are special .*

## Lenten Message ... (continued from page 5)

of equal access to education and health care. In such cases, moral destitution can be considered impending suicide. This type of destitution, which also causes financial ruin, is invariably linked to the *spiritual destitution* which we experience when we turn away from God and reject his love. If we think we don't need God who reaches out to us through Christ, because we believe we can make do on our own, we are headed for a fall. God alone can truly save and free us.

The Gospel is the real antidote to spiritual destitution: wherever we go, we are called as Christians to proclaim the liberating news that forgiveness for sins committed is possible, that God is greater than our sinfulness, that he freely loves us at all times and that we were made for communion and eternal life. The Lord asks us to be joyous heralds of this message of mercy and hope! It is thrilling to experience the joy of spreading this good news, sharing the treasure entrusted to us, consoling broken hearts and offering hope to our brothers and sisters experiencing darkness. It means following and imitating Jesus, who sought out the poor and sinners as a shepherd lovingly seeks his lost sheep. In union with Jesus, we can courageously open up new paths of evangelization and human promotion.

Dear brothers and sisters, may this Lenten season find the whole Church ready to bear witness to all those who live in material, moral and spiritual destitution the Gospel message of the merciful love of God our Father, who is ready to embrace everyone in Christ. We can do this to the extent that we imitate Christ who became poor and enriched us by his poverty. Lent is a fitting time for self-denial; we would do well to ask ourselves what we can give up in order to help and enrich others by our own poverty. Let us not forget that real poverty hurts: no self-denial is real without this dimension of penance. I distrust a charity that costs nothing and does not hurt.

May the Holy Spirit, through whom we are "as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything" (2 Cor 6:10), sustain us in our resolutions and increase our concern and responsibility for human destitution, so that we can become merciful and act with mercy. In expressing this hope, I likewise pray that each individual member of the faithful and every Church community will undertake a fruitful Lenten journey. I ask all of you to pray for me. May the Lord bless you and Our Lady keep you safe.

*From the Vatican, 26 December 2013*

*Feast of Saint Stephen, Deacon and First Martyr*

### FRANCISCUS



*The spaces between our fingers were created so that other person's fingers could fill them in.*

**April 2014 Activities, Birthday & Anniversary Celebrants**

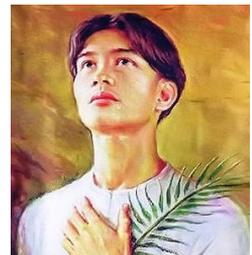
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Baby Daus Ann Olalo Ed Pobre	2	3 Eton & Veron Apao	4 First Friday Mass & Teaching	5 Breakfast - Simultaneous
6	7	8 Lando Buctuanon	9 Jun Torres	10	11 Assembly Virgie Campañon Logen Paradero	12 Breakfast Joint
13	14	15-17 <b>HOLY WEEK</b>			18 Good Friday	19
Glo Sanchez Inday Bahande				Ailyn Torres	Kim&Suzel Famor	Alex Bondoc
20 <b>EASTER</b> BCBP Choir - MAB Chapel	21	22	23 Lita Tumalak	24	25 <b>34th National Anniversary</b>	26 Cords Cordova
27 BCBP Choir - IAU St. Therese Chapel	28 Alvin & Ann Olalo	29 Rajid De La Peña	30 Dong Sumalinog Arlin & Lita Tan			

Please inform the Secretariat of missed names or corrections

Anniversaries	Birthdays	Activities
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**Intercessor Saint for the Month of April: Saint Pedro Calungsod**

**Pedro Calungsod** was a teenage lay Catholic Christian from the Visayas. He served the Jesuit Mission in the Marianas as a catechist and helper from June 16, 1668 until his death on April 2, 1672. Like many catechists and helpers of the missionaries, he was the silent and humble minister who did his duty faithfully and had no historians to tell his deeds to future generations. His family is unknown. His background is unrecorded. Pedro was the lone companion of Fr. Diego in the early morning of Saturday, April 2, 1672, at the village of Tomhom, on the island of Guam in the Marianas, when two natives killed them one after the other—first Pedro, then Fr. Diego and threw their bodies into the deep ocean. Their bodies were never to be found again.



*God teaches us to be brave when we're frightened, to be strong when we're weak, but most of all He teaches us to hold on to Him when things keep on falling.*



Brotherhood of Christian Businessmen and Professionals  
Mactan Chapter

**BRINGING CHRIST INTO THE MARKETPLACE AND WINNING THE MARKETPLACE FOR CHRIST**

The BCBP is a community of like-minded Christian businessmen and professionals who have consciously decided to band together to bring about the transformation of the marketplace

**BREAKFAST**

Venue: Crown Regency Suites

Weekly Schedule: Saturday, 7:30 - 10:00 AM

1st Wk: Men's      2nd Wk: Joint (Men's & Ladies)

3rd Wk: Men's      4th Wk: Simultaneous (Men's & Ladies)

Contact Person: Willy Lozano, Mobile: 09173114367



[www.facebook.com/BCBPMactan](http://www.facebook.com/BCBPMactan)

**March 2014 Breakfast Sharers**



**Nestor Gloria** (March 1)

BCBP Consolacion

*"I continue to bring Christ to the marketplace every time I have the opportunity to talk and share with newfound friends about BCBP. "*



**Judy Gloria** (March 1)

BCBP Consolacion

*"God wants me to be happy"*



**Mar & Luz Watin** (March 8)

BCBP Cebu-South

*"Living in abundance kept us away from God"*



**Elmer & Queenie Barug** (March 15)

BCBP Cebu-Central

*"God has a loving way of correcting my wrong intention"*



**Jay & Golda Aviles** (March 22)

BCBP Cebu-Central

*"Forgiveness is the best God has given me and it is the best gift I can give to others"*



**Asis & Agnes Militante** (March 29)

BCBP Tacloban

*"It is by faith that we survived"*

*When you're down to nothing, God is up to something. Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible and receives the impossible.*