

## Keep the fire burning!

by Frank Nuguid, Chapter Head

Our theme for this year is taken from the book of Leviticus 6:13 (NRSVCE) which reads: **"A perpetual fire shall be kept burning on the altar; it shall not go out."**



This order was given to the Levite priests in the Old Testament so that burnt sacrifices could be offered all the time at the altar. But because our Lord Jesus Christ has completed the work of salvation through His supreme sacrifice on the cross, there is no longer need for a Jewish altar.

Now the altar is our very own heart, and the fire is the **love** of God for us, as well as our love for Him! We should strive to keep that fire burning in our hearts, and never allow it to get extinguished, as what the evil one would like to happen.

How can we keep that flame ablaze?

First is to stoke the fire with **prayer and Scripture reading**. Prayer and Scripture reading are like the oxygen that you stoke the furnace with, so that the flames will intensify. Spend as much time in the presence of God as you can. Pray incessantly, read the Word of God, talk to Him and listen to Him! It's like the two men from Emmaus who confessed that their hearts were on fire when the risen Christ was talking to them about the Holy Scriptures.

Secondly, keep that fire burning through **praise and worship**. Together with our brothers and sisters, be an active participant in our corporate worship, singing praises and raising our hands in full worship to our Lord and Master.

Thirdly, let the fire of evangelization lead you to greater **faith** in the Lord (*2 Tim 1:6-8, 13-14*). By serving through our BCLPs and going out on mission, and in witnessing the conversion of brothers and sisters in Christ who were once lost and have now rekindled their personal relationship with the Lord, we are inspired to love and serve the Lord even more through our family and our community.

As we intensify that fire in hearts, we protect ourselves from the sin of "lukewarmness", of being a little too cold to be hot and a little too hot to be cold, with no zeal and enthusiasm for the Lord. When we become indifferent about holiness and sanctification, when we lack concern for serving others and winning souls, when we neglect our prayers and hunger for the Word of God, we run the risk of being *"spit out from the mouth of God"* (*Rev 3:16*).

Let us keep that fervent flame of love for God burning in our hearts, opening ourselves up to constantly receive the fire of the Holy Spirit, and be inspired to serve others joyfully in the name of our Lord Jesus. In doing this, we will experience the glory of God in our lives, and hopefully earn for ourselves the gift of eternal life.

**West Breakfast**

Every 2nd Saturday of the month  
Four Points by Sheraton  
6090 Dixie Road, Mississauga, Ontario

**May** - Frank & Marisa Nuguid (simultaneous men's & ladies' breakfast)



**April** - Edwin & Cynthia Godinez



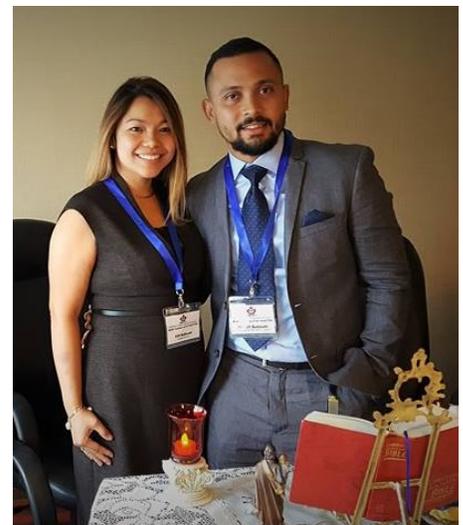
**June** - Henry and Julie Villegas



**July** -  
Noel & Edina  
Mercado  
(simultaneous men's  
& ladies' breakfast)



**August** - Popoy & Yin Balinado



**September** -  
Rey & Atit  
de Guzman  
(simultaneous men's  
& ladies' breakfast)



**East Breakfast**

Every 4th Saturday of the month  
Radisson Hotel Toronto East  
55 Hallcrawne Place, Toronto, Ontario

**May** - Ricky & Cecile Nuguid



**April** - Jojo & Weng Odina



**July** - Jimmy & Florence de Tagle (guest sharers from BCBP Davao West)



**June** - Etchin & Odit Sumagang



**August** - Jaime & Malou Gallego



**September** - Jerome & Kate Ubalde



## Mission

Our mission Breakfasts in Edmonton and Vancouver are thriving. BCLP's are scheduled in October for both locations. Calgary is also set to hold its first Breakfast this month. God is truly blessing our mission to bring Christ in the marketplace across Canada!



## Edmonton Breakfast

Every 4th Saturday of the month  
Max's Restaurant - Nexus Business Park  
11650-142 Street NW, Edmonton, Alberta

## Vancouver Breakfast

Every 3rd Saturday of the month  
Bahay Kubo Restaurant  
10294 City Parkway, 135th Street, Surrey, BC

## Calgary Breakfast

Four Points by Sheraton - Calgary Airport  
2875 Sunridge Way NE, Calgary, Alberta

## A gift

By Gee Salazar

My birthday is in September while Ike's is in October. Last week, our 2 children surprised us with our birthday presents. Our hearts glowed with joy when we opened the envelope and found 2 tickets to a famous show. It was a very heartwarming gesture for them to give back to us the love we gave them. It was an expression of their gratitude by giving us something which came from their earnings.



Perhaps this is how my Heavenly Father feels every time I give back to Him my time when I pray or serve in the community and when I give love offerings. He owns my time and I only exist because He allows it. ***"The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away." (Job 1:21)***. Same with what I have in my wallet or the house where I live.

So Heavenly Father, please accept the labors of my hand, portion of my earnings, sharing of my talent with others and my sincere efforts to live the gospel as your disciple in the marketplace. ***"What shall I return to the LORD for all his goodness to me?" (Psalm 116:12)***

I think I will not call it a sacrifice... instead I will call it my gift of love to You.

## Weekend with the Lord

*"So He said to them, "Children, do you have any fish?" "No," they answered. He told them, "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it there, and they were unable to haul it in because of the great number of fish." John 21:5-7*

The first Weekend with the Lord (BCLP #4) in January 2016 was a success, that another BCLP was planned for this year. BCLP #5 was held on July 29-31 at the Valley of the Mother of God in Mono, Ontario.

This batch was more diversified. The 30 participants were composed of 5 couples, 14 single professionals, a priest and 5 members from our various mission groups (Calgary, Edmonton and Vancouver).

Ike & Gee Salazar led the Service Team as Course Head. Our Meal Servants team were professionals who on that day tucked in their career titles in exchange for hair caps to feed the participants, servants and children...in one word "multitude". The graduates of BCLP #4 became part of the service team, and their kids came back as well because they got hooked to the joyful environment and camaraderie of the BCBP community.

Coming soon...WWTL – BCLP #6.



## Chapter activities

### Summer barbeque with the nuns

BCBP members treated the nuns of Good Shepherd Convent with a barbeque party on August 20 at the convent grounds. The tables were overflowing with food lovingly prepared by members. The nuns enjoyed the food and company, plus the impromptu entertainment led by Poppy Cana.



### Brotherhood Christian Marriage Retreat

BCMR #3 was held on May 20-22 at Queen of Apostles Renewal Centre in Mississauga. 8 couples from BCBP GTA were joined by 5 couples from BCBP Chicago during the love-filled weekend. Roel and Meredith Nasara led the Service Team.



### Faith Friday, Chapter Assembly

The BCBP community continues to meet every First Friday of the month for a mass and teaching. The Chapter assembly is held every third Saturday, with praise and worship, and sharings from members.





## Family Day

It was a beautiful sunny day when BCBP Canada GTA members and their families celebrated summer at Highland Pines in Belwood, Ontario. The annual Family Day on July 16 was filled with food, games, fun, laughter and fellowship.



## Staying ablaze – 10 sure fire ways to remain on fire with God

By Bobby Lloren

As I was creating this article, I reflected on this year's theme: "**Keep the Fire Burning**". There were 3 inspirations that came up and they are as follows: **The Fundamentals, A Great Year Ahead and Staying Ablaze.**

### The Fundamentals

When I asked myself: "How do you keep the fire burning?", what immediately came to mind was, of course, the truth that staying faithful to our BCBP commitment card and living the BCBP way of life ensures that we remain on fire with God.

If you are relatively new to the community, take heart. Living the BCBP way of life is a process and will not happen overnight. So enjoy your journey. And if you have been serving the community for a while, you will come to know that applying the fundamentals guarantees that you will always be on fire with God. Consistently executing the fundamentals is key.

Perhaps we can all do our share and lovingly support each other to execute on the fundamentals?

### A Great Year Ahead

And as I continued reflecting, I also had a sense that 2017 is going to be a great year for BCBP GTA Canada. Do you feel the same way? I hope and pray that you do.

I also had an inspiration that the Lord is asking us to dream more than what others think as practical, to expect more than others think possible and to love more than others think wise. And that by doing so, our community will have a great year ahead.

Do you think and believe that 2017 is going to be a great year? I hope it is not just me. If you ask me "what will make it great?" I have no clue.

What I do know is this - our God is a God of surprises. And He always knows what is best for our community. What I do know also is that if we stay highly engaged,

serving with passion, inviting with courage and loving with abandon, each one can contribute in making it a great year. Above all, have expectant faith that indeed it will be.

Do you want to contribute and make it a great year for our community?



### Staying Ablaze

I ended up my reflection with searching online for the definition of "ablaze". And this is what I got: "**burning very strongly**". I also sensed that the Lord is really asking us to do just that. Not just to remain on fire but be ablaze with Him.

In closing, I would like to share with you 10 sure fire ways to remain ablaze with God. These suggestions are from multiple teachings in our community as well as in living the BCBP way of life. To honour our theme, here they are:

1. Feed the flames with the Word of God
2. Stoke the furnace with prayer
3. Commune with God
4. Worship the Lord with extravagance
5. Allow the Holy Spirit to move
6. Do a spring cleaning of your heart
7. Bring your flame closer to other flames
8. Start making your fire useful
9. Find your personal firebrand\*
10. Spread the flame

*\*Firebrand – Spiritual mentor or confessor*

I would have loved to expound a little bit more about each one, but perhaps in another time. Or perhaps, this could be our Formation teaching track for 2017? Who knows? After all our God is a God of surprises.

God bless you abundantly and surprisingly.

#### Contributors this issue:

Weng Odina, Frank Nuguid, Gee Salazar, Bobby Lloren

**Photos:** Ike & Gee Salazar, Luz Marbella (through FB)