



SIMBAHAY

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF ST. JOHN BOSCO PARISH CHURCH, MAKATI CITY, PHILIPPINES

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 3

MAY 2011

EASTER : A CELEBRATION OF NEW LIFE



by *Dominicanis*

Forty days and a week from Ash Wednesday, on April 24 this year, when penances have been performed, Holy Thursday vigils held and Good Friday processions ended, on a night made rich with symbols and rituals dating to the first centuries of the Church, a people of faith shakes off cloaks of sorrow and atonement and dons new garments – the garments of great joy and festivity.

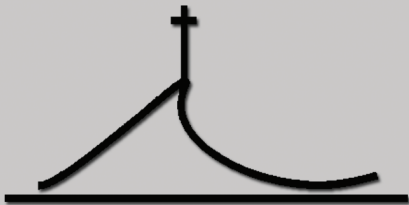
For it is on Easter Sunday that Christians rejoice – when we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, and not just His Resurrection, but ours – we who exult in the promise of a new life, a birth which comes from a death. In believing that Christ has risen from the dead, we catch a glimpse of our own destiny – as Christians, our existence does not end in death, rather, death is our own birth into an eternal life with Christ.

Both Easter and baptism speak to us of this promise of life after death. Since the days of the first Christians, baptism is seen as a rebirth to a new life, a spiritual resurrection. Hence, it is only fitting that on the night of the Easter Vigil, baptism is the first sacrament that catechumens (persons, usually adults, who prepare for baptism) receive as a sign that they are beginning a new life of belonging to Christ and His body, the Church.

But more than mere symbolism of the Easter Vigil, adult baptism is the challenge for us who are already baptized in Christ, who are members of His Church. It is the challenge of Easter. **And that challenge is this – just as Christ was raised to a new life, do we who call ourselves by His Name, live lives renewed?** Paul's letter to the Romans which is among the specially chosen readings of the Easter Vigil is clear on this – ***“We were indeed buried with Him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life.”*** (Rom 6:4)

We are an Easter people. And as Christians, this is our struggle, to set our hearts on things not of this world but of the “other-world” – to die to our old selves and renew our lives so we may be resurrected to an even newer life with Christ. This is our birthright. This is our Easter.

To new life! Alleluia! Alleluia!



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SCHEDULE OF MASSES

Monday to Friday:

6:30am • 7:30am • 12:15pm • 6:00pm

Holy Hour every Thursday after the
6:00 pm Mass

Saturday:

6:30am • 7:30am
6:00pm (Anticipated Mass)

Sunday:

6:00am • 7:15am • 8:30am • 10:00am
11:15am • 12:30pm • 4:00pm • 5:30pm
7:00pm • 8:30pm

Confessions are held during all the
Masses

Adoration Chapel - open daily from
7:00am to 8:00pm

PARISH OFFICE & RELIGIOUS STORE HOURS

Monday to Friday (except Thursday)
8:00am - 11:30am • 12:30pm - 6:00pm

Thursday:
8:00am - 11:30am • 12:30pm - 4:00pm

Saturday:
8:00am - 12:00pm • 1:00pm - 5:00pm

FAITH IN THE RISEN CHRIST

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PARISH PRIEST



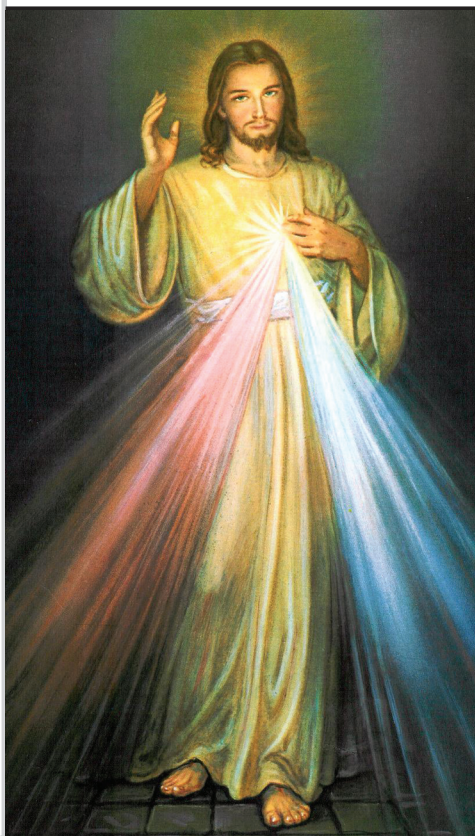
*"In China, where there are many more Muslims than in Europe and more practicing Catholics than in Italy, and around 100M Buddhists, **faith shapes many lives.** Wherever you look today, **religion matters. Faith motivates.** (emphasis mine – author) Understanding faith – its demands, its trends, its structures – can be as important as understanding a nation's GDP, its business, its resources."*

– Tony Blair

Many people in our modern world will disagree with what I emphasized. I heard a friend comment that for some countries in the very near future, religion would no longer be relevant and would cease to exist. But while there are many more 'supposedly' religious people in the world today, *religion* and *faith* for them are just nice words and hardly meaningful realities. But for somebody who had recently converted to the Catholic faith, Mr. Blair knows what it means to possess a living faith in a living God. While religion "binds" us to a set of doctrines and ways of conduct, it is faith that is the heart of all religion. And *our faith*, which is the basis of all beliefs

and practices deemed "catholic", *flows from the reality that Christ has risen from the dead!* If we truly believe that our Catholic faith is still relevant in our world today, it is only because we believe that Christ is truly risen! That He has conquered sin and death, and everything else connected with them. This simple carpenter from Nazareth turned preacher and healer, who because of His trust and commitment to the Father, endured the tortures and humiliation of Good Friday and was crucified on the cross as a criminal, this Jesus becomes the point of reverence and the object of return for all mankind. Why? He proved that love once promised and persevered in will conquer the greatest fear of man, which is death. It is love, the Father's love for Jesus that enabled Him to come back to life, so that all who believed in Him may share the same love, that which conquers death. This is what the resurrection of Jesus is all about. This is what Easter proclaims. The love of God in Jesus, through His death and resurrection, becomes the bedrock of our faith today.

— **Fr. Ting Miciano, SDB**



2nd SUNDAY OF EASTER DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Since Pope John Paul II's official declaration on April 30, 2000, the second Sunday of Easter has been celebrated as the Feast of Divine Mercy. The Feast holds a promise of forgiveness of sins and remission of punishments for all those who:

1. finish the Divine Mercy Novena which starts on Good Friday and
2. go to Confession and
3. receive Holy Communion on the feast day

The devotions are based on the diary of the Polish saint and visionary, St. Mary Faustina Kowalska as dictated to her by our Lord Jesus.

Copies of the novena are available at the SJB Parish Bookstore or visit <http://www.ewtn.com/devotionals/mercy/novena.htm>.

photo by Ike Jamilla



SJB JOINS THE RALLY FOR LIFE

On March 25, the Solemnity of the Annunciation and the Day of Unborn Children, contrary to official (under) estimates, hundreds of thousands of Catholics gathered at the Quirino Grandstand area in Rizal Park to make a stand for the sanctity of life and against the RH Bill which threatens to belittle it.

Of course, St. John Bosco Parish Makati was there! Fr. Ting Miciano led a delegation of 120 parishioners who heeded the call of the Archbishop of Manila, his Eminence, Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales for Filipinos to "Unite under the God for Life".

More of a fiesta than a rally, the event drew scores of supporters from the Archdiocese of Manila and those from neighboring dioceses, schools and transparochial communities, who continued to arrive till early evening, many in matching T-shirts,

others carrying colorful pro-life banners, streamers, placards, balloons and papier-mâché gigantes.

The program included community prayers, testimonies and declarations of opposition by various speakers, an interfaith prayer, the symbolic tearing of the RH bill by representatives of various sectors, chants, inspirational songs and spirited dance numbers.

A highlight of the Prayer Rally was the reading by Manila Auxiliary Bishop Broderick Pabillo of a letter from the Pope where His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI called on the Filipino faithful to sustain the fight for the protection of life and the unborn.

The grand affair culminated with a Eucharistic Celebration presided by Cardinal Rosales. In his homily entitled "Pahalagahan ang Buhay", the Cardinal

who is better identified with the low-profile grassroots initiatives for the poor – Pondo ng Pinoy and MAGPAS, delivered a powerful message in hard-hitting Tagalog against those who would denigrate the divine, life-giving dimension of sex and marriage, those who equate responsible parenting with the use of artificial barriers or abortifacients instead of character-building discipline and restraint required by natural family planning, those who rationalize teaching school children on the use of contraceptives for the sake of health and cleanliness rather than teaching them responsibility and cleanliness of heart and soul and those who, contrary to revered Filipino and Christian values, would threaten imprisonment or fines against dissenters to the RH Bill once this is passed into law.

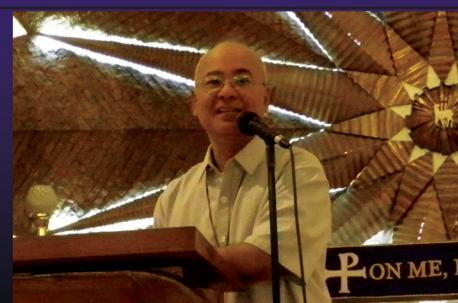
(For the full text of the Cardinal's homily visit www.rcam.org.)



Fr. Alex Garces, SDB



Dr. Gaines Marie del Rosario



Fr. Dennis Paez, SDB

2011 ST. JOHN BOSCO PARISH LENTEN RECOLLECTIONS

by Chelsea Dipasupil, Judith Gonzales, Rachele Rule and Beth Chai

St. John Bosco Parish held recollections for three consecutive Wednesdays on March 23, 30 and April 6 to prepare its parishioners for the celebration of Holy Week and Easter Sunday.

March 23

Reflections on "The Passion of the Christ" by Fr. Alex Garces, SDB

In the first talk entitled, "Reflections on the Passion of the Christ", Fr. Alex Garces, SDB

highlighted not only Christ's suffering as depicted in several memorable scenes of the movie but more important, the strength of the love which drove Him to willingly embrace His cross and the unimaginable tortures which accompanied it, in order to save sinful humankind from eternal damnation. In the face of such overwhelming love, how could man even think of sinning?

Fr. Alex also reminded us that in our sufferings, we should be vigilant and recognize that evil exists. "Evil has a face." In whatever circumstance we may find ourselves in, we must always be aware that

"good is good and evil is bad". Confronting the controversial RH Bill, he stated that bad (e.g. contraception) will remain bad even if used to justify a good (e.g. economic recovery).

He then highlighted the other characters' responses to suffering, which responses, we would do well to emulate because like sacraments, they open God's grace to us: Mary and John's loyalty, Veronica's compassion, Simon of Cyrene's enlightenment, Mary's acceptance and surrender.

(Continued on page 7)

SUNDAY MASS REFLECTIONS

Simbahay features the Sunday Mass Readings' themes from Fr. Sal Putzu's *"Exploring God's Word"*.

These themes are part of a systematic approach to study and have a good knowledge of the Biblical passages which will be used in the coming Sunday Masses and to relate these readings to our lives.

Visit www.sjbmakati.com for more detailed excerpts of the study notes for each week.

Listen to Fr. Salvatore Putzu, SDB (General Manager and Editor, *Word and Life*) at *Bisperas sa Veritas* 846 AM, 6pm Saturday.



2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Feast of Christ, King of Divine Mercy

May 1, 2011 Readings

* **Acts 2:42-47** – Fervor and brotherly sharing in the early Christian community

* **1 Pt 1:3-9** – Christ's resurrection is a source of hope in the trials of life.

* **Jn 20:19-31** – The Risen Christ appears to his disciples to strengthen their vacillating faith.

Theme: PRECIOUSNESS OF THE GIFTS OF THE RISEN CHRIST

The apparitions of the Risen Christ to his disciples were not just a means to prove to them that he was indeed alive, but also a manifestation of his merciful love toward them. After their desertion in Gethsemane and their having gone into hiding during his trial, he had all the reasons to feel disappointed and angry. Some of us would have simply snubbed them. Others would have sought them out just to put them to shame for their cowardice.

But Jesus was guided by very different principles. When he showed himself to his disciples – the very day he had risen from death – his only concern was to share with them the fruits of his resurrection, i.e., to restore peace to their troubled hearts, to awaken in them faith in him, to make them share in his mission and to empower them with the Holy Spirit. Not a word of reproach! Only a positive attitude that brought them all out of the pit of discouragement and failure into which they had fallen.

Jesus filled the ravine of their discouragement with the abundance and preciousness of his "Easter gifts." Those gifts of the Risen Christ were not meant only for his disciples gathered in the Upper Room. They are intended for all, especially for those who open their hearts to him in faith.



3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 8, 2011 Readings

* **Acts 2:14a.22-33** – Peter proclaims that the Resurrection of Jesus is the fulfillment of ancient prophecies.

* **1 Pt 1:17-21** – Our salvation is the fruit of Christ's sacrifice.

* **Lk 24:13-35** – The Risen Christ walks with the disciples of Emmaus and reveals himself in the breaking of bread.

Theme: THE RISEN CHRIST, OUR FELLOW TRAVELER

Life is a journey – a journey to God, which we share with all other human beings. The incarnate Son of God became part of this journey when he entered our history with all its limitations and risks. He knew the cost of such a sharing and paid its price, day by day, braving oppositions, misunderstandings, hunger, rejection and death. Nothing of what is really human was foreign to him.

But unlike all human beings who end their

earthly journey of death, Jesus still continues to tread our dusty and blood-stained roads even after his death. He does that, not as a vengeful ghost haunting the planet that rejected him, but as the Risen Lord who wants to guide all human beings to the House of the Father. That is why, as he did with the two disciples from Emmaus, he joins each of us as our "fellow traveler," taking keen interest in our problems and worries, shedding light on our doubts, helping us see meaning even in the events that defy our logic or thwart our expectations.

It is good to know that we are not alone in our journey to the Father. It is good to know that Jesus is with us as our friend and fellow traveler who knows the way, even as the sun sets and darkness encompasses us.



4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Good Shepherd Sunday

May 15, 2011 Readings

* **Acts 2:14a.36-41** – The proclamation of Peter touches the hearts of his listeners.

* **1 Pt 2:20b-25** – We are called to imitate the meekness and patience of Jesus.

* **Jn 10:1-10** – Jesus is the Gate of God's sheepfold.

Theme: JESUS, THE GATE OF THE SHEEPFOLD

After having acquired the certitude of Jesus' resurrection through his various apparitions to his disciples, as we learned on the preceding Sundays, today and on the following three Sundays, we are invited to reflect on two basic questions, namely:

- I. "Who is Jesus for us?" and
- II. "How should we relate to him?"

The answer is provided by the Biblical texts of each of the following Sundays up to

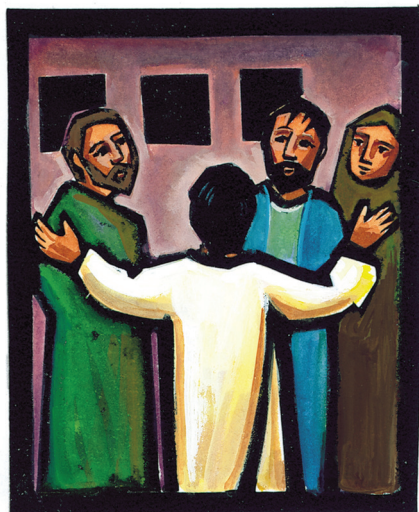
Ascension Sunday.

From today's readings we learn that Jesus is:

- Lord and Messiah (*First Reading*), and
- The caring Shepherd who knows his sheep one by one and leads them with loving concern. (*Gospel*)

This means that he is the fulfillment of the prophecies of old and has a unique and irreplaceable role in our lives. It is only thanks to him as the "caring and trusted Shepherd" and "the Gate of the sheepfold" that we can experience safety from all external attacks, and enjoy the abundance of life he came to bring. (*See today's Gospel passage.*)

Our response to Jesus' role in our life consists in following him trustfully (*see Jn 10:4*), for we know that he loves us and leads us to the springs of refreshing water and the meadows of eternal life.



5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 22, 2011 Readings

- * **Acts 6:1-7** – The apostles solve the first practical difficulty in the community.
- * **1 Pt 2:4-9** – The Christian community is the new Israel, gathered around Christ, the living stone.
- * **Jn 14:1-12** – Jesus reveals his plan for his disciples and his intimate union with the Father.

Theme: JESUS, THE ONLY WAY TO THE FATHER AND TO ETERNAL LIFE

The aspiration to be happy is so deeply rooted in the human heart, that nothing can erase it, and so many are prepared to work very hard in order to make this dream and aspiration a reality. But the challenge lies in finding the right way that leads to such a result, for many do get lost in the process of seeking happiness and end up being

unhappy for ever.

True life and happiness can be found only in the Blessed Trinity, and Jesus Christ is the only "WAY" that can lead us to Him, for no one can go to the Father except through him. (*see Jn 14:6.*) Aside from Jesus, there are no "alternate routes" to the life of eternal happiness he won for us through his life and resurrection.

Jesus alone is THE WAY TO THE FATHER and to ETERNAL LIFE. Other great leaders and holy people may be a reflection of what Jesus is. Their teaching and example may contain some aspect or other of the TRUTHS that Jesus taught and of the LIFE he lived and shared. But he alone is the perfect one, for he alone can claim in all truth: "I am THE WAY, THE TRUTH, and THE LIFE."



6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 29, 2011

Readings

- * **Acts 8:5-8, 14-17** – The successful preaching of the deacon Philip in Samaria
- * **1 Pt 3:15-18** – A disciple of Christ must always be prepared to suffer with faith.
- * **Jn 14:15-21** – Jesus challenges his disciples to show their love for him by obeying his commandments and promises the Holy Spirit.

Theme: LOVE IN WORDS AND DEEDS

Love is a dynamic reality. It impels to action. It is these actions which reveal its presence and transforming power.

Our life is replete with signs of God's love for us. Among them are Jesus' promises of the Holy Spirit and of his "coming back" to us. It is these promises and their

fulfillment which unite us to him with bonds of endless and transforming love. It is God's love for us which makes our union with him possible and real.

But the enjoyment of these possibilities depends on our response of love, and this has to be shown not just in words but also in actions, i.e., by obeying his commandments, as Jesus reminds us today.

It is our "love in action" which will enable us to feel that we are really in communion with Jesus, the Father, and the Holy Spirit.



FR. SAL'S DASAL

Like Mary Magdalene, I kneel at your tomb, Lord Jesus, your empty tomb, pondering on its message. I see no angels sent to tell me where I can find the Jesus I love and who gave meaning to my life. All that I see is a silent emptiness that challenges me to rise and live in a constant quest for the Living One.

You are no longer in the tomb, Lord Jesus. A tomb is no place for God's Son. A tomb is no place for God's children, either, for you made them – you made us – to live for ever.

Make your resurrection a reality in my life, Lord. I want to have nothing to do with death, for I am made to live in fullness all the days of my earthly journey to the shrine of endless life.

Call me by name, Lord, as I kneel by your tomb. Wake me up from the slumber of discouragement. Snatch me away from the entanglement of doubts and wrong priorities. Fill my heart with the message of your empty tomb – a message of new life and joy; a message of hope! Make me savor the glory of your triumph over death. Direct my thoughts and heart where peace and goodwill abide.

Call me by name, Lord, quicken me to action, that I may be a convincing herald of your resurrection to people near and far, who are searching for meaning. Fashion my days and efforts into an Alleluia hymn that gives hope to those who, for too long, have dwelt in the graveyard of a faithless and sinful existence. Touch their lives through me, Lord of the Living, that all may sing to you a hymn of love and glory.

AMEN! ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA!

EASTER STORIES

For most Christians, Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday are designated days in the Church calendar to commemorate the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. But in reality, we too, have our own good Fridays, Holy Saturdays and thank God, our personal Easter Sundays. Often in our lives, we experience the renewal and rebirth of our Linggo ng Pagkabuhay after passing through the Biyernes Santo of misery, disease or loss — though it may take months, even decades in between. But if we trust and cling to the Lord as he guides us through our pain, our little deaths, He shall see us through our resurrection.

We are featuring three such inspiring Easter stories as shared by our parishioners.

Born With Everything I Need

by Carlo Antonio Makalinao

I had lived most of my life believing that I had to work so that I can acquire all that I will ever need. That changed by the end of Sept. 2008 when I lost everything that I had worked so hard for but gained back so much more in return.

I was the Country Manager and COO of the Philippine Development office of a HK-based software development company from 2003-2008. Although I would acknowledge and thank God for my blessings, I had developed a materialistic culture and treated money as a quick fix to everything. My successes I primarily attributed to what I perceived as my own greatness.

In the 2nd quarter of 2006, the company finances started taking a hit. To help the company survive, I used my savings to absorb the shortfall from the salary cuts I took on being a partner. However, the finances continued deteriorating up until it was forced to close at the end of Sept. 2008 when the owner and his investor friends got hit by the US financial crisis (Lehman Brothers, etc.). I lost my job along with my 8 employees.

The burden of that reality of letting my employees go and the responsibility of assisting them to transition to new jobs opened my eyes and helped me on the road to appreciating what I had. This was when I got my strength and hope from the grace of God.

Greater still was the way my wife and daughters, then 15 and 9, handled our situation with calm, faith and hope. When I broke the news of the closure to them, my wife expressed her full support and faith in me to get us up and running again. After a day's discussion, my daughters approached me to assure me of their willingness and understanding of having to quit school, if needed. Likewise, I was so overwhelmed with the support from my dad and siblings; they gave us even more hope.

Then I realized that all I had lost were things I could live without and that I was already rich with the riches that really mattered.

From then on, God has helped me, my wife and children develop a simple and positive way of looking at life. Both my children say that despite our struggles and



HINDI KO MALILIMUTAN

ni Fr. Nesty Impelido, SDB

Ilang napakapersonal na karanasan kay Papa Juan Pablo II

... Nang tumulong ako sa pamamahagi ng Banal na Komunyon bilang isang seminarista sa Misang inyong ipinagdiwang sa Quezon City Circle sa una ninyong pagdalaw pastoral sa Pilipinas (18 Pebrero 1981)

... Nang nag-lingkod ako sa inyong misa sa Parokya ni Hesus na Mangagawa ng Diyosesis ng Roma (25 Oktubre 1981), ang una ninyong pagdalaw sa isang parokya matapos pagtangkaan ang inyong buhay (13 Mayo 1981) gayong kararating ko pa

lamang sa Roma upang magsimulang mag-aral ng teolohiya

... Nang makibahagi ako sa pasimula ng World Youth Day na inyong tinawag (15 Abril 1984 – Linggo ng Palaspas) sa prusisyon na nagmula sa Castel Sant'Angelo tungo sa Plaza ni San Pedro, at kung saan ang paksang "Manatili Kang Kasama Namin" ay umanyaya sa amin na huwag mawalan ng pag-asa

... Nang naglingkod ako sa misa ng Pasko ng Muling Pagkabuhay sa pagtatapos ng Special Jubilee Year of Redemption (22 Abril 1984) at naging alalay ninyo upang magsara ng Holy Door noong araw na iyon

... Nang nagsilbi akong diyakono sa inyong pagdalaw pastoral sa Parokya ng Santa Maria ng Setteville (5 Mayo 1985) sa hanggahan ng Roma, parokya ng mga dayong Italyano na nakikipagsapalaran sa punong lungsod ng Italya at parokyang pinamamahalaan ng mga paring dayong Italyano rin

... Nang nakipag-concelebrate ako sa Santa Misa sa inyong pribadong kapilya sa Vatikano (23 Hunyo 1986)

... Nang nag-antabay ako sa Plaza San Pedro, kasama ng libu-libong mga tao

upang samahan kayo sa mga gabi ng inyong paghihinalo (29 Marso – 1 Abril 2005)

... Nang nakidalamahati ako sa inyong pagpanaw (2 Abril 2005, alas 9:37 ng gabi) na nagdala ng matinding kalungkutan ngunit hindi pumawi sa aming pag-asa

... Nang naki-isa ako sa mga pumila at naghintay ng mahigit na labindalawang oras upang masilip lamang ang inyong mga labi sa harap ng altar ni San Pedro sa kanyang Basilika (5 Abril 2005)

... Nang nakibahagi ako sa araw ng inyong paglilibing sa Plaza San Pedro (8 Abril 2005) na sinaksihan ng buong mundo kasama ang mahigit na 6 na milyong katao na nandoon mismo.

Hindi ko malilimutan ang mga ito dahil sa inyo.

Hindi ko kayo malimutan hanggang ngayon.

At sa nalalapit na pagtatanghal sa inyo bilang Mapalad, sana patuloy ninyo kaming hindi malimutan ... sana patuloy ninyo kaming alalahanin at paalalahanan.

Pope John Paul II will be beatified on May 1, 2011. Visit <http://www.ewtn.com/JohnPaul2/beatification/index.asp> for more details.

difficult financial situation we had become closer to each other and to God. All of us knew and felt that there was nothing to fear because God will always be there to take care of us as He has done throughout our lives.

Out of the Shade

As related by Prodigal Son Jr.

By the time I dropped out of 2nd year high school, I had graduated from marijuana and mandrax to LSD, from sniffing cocaine to shooting heroin. My family had just moved into another cramped, windowless apartment, a far cry from our 1800 square meter mansion with a fleet of Benzes which my father had to sell along with our 60-foot yacht to pay off creditors. His family blamed him for bankrupting their business; so he lost not just the business, but family.

For the first time in her life, my mother had to work to send four sons to school; I decided to drop out to “help”. Besides, I would have been kicked out anyway as I would stay away from school for weeks at a time, jamming with the bands in Olongapo and running around with my equally drug-crazed friends.

As my addiction worsened, each day became a wilder roller coaster ride than the one before with euphoric highs in between hellish crashes. As the excruciating pains of withdrawal set in during those crashes, I would desperately ask myself, “Is this it, is this all there is to life?” I thought the answers would never come even as I always managed to earn or steal enough for still another hypodermic stab at heaven – until the day I finally decided to end the maddening silence of unanswered questions.

By the time they found me unconscious, the bottleful of sleeping pills that I overdosed on had already entered my bloodstream and could no longer be pumped out. The doctors said it was just a matter of time.

I remembered sitting in a dark place like a theater staring at a bright screen where a movie was showing, except that it wasn't a movie but vividly real: an indescribably lovely meadow, bathed in bright light with the most beautiful and brilliantly hued flowers I have ever seen. Was I dead?

(Please visit www.sjbmakati.com for the rest of the article)



#2 THE CHILD IN THE CHURCH:

“Helping Children Learn to Pray and Live Our Faith”

(The 2nd of a series about helping create positive experiences for our children in the church so they may grow in faith.)

By Judith Gonzales

How children are able to “attend” at mass is dependent on their exposure to the prayer life of their parents. Parents who begin praying with their children as soon as they are born know how immediately, children focus on their lips after they finish making the sign of the cross.

Everyone knows the prayer that goes, “Now I lay me down to sleep...” When Franco, my son, arrived in our home, we began praying with him. We adapted portions of this prayer and added to it. Our version goes: “Now I lay me down to sleep. I pray the Lord, my soul to keep. Give me a good night's rest Lord so I can

wake up feeling refreshed. Amen.” Then we would add our petitions of asking our Lord to bless each member of the family, our close friends, our household staff and the priests who minister to us.

In the mornings we composed a prayer all our own: “Thank you Lord for a good night's rest. Thank you Lord, for a day so blest. Thank you God for family and friends. Thank you Lord, for giving us the best! Amen.” Then we add whatever special intention we may have. By living our faith with our children, the celebration of Easter will be more meaningful! The experience of lovingly offering our sacrifices and prayers for others will help spell our success of ‘doing and loving as Jesus did.’

Happy Easter, everyone!

(Please visit www.sjbmakati.com for the complete article)

(Continued from page 3)

March 30

Lent – A Season of Love

by Dr. Gaines Marie del Rosario

Dr. Gaines spoke of love; her words just flowed. She spoke of human experiences which many in the audience could relate to. She laid down the premise that Lent and Easter are seasons of love just like Advent and Christmas.

Out of love, God gave his only Son to die on the cross for us. Even after doing so, He continues to show us His generous love through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Dr. Gaines gave us a run down of all the modern day sins we commit, perhaps to make it easier for us to examine ourselves and go to confession so that we can respond to His call for reconciliation.

Dr. Gaines also shared her beautiful, loving but all too brief relationship with her Dad who died early. My son of nine years who was with me told me that he was almost moved to tears as Dr. Gaines spoke of the affirmation her Dad gave her, how this made her feel so precious and loved and how this has allowed her to love others. I thanked God for her talk that touched my son's heart ... our hearts.

April 6

Loving with an Impact

by Fr. Dennis Paez, SDB

The last of the three Lenten Recollections was on the language of love – the various ways people express their love for others. Initially, the talk seemed to be intended for married people as Fr. Dennis discussed the different methods that spouses use to convey and receive love (e.g. words, touch, gifts, presence, and service) and the difficulties these same people encounter if the languages of love that they used with each other differ. By not being on the same wavelength, people misunderstand each other.

While keeping his audience in stitches, Fr. Dennis nevertheless conveyed a simple yet profound message as he shifted the focus of the talk from a marriage-oriented viewpoint to that of a Christ-oriented one – that no matter which method is used, as long as it is done with the sincere intention to maximize experiences within the time spent with a loved one and to impart the assurance of being wholly present to the beloved, it is then that one speaks the language of love. It is the same language that God, Himself, uses with His children, long before He lived, died and resurrected for us and even until now – that of spending quality time with and being present to the one you love.

MAY 2011 CALENDAR

- 01 Sun 2nd Sunday of Easter
Divine Mercy Sunday
Beatification of
Pope John Paul II
- 03 Tue Philip & James, Apostle
- 08 Sun 3rd Sunday of Easter
- 13 Fri Our Lady of Fatima
- 14 Sat St. Matthias
- 15 Sun 4th Sunday of Easter
Good Shepherd Sunday
World Prayer for Vocations
- 20 Fri Birthday of Fr. Godfrey Roozen, SDB
- 22 Sun 5th Sunday of Easter
- 24 Tue Mary Help of Christians
- 28 Sat Grand Alay – Flores de Mayo
- 29 Sun 6th Sunday of Easter
- 31 Tue Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Daily flower offering in honor of Mary during all 6:00 pm Masses for the whole month of May

Sick Visitation – Thursdays 9am

Holy Hour – Thursdays 6:30pm

Medical & Dental – Sundays 2:00pm

Street Mass – Saturdays 7:30pm

Visit our website for the complete May 2011 Calendar

<http://sjbmakati.com/parish-activities.html>

Mass Collections for March 2011

Php 1,252,056.40

SJB MAKATI PnP COLLECTIONS

Php 10,980.00



TIME FOR THE CHILDREN'S CHOIR

by Concha Segovia
Assumption High School I-1

Some people just like to spend their weekends with their family and others with their friends. Some take time to go to the malls, theme parks and leisure places to unwind and to relax. But I take time serving God as His instrument in the children's choir.

I am the vocal coach of the children's choir. We have scheduled practices every Saturday, between 2 to 5:30 in the afternoon, in one of the rooms of the Parish Building. We usually begin with vocalization which I lead. We practice the songs for the children's mass or for events like the concert we had during the visit of Don Bosco's Relic. Once the children start singing, it's as if I could hear angelic voices coming from heaven.

It is a pleasure and blessing to help little kids to sing well for God. I don't consider it a task because being part of this choir is fun and fulfilling. I enjoy coaching them and sometimes playing with them after the practice. Instead of spending my time unwisely during the weekend, I prefer to be with the group for a purpose – or a mission.

YOUTH CORNER



TAIZE PRAYER VIGIL

by Welly Cuna

Our parish held a prayer vigil on March 24, 2011 for the victims of the recent earthquake and tsunami in Japan. The vigil was sponsored by the Episcopal Commission on Youth of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines and was done following the Taize style of prayer. This is a style of meditative singing and centering prayer which originated in Taize, France where short songs are sung over and over in a meditative fashion between moments of silent prayer and the reading of Bible passages.

The objective of this vigil was to be united with our brothers and sisters in Japan through prayer. This special night of prayer was attended by the youth of St. John Bosco and of other parishes in Manila.



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