

A tribute to our communicator extraordinaire: Sis Annie Villarente

By Sis Cora Tuason – Lay Director



Brothers and Sisters, here's a question for you: What phenomenal tech application has helped our community tremendously during this pandemic?

(Hint: it was an amazing solution to our self-isolation.)

Yes, that is correct! The virtual get-together using Zoom!

At the start of this pandemic in March 2020, the Secretariat decided immediately to stop all Cursillo events and activities.

In a month or so, we thought, this pandemic would be over. Sadly, that didn't turn out to be the case.

March ended and April came. Still no in-person activities.

This troubled the Secretariat. If this isolation kept up, interest in the Cursillo events might dissipate. After all, it was our bonding that strengthened our friendship.

In the meantime, my then employer started making us attend staff meetings via Zoom.

At my first Zoom meeting, it dawned on me, wow, we could do this for Cursillo, if only we could learn how to do it!

So, in the April Secretariat meeting, we all agreed to use Zoom, and we hoped it would be our answer to not being able to hold Cursillo events. But one problem: no one among us exactly knew how to do Zoom.

The responsibility to learn about Zoom fell on Sis Annie's lap, our Communications Administrator.

She had to learn from scratch how to do and start virtual logistic meetings. At first, it was a hit and miss.

But like everything else in Cursillo, God provides. Sis Annie's endeavor was not that of a lonesome feat. Members stepped up and helped tremendously in its infancy. They were as much of a hero as Sis Annie.

Through their valiant work, we were able to hold our SOL, Ultreya, Group Reunion meetings, and events virtually using Zoom that May and months after.

Yes, Sis Annie as we know her, is not the one to make excuses when presented a difficult task. She is the one who would answer when asked "Let me see what I can do." Her resourcefulness is par none, her resilience is impeccable, and her determination is resolute. Oh! What a lucky lot we are to have her.

Let me bring you back to the humble beginnings of the Communication Administrator position in the FCC Secretariat. This position was created when we amended our bylaws in 2018. There was no precedent as to what the duties and responsibilities the Communication Administrator-elect Sis Annie would have.

And yet, she took the bull by the horn, and made it happen. The flow of communication among members was neither disrupted nor diminished because of Covid-19.

She articulated a miracle in interactive communications. She is an effective writer, gifted with a selfless heart, a true Cursillista in words and in deeds, and always willing to lend a hand to a brother or sister in need.

The Certificate of Appreciation presented to Sis Annie Villarente does not measure up to her invaluable service to the Cursillo Community. The dedication embossed with the stamp of gratitude and utmost appreciation reads:

"Sis Annie, thank you from the bottom of our hearts. We will miss you as our Communications Administrator, but we know you will always be around, and still ready to say: Let me see what I can do.'"

De Colores.