



The Official Newsletter of the Filipino Cursillo Community Diocese of Oakland

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Volume 2 Fourth Issue

(FY 2015-2016)

January 2015

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"True wisdom consists not only in seeing what is before our eyes, but in foreseeing what is to come. Terence

Remembering Fr. Joe Arong—Sharing Moments In Our Converging Lives

By: Deacon Noe Tuason



It is amazing how our lives unfold without knowing what we would become. I don't believe that there is any predetermination. We have the freedom of the will. We do things on our own volition. We act. We make choices. These choices determine our destiny, for good or for ill.

Fr. Joe and I have made choices in our lifetime. We did not have much in common early on. While we both came from the province and went to study in the same university, the University of the Philippines in Diliman, we lived in different years, different environments, different generations. During his time in the 50's, the Diliman campus was relatively quiet. Student Catholic action, monthly socials, Cadena de Amor festival and lantern parade

were their main non-curricular activities. My time was anything but quiet. This was in the 60's. The university was the center of student activism. We had sit-ins and demos, took to the street, set up barricades, and clashed with the police. Fr. Joe would leave the university to become a priest. I would stay on, graduate, get married and have a family. In our contrasting times and contrasting lives, we never imagined that decades later our times and lives would converge.

Our first meeting was in the mid-70's at the Population Center Foundation. I was director of the Population Research Utilization Projects. He was a consultant. We were not friends. We were colleagues. He just came back with a Ph.D. from Stanford and was president of Notre Dame University in Cotabato. I was a professor of philosophy at the University of the Philippines. After our projects, we moved on to other pursuits. I never saw him again until twenty five years later at a 4th day ULtreya. We were both Cursillistas and ordained brothers in faith. We soon became friends. He would become my spiritual adviser and would influence greatly my journey as a deacon. We got together many times again since then.

When Fr. Joe had died suddenly, part of me died with him. All I had left were memories of our friendship--driving and serving together during Cursillo weekends, sharing books, traveling to the Holy Land, having lunch at his favorite restaurant, and numerous conversations on various issues and topics. Equally memorable are our times together without a word spoken. In retrospect, I knew we were friends when we felt no discomfort in our silence.

While my memories may be all I had left of Fr. Joe, they cannot be taken away from me. Those were moments in our lives, happy moments, moments to live and deepening of the spirit. As the poet William Wordsworth said, even though the radiance of those moments may have been taken away from my sight, I will grieve not rather find strength in what reminds behind. Fr. Joe and I will meet again I am sure, in another moment, or lifetime.

Did you know . . .

The Psalter of Mary

Such is an old name for the Rosary, because its fifteen decades - 150 Hail Marys with fifteen meditations - is a complete Rosary and includes exactly the same number of Hail Marys as there are psalms in the Psalter (Book of Psalms). It was the laity's desire to share in the Church's daily prayer, the Liturgy of the Hours that led in the twelfth century to the Rosary prayer form. In those days, many of the faithful were unable to read, so praying the Aves from memory took the place of the written prayer texts used by the more educated clergy. The well-known and symbolically powerful beads were adopted as a simple counting aid. Such are the scriptural and liturgical roots of this symbol of prayer, the Rosary.

The Catholic Source Book

A Childlike Disposition of a Cursillista

By: Sis Vee Gaspar



It is of ardent urgency that I want to relay to you my burning desire to write and share some pointers as we go along our life's journey that hopefully I pray, will lead us daily to focus on Jesus through Mary.

Feel God's presence and love especially when you receive the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus. Ask our Mother Mary to prepare you for the proper reception in the coming of our Savior Jesus Christ. Enjoy and deeply feel the sweetness of the God who truly loves you and who will indeed cause you to experience heaven right here on earth.

In every adoration you make, like a child, eagerly pour your heart out, tell Jesus how much you love Him. Say how grateful you are for His mercy, compassion and blessings; for all the graces you have obtained daily. Try to hold on to His hands, begging Him to touch and heal those you wanted healed, to be whole and all the members of your family, relatives and friends who are sick.

Pray, whisper to Him that you longed for world peace, to silence the guns so as to obtain a quiet, happy and contented world that God the Father has originally created for us. Mention in your prayer the salvation of souls, the conversion of sinners and the poor souls in Purgatory. Include our Holy Father Francis and Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, for their health, protection, works and all their intentions. Also pray for all priests,

friars, brothers, nuns, deacons, all missionaries and all religious. Let us pray for our personal missions so that we can carry on our Lord Jesus' mission on earth.

Please grab every opportunity! Don't miss out and "stay awake" for we don't know when the Master is coming. Be persistent! Don't get tired or complacent! Persevere till the end and you shall receive the Crown of Life!

"Pride is the only poison which when swallowed would bring about good, never evil".

Lessons Learned by the Grace of God

By: Deacon Steve Budnik - Former SA of the Filipino Cursillo Community (FCC) -Oakland



I praise God for the incredible blessing of serving as Spiritual Advisor to the Filipino Cursillo Community of the Diocese of Oakland from January 20, 2004 to September 17, 2014. I thank our Filipino Cursillo Community for the love and support you have offered to this adopted and converted Filipino Deacon.

It is certainly by the grace of God that I was able to serve and you were willing to put up with me serving for over 10 years. Reflecting back on my service I'm amazed at how God's grace worked to form me and form our community in a very synergistic way. His grace continues to form our community and me personally in my leaving

the position of Spiritual Advisor and in Deacon Rey assuming the position.

God's grace often operates mysteriously and in a combination of circumstances that make it difficult to detail its actions. However, in retrospect it is often possible for us to discern changes that have occurred through our cooperation with that grace. I will highlight a few lessons I learned by God's grace during my time as FCC Spiritual Advisor.

Admit mistakes – This was witnessed to me several times during Cursillo Weekend formation meetings when one of our servers stood and pointed out his or her mistake and asked for forgiveness. In emulating this behavior I discovered a freedom that comes from admitting one's mistakes to those affected by the mistakes. The admission frees one from dwelling on what went wrong and encourages focus on mission. There is no better place to admit mistakes than in the midst of our loving and supportive Cursillo community.

“No” is not the only way to say no – I need to explain this for non-Filipinos who may happen to read this article. In the high context Filipino culture no is not usually communicated directly, for example by the word “no”. Rather, an answer of no would more commonly be expressed by a word such as “maybe”. Discernment of the answer no requires insight into the context as well as the non-verbal communications. For more information, please see the article Maybe is no by Zeus Salazar (<http://www.livinginthephilippines.com/culture-and-people/philippine-culture/sense-of-being-filipino/1207-maybe-is-no>).

Even before I made my Cursillo with our Filipino Cursillo Community I understood that “maybe” in the context of Filipino Culture likely means “no”. My first lesson in this was facilitated by the significant effort required to turn the “maybe” of Corrie

Constantino into the “yes” to becoming Corrie Budnik.

However, it was my experience as Spiritual Advisor for our Filipino Cursillo Community that formed me to finally see the beauty and compassion of the Filipino way of saying no. This understanding has moved this adopted Filipino to become a converted Filipino!

Presence is more important than ideas – The saying “No one cares how much you know until they know how much you care” is perhaps overused; but it certainly expresses what I have experienced as a brother (first) and a Spiritual Advisor (second) in our community. It has been my presence and participation in our community that has formed me by the grace of God and I hope my presence has in some way been an instrument of God's grace to the community.

Be quick to seek forgiveness – Some of you may be tired of hearing me say that the Filipino Cursillo Community of the Diocese of Oakland is the most loving and forgiving community I have encountered. But, I continue to say it because it continues to be my experience. Please always remember that love and forgiveness are inseparable. Of course forgiving is easy compared to seeking forgiveness; but seeking forgiveness profoundly strengthens our love and builds our community.

Discernment is not about me – As much as I understand that discernment is about following God's will and not my own will; I often find myself focused on my own comfort and what is best for me. There is a formula in the Book of Proverbs (3:5-6) that helps me in my efforts to be open to God's grace and God's will.

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, on your own intelligence do not rely; In all your ways be mindful of Him, and He will make straight your paths.

Proverbs 3:5-6 (Revised New American Bible)

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, on your own intelligence do not rely;” - I don’t need to understand where I am being led or what the outcome will be; I simply need to trust in God’s providence.

“In all your ways be mindful of Him,” – I need to be in constant connection with God, through regular prayer, liturgy, and dialog”

“and He will make straight your paths.” – I will be led to where He wants me. The path may not appear straight to me; but it will be the shortest distance from where I am to where He wants me to be considering the particulars of who I am and my circumstances. Of course where He wants me to be is not just what is best for me personally; but rather, what is best for the body of Christ (including both current and future members).

De Colores!

“When you are angry or frustrated, what comes out? Whatever it is, it’s a good indication of what you’re made of”.

“You master your enemies not by force but by forgiveness”.

“Good manners sometimes means simply putting up with other people’s bad manners”.

“To be bitter is to waste precious moments of a life that’s too short already”.

“Only God is in a position to look down on anyone”.

P.S. I Love You - Mom
H. Jackson Brown, Jr.

The Elves of St. Patrick

By: Sis Celsa Taraya



From a distant horizon of San Francisco, eastside of the bay, a little town flourishes in the midst of a political shake down and economic downturn which led to multiple resignations from the mayoral administration, named after a god of strength – Hercules. That was five years ago today.

In the current times, Hercules is burgeoning with growth and prosperity which translate into moving onwards to the road of recovery. Somehow, the two factions of society are competing as to who gets the most attention – the haves or have not’s? The shelters are not enough to house the homeless. People of means walk on and don’t look back to the people who are cold and have nowhere to sleep, almost embarrassed to be there - another day in paradise as the song goes. For others, they do care. They do little acts of kindness and mercy to ease the pain and suffering of the poor and the wretched. Woven from the fabric of love and care, the foundation of St Patrick Cursillo Team which began over twenty years ago strengthens even more with selfless dedication of members to the on-going community projects.

All year long, the members do hands-on, relevant, sustainable projects for the benefit of the less fortunate both as an individual and/or a team. Its manifestation is more pronounced during the Christmas season. They are the Elves of St Patrick, all forty-two (42) members.

Here are a few of their favorites:

- 1) Providing rides to the team members and the community who do not have means of transport.
- 2) Collecting and dropping off non-perishable items for the Christmas basket giving to 40 neediest families.
- 3) Feeding the homeless at Brookside Shelter in Richmond, CA
- 4) Active participation in the Simbang Gabi by hosting the after mass breakfast feeding more or less 300 church goers.
- 5) Sunshine Program – visiting the sick and dying, prayers for the dead.
- 6) Chairing Church fundraising events
- 7) Mass servers – Eucharistic ministry, lector and choir
- 8) Volunteering at the Senior Centers
- 9) Offering flowers to the Church on occasions
- 10) Raise funds to support on-going projects
- 11) Readily open their pocket books for a worthy cause
- 12) Transporting candidates to the three-day Cursillo both men and women.
- 13) Volunteer at the food bank and soup kitchen
- 14) Attend team and FCC Diocese meetings
- 15) Signing-up as servers for the 3-day Cursillo
- 16) Caroling school children and more.

It's my pride and joy to work with the Elves of St Patrick Cursillo Team.

“Let us not become weary in doing good. For at the proper time, we will reap a harvest if we do not give up”.

From The Editor's Desk

Love & Mercy

By: Bro. Vic Ramos



We recall the lively discussion during our Christmas Party at St. Raymond Moran Hall last December 5th. The topic was about love and mercy after which the disposition became more intense and lengthy. The audience started to feel challenged and gave in to excitement. Fr. Gerald was nonchalant as he asked more questions. Someone begged him to just give out the answer to the final question: When does love become pity or mercy?

Deacon Rey explained that love of God or love of neighbor eventually becomes mercy when there is a willful forbearance of another persons' suffering. Some others like myself, say that love becomes mercy when the awareness turns to a deep intention to relieve one person of his sufferings for love of God and love of neighbor.

God indeed loves us so much that he cannot abandon anyone in dire need. He rewrote human history by giving us his mercy – mercy incarnated in Jesus, our Lord and Savior. The Scripture eloquently expresses this idea of God's merciful love . . . “His mercy endures forever” or “His love is everlasting” (Psalm 118).

Our journey in spiritual life is made possible because of God's merciful love. It matters that we are to take seriously this mission to be bearers of God's mercy and peace. After experiencing this ourselves, we are to truly be living witnesses of the same mercy.

In our daily existence and dealings with others, we are to be instruments of divine mercy, so that, we assist God's work in healing the world's brokenness and making it a better place to live.

Spiritual life is to rejoice in this infinite mercy and everlasting love of God that made it possible for us to live worthy of being called His children, therefore, heirs to God's heavenly glory and privileged by His grace to live holy lives. This is our calling in our time. There is nothing in our life that we can be proud of without His love and mercy. May God bless us all.

Best wishes and felicitations for the New Year!

"The wise man in the storm prays to God not for safety from danger but for deliverance from fear. It is the storm within which endangers him, not the storm without".

Ralph Waldo Emerson

INFORMATIONAL SECTION

From the Pre Cursillo Committee

What is Precursillo? The Precursillo is one of the three important phases of our Cursillo movement. In the Precursillo phase, we identify, befriend and then help the person who is in need of renewal and conversion, who is in pursuit of searching for that something that he/she identifies as his/her happiness, or his/her fulfillment, or his/her ideal and that we know is really somebody – Jesus Christ.

What is our goal? To find these people, these natural leaders who will transform their environments to Christ, for Christ and in Christ.

Where do we look for these people? We focus our sight for these people/prospective candidates within our families, our circle of friends from: our parish churches, neighborhoods, workplaces, social gatherings, such as, anniversaries, birthdays, Christmas celebrations, picnics, etc.

How do we lead and guide our prospective candidates to join our Filipino Cursillo Community (FCC)? Invite them to attend your Group Reunion Team meetings. Eventually, invite them to attend other FCC events such as: School of Leaders (SOL) meetings, Ultreyas, FCC Christmas celebrations and FCC Annual picnics, etc.

How do we bring these friends to Christ? Invite him/her to attend our Cursillo Weekend, after establishing a strong bond of friendship among your friends. Establishing a good relationship may take several months or years before it bears fruits.

There are three categories of potential candidates in the Section Process that can be accepted to attend the Cursillo Weekend, to wit:

- (1) Those who should go. Those who are already functioning as the vertebrae of their environments are potential candidates. In order to see whether they are real vertebrae and not merely apparent ones, we must determine whether or not they have the strength of character and a capacity of humility. In order to find out who will be the best candidates, we must be guided by love as we seek to discover their capacity for awe or sense of wonder. It may be

necessary to take into account the Spiritual Advisor's advice and help of our brothers and sisters in our Group Reunion Teams and Ultreyas.

Candidates who should go are (i) those who have strength of character and self-control, who are able to make their own decisions and who are self-motivated, mature, free and responsible; (ii) those who are leaders, self-starters and movers; (iii) those who have the ability and desire to live in and for the community, with Christ, in Christ and for Christ.

Always remember that they must be able: (i) to understand the message and to commit themselves; (ii) to leaven their environment with the Gospel values; (iii) to discover their individual charisms and place them at the service of the community.

(2) Those who can go. (must meet minimal requirements) Average Catholics can go because the Cursillo enhances them, from whatever point in life they are. Those who are in a position to receive the Sacraments of the Catholic Church can go. In addition, the Group Reunion Team helps them find their place of evangelistic service. Keep in mind that the Lord has His ways, and at times individuals who we thought are not for Cursillo, are transformed into vertebrae as they experience the encounter with themselves, with Christ and with others, once their personalities have been uplifted by His grace.

(3) Those who should not go. (i) those who have psychological or emotional problems; (ii) those whose moral life is contrary to the teachings of the

Catholic Church; (iii) those who cannot receive the Sacraments of the Church. In the case of candidates who belong to other religious denominations, we must follow the direction in the guidelines of the National Secretariat. The national Secretariat disallows the participation of non-Catholic in the Catholic Cursillo activities. They are encouraged to join other renewal programs, including Cursillo, which is available to them within their own denominations.

In all this process, we should (i) Pray for guidance from the Holy Spirit. "First, speak to God about your potential candidate, before speaking to the candidate about God." (ii) Be a qualified and well-informed sponsor. Know your role and responsibilities as a sponsor. (iii) Walk your candidate through his/her Fourth Day journey. "The sponsor should see the candidate as a person, in the image and likeness of God, and not just a number for the weekend. So, don't stop being a friend to him or her.

"Make a friend, be a friend and bring a friend to Christ."

By: Bro. Rey Dollete and the Precursillo Core Committee

"The finest test of character is seen in the amount and the power of gratitude we have".
Milo H. Gates

Mananita

By: Sis Annie Villarente

Music is one of the greatest gifts the Lord has given to us. It is the language of the soul and it soothes our troubled spirits. Music is always a wonderful way of worshipping God. Through it, we raise our voices to sing of God’s glory, proclaim his joy and love for us, offer thanksgiving for all his blessings, and find divine strength and courage in our trials and hardship. The history of our faith has been sprinkled with references of how music is so important in the lives of God’s children.

When music is woven into any liturgy or worship, it makes them all the richer and deeply inspirational. Within the FCC Diocese of Oakland we make use of music in our ministry of Mananita. In the Cursillo, mananita refers to serenading cursillistas by members of the same or different Cursillo community.

Within our community, the breakfast mananita is held during the 3 day weekend. Members of our community gather together to practice early on Sunday, the last day of the weekend. When brother/sister candidates are at breakfast, we come into the dining hall, serenading them with Cursillo songs. It is always a joyful and moving experience for the candidates and servers alike. Many of us can still remember how deeply we were affected by the mananita at our Cursillo years ago.

We have mananita at other times as well. It has been and still is a ministry that we do for other communities such as the English Cursillos (4 times a year). They never fail to invite us every year to sing to them during breakfast. We have found it to be an effective way of reaching out, unifying us beyond our cultural differences. Many servers share with us how memorable the mananitas were during their own cursillos.

In the past year, we have also started to do breakfast mananita for Outside Kairos program. This program involves the women relatives of incarcerated inmates. It is so good to know that in some small way, through our songs, we are able to foster a sense of hope, support and love to these ladies who truly need them in the difficult time of their lives.

We are very grateful to the many brothers, sisters and musicians who have given their time to participate throughout the years. We invite new cursillistas to join us. Please contact the Post Cursillo Mananita Coordinator, Bro Willie Villarente at wgvillarente67@yahoo.com or other members of the Post Cursillo Committee so we can add you to the email lists for notification. Blessings to everyone and Decolores!

**Annual Memorial Mass at OLG
November 7, 2015**





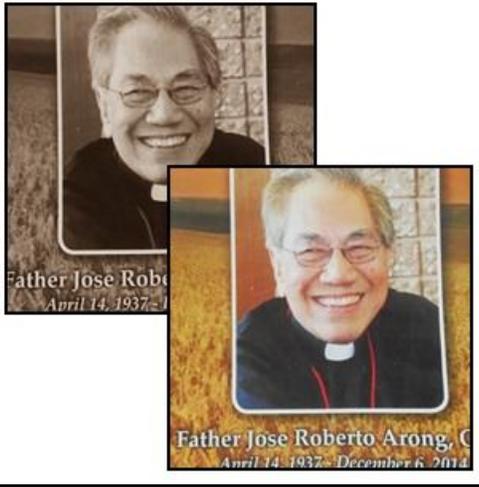
A thankful heart is not only the greatest virtue but the parent of all other virtues.
Cicero





Rev. Fr. Jose Arong Remembered on his 1st Death Anniversary

Love comforteth like sunshine after the rain.
William Shakespeare



In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.
1 Thessalonians 5:18

**2015 Annual Christmas Ultreya/Party
December 5, 2015**



A state of mind that see God in everything is evidence of growth in grace and a grateful heart.

Charles G. Finney

I condemn no one since I see no window to look through another man's conscience.
Saint Thomas Moore



Did you know . . .

*And the Word Made His Dwelling
Among Us*

Among Christians there is an ancient custom of blessing a house on the Epiphany, recalling the visit of the magi. After the blessing - usually by the pastor - the initials of the traditional names of the Magi, Gaspar (Caspar), Melchior, and Balthasar, are inscribed and connected by crosses, with white chalk, on the inside door frame. The numerals of the current year serve as bookends: 20 + G + M + B + _. (For example, in 2016 you would write 20 G M B 16.) In the old Roman ritual, there is even a special blessing for the chalk used. The book Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 1998) provides a contemporary version of the house blessing.

The Catholic Source Book





Quality is never an accident; it is always the result of intelligent effort.

John Ruskin



There are no great men in this world, only great challenges which ordinary men rise to meet.

William Frederick Halsey, Jr.





A wise man will hear and increase learning. And a man of understanding will acquire wise counsel. Proverbs 1:5

Before us is a future all unknown: a path untrod; beside us a friend well loved and known – that friend is God.
Unknown



If you are swept off your feet, it is time to get on your knees. Fred Beck



The ability to turn a disaster into a comical situation is one we could all learn. There is enough in life to be serious about, so learn to laugh as often as you can! Laughter is the joyous universal evergreen of life.
Abraham Lincoln



Luck is what happens when preparations meet opportunity.
 H. Jackson Brown, Jr.



Did you know . . .

Nativity Scenes

According to tradition, Francis of Assisi began the practice of using mangers at Christmas time. Sometimes called the "Saint of the Incarnation", Francis believed that of all the ways God has revealed his love, none is more total and tangible than the Incarnation of his Son. So it isn't surprising that for the midnight Mass, Christmas 1223, in a cave in Greccio, Italy, Francis presented a living reenactment of the nativity scene. This visual and creative-and apparently first-commemoration of Christ's birth has now become traditional. Creche is a French word meaning manger or crib.

The Catholic Source Book

**Discernment for Understudy/
Rectora #95/Rector #96
At CCTL on January 16th, 2016**



Congratulations to Sis Norma Acaba & Bro Vic Pediglorio!



Housekeeping

- (1) We plan to have a section on “Intercessory Prayer” in the near future. This is dependent on the list of names Team Reps provide before the announced deadline. Kindly submit the names to Bro Vic Ramos.

- (2) Mariposa Newsletter can also be viewed on the website. Access www.fccoakland.net and click on Mariposa.

- (3) Bookmarking the FCC website is easy. a) In Google Chrome, after entering the web address (#3 above), hover over the Star to the right of the address line. b) Press the left mouse button to open the Bookmark window. c) Confirm under **Name:** is the FCC web address. d) Under **Folder:** select Bookmarks bar. e) Click <Done>. f) To test, find the FCC bookmark under the address line. g) Or click on the right-pointing arrow located under the Star and click on the FCC bookmark. h) Clicking on the bookmark is easier than typing the web address.

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SAVE THE DATES

1st Quarter of 2016 Only

SCHOOL OF LEADERS (SOL)

Jan 25 Rev. Solomon Farinto, SJ on
Pope Francis' Year of Mercy

Feb 22 Rev Jim Schexnayder on
Sacraments of Eucharist and
Reconciliation

Sis Josie Herrera on 3-Day
Committee Technical Talk

Mar 21 Rev Joyzy Pius Egunjobi on
Youth Involvement in our Faith

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Jan 23 East Ultreya

Feb 13 Oakland Ultreya

Feb 20 East Ultreya

Feb 27 Lenten Retreat – Merciful Hearts
Bring Peace & Hope at OLGC
8AM-4PM

Mar 12 Joint Ultreya at Oakland –
Stations of the Cross

Secretariat Members

Lay Director: Mario Camorongan

Secretary: Kathrina Parungao

Treasurer: Celso Perez

Chairpersons:

SOL: Cora Tuason

Pre Cursillo: Reynaldo Dollete

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Spiritual Advisor: Dcn. Rey Encarnacion

