



THE MARIPOSA

The Official Newsletter of the Filipino Cursillo Community Diocese of Oakland

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Recent Happenings:

This issue is dedicated to the recently concluded Women's Cursillo # 91 Weekend, under the tutelage of the Rectora, Sis Ella Trinidad and with the help of her Vice Rectoras, Sis Dorie Nues for Piety, Sis Doris Sunga for Study and Sis Irma Avellanosa for Action. Help also came from their mentors, spiritual advisors and servers as well as from the Pre-Cursillo, 3-Day Weekend and Post-Cursillo Committees.

In as much as we would like to post individual pictures of the Women's Cursillo #91 new graduates, we feel that this would be a duplication of efforts since the Directory contains said pictures already. Besides, the events during the 3-Day Weekend Retreat will also be posted on the FCC-Oakland Website (www.fccoakland.net). This issue will then focus more on their 4th Day/Joint Ultreya which was last September 19, 2015.



Welcome to the New Graduates:

Sis Elizabeth Aba
Sis Cristina Alvarez
Sis Ma. Cristina Arquero
Sis Jenna Asuncion
Sis Lourdes Barrozo
Sis Luvizminda Bradford
Sis Margaret Co
Sis Juliana Cruz
Sis Regina De Guzman
Sis Milda Dela Rosa
Sis Precila Elman
Sis Imelda Fajardo
Sis Princesita Fiscus
Sis Naomi Galang
Sis Jocelyn Irasga
Sis Miriam Madsen
Sis Mary Ann Martinez
Sis Marilyn Morgan
Sis Rebecca Reyes
Sis Cielo Sanchez
Sis Rosy Sapico
Sis Avelina Sarraga
Sis Purificacion Serrano
Sis Vita Soliven

My Journey from Understudy to Rectora of Women's Cursillo #91

By: Sis Ella Trinidad



I am humbled that I was chosen as the Rectora of the Women Cursillo #91. We Harvested 24 and Yielded 24 new blissfully beautiful sisters added to the Filipino Cursillo Community of the Diocese of Oakland, California.

Since after my Cursillo, I never thought that I would lead a weekend retreat. I had it in my mind that I was just going to be a follower. That had all changed when I attended the discernment process to select a qualified Cursillista to lead a weekend retreat. In January 2014, I was selected to lead the Women Cursillo #91 which was just completed. When I was selected I knew in my heart that it was bound to happen. I accepted and embraced this opportunity with all my heart with the blessing of my husband, Bro. Oscar Trinidad.

Selecting a core team was initially difficult. However, I already knew who I would pick but the only problem was, were they going to accept it? With intense prayer, all accepted my invitation to join me. I praised and thanked the Lord for their happy responses. Preparing a core team meeting and team formation meeting was not that easy but I had no fear because I chose the best sisters Cursillista to assist me in this journey.

The formation meeting was organized and well planned by following the Cursillo Manual guideline. The venue was

accessible to all the sisters who were willing to serve. My Spiritual Advisors are available at any time for advice and spiritual guidance. However, there was one person that I missed during the countless meetings and the weekend retreat, Reverend Father Jose Arong, OMI, may he rest in peace.

This weekend was very meaningful; I was physically and spiritually enriched in leading the new sisters to go through this conversion to knowing God's unconditional love. I felt peace and confidence in embracing the love of God daily during the weekend. I knew that God provided guidance throughout that weekend, leaving me rest assured for each day that followed. I started each day with a smile and calmness in my heart and ended each day with gratitude to God!

It has been very rewarding to serve the Lord. The Lord's mercy is in all of us during the weekend. Without the team and the new sisters the weekend would not have happened. The prayers of the community and palancas from all over the world help us tremendously. It was an amazing group that demonstrated great leadership by the grace and guidance of our almighty Father and Mama Mary.

All in all, this weekend went well. I know that it was inevitable to expect some minor issues but all were manageable. Our focus was to love each other and to love God with all our heart and with all our soul the Cursillo way.

A special thanks to the serene and peaceful environment of Camp St. Francis De Sales Retreat Center which contributed to the success of the weekend.

DECOLORES!



"To the world you may be one person, but to one person you may be the world".

"Make yourself a better person and know who you are before you try and know someone else and expect them to know you".



"Never frown when you are sad because you never know who is falling in love with your smile".



"Don't try so hard, the best things come when you least expect them to".



Remember: "Whatever happens, happens for a reason".

Top L-R: The 4th Day Witness Speaker – Sis Gigi Enriquez with Dcn. Rey Encarnacion giving the summation. Bottom L-R: Sis Clarita Perez and Sis Cora Tuason, announcing for Post Cursillo and SOL, respectively.



What it is to be a Vice-Rectora for Study

By: Sis Doris Sunga



It is not an easy task, to be honest ... but my personal perception is that you have to be mentally and spiritually ready.

Finishing my School for Pastoral Ministry (SPM) before the start of WC#91 Core meetings was an indication that HE prepared me mentally for the STUDY GROUP, and so I accepted Sis Ella's request.

From Core meetings to Formation meetings, and through the Cursillo weekend, it was **prayers** that gave me ultimate strength and guidance.

One of my mentors, Sis Josie, always emphasized to me that we could only prepare so much but in the end it is always about "GOD'S PLAN". That is very true! All rollos and activities were well prepared but who would have thought that all 24 candidates would request for confession. This took time. It became our **ULTIMATE** priority on top of Saturday's busy schedule because we knew this is what God wants. By HIS grace and through the cooperation of our Den Mothers, the mission was accomplished.

Besides prayers two of the key things that I learned were first, to be a **good and active listener**. The HOLY SPIRIT speaks to all of us and we should be sensitive about it. We

need to be generous in conveying this message and I have felt that He sent me all the right people at the right time. *Proverbs 15:31 - He whose ear listens to the life-giving reproof Will dwell among the wise.* We got the exact information we needed and that helped me do the right thing.

Second, put on **love**, which is the perfect bond of **unity** for a successful weekend. *Colossians 3:14 - And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity*

My experience was great because "We have HIM". *"I can do everything through Him who gives me strength."* *Philippians 4:13*



"Just because someone doesn't love you the way you want them to, doesn't mean they don't love you with all they have".



A Photographer in the Eyes of Another

By: Sis Celsa Taraya



Landing a photographer's job to cover before, during and after the 3-day Cursillo weekend was so strange to me, but having learned much about serving in my three years as Cursillista and being an obedient servant of the Lord, I accepted. "I can do this", I said. Sister Ella, the Rectora handed me her camera and requested to start shooting. "Sister Ophie will be there with you, just follow her lead", she said. Easy does it, yes? Wrong!

I watched Sister Ophie missed having a meal with us, watched her taking pictures without missing a beat, giving in to requests of immortalizing unforgettable poses; she was a much welcomed paparazzi of the FCC.

Whatever she did, I did. Wherever, whomever she shot, I shot. Bit by bit I learned not to duplicate her grounds. Learned to eat fast so I can take over, she didn't miss her meals again, learned how to work the camera.

At the end of each formation, I turned in the borrowed camera to Sister Ella. As sure as the sunrise, collage of printed pictures appeared at the next formation. I thought, probably she has "elves" helping her print hundreds, sorting them out, putting them together on a poster board telling a beautiful story. Probably, she has a studio with

What you are becoming is more important than what you are accomplishing".

"Instead of waiting for someone to bring you flowers, why not plant your own garden?"

"Awareness is a major key to success. Keep your radar finely tuned. You never know where a good idea will come from or how far it will take you".

"Praise is satisfying to receive, but it never teaches you anything new".

"On a bumper sticker - if you're headed in the wrong direction, God allows U-Turns".

"True wealth is what you are, NOT what you have".

"If at the end of the day, you feel dog-tired, maybe it's because you growled all day".

P.S. I love you - Mom

H. Jackson Brown, Jr.

employees doing all these for her. During formation, we didn't get to talk much. So I just went with my rich imagination on how she got things done.

Some of the pictures I took were not worthy in print. Did not hear any critique from Sister Ophie, the Magnificent. Until one day, she came up to me and said "I won't be here next formation, please do not be absent. I'll try to come in late, but do not be absent". I promised.

There I was, left alone taking pictures. Making sure everyone has a candid pose, front and side profile takes either, frowning, laughing or smiling; I was having a ball and so were they. Took head shots of each server with specific instructions how; Sister Ella ringing the bell to catch attention.

Had a late meal, taking the backside of the hall, the front and all sides. I wish I had skates that day; then, walked in Sister Ophie. What a sight she was. She looked like an angel at my rescue with a blazing sword, taking away my weariness and pain.

Lo and behold! Her secret was revealed at the 3-day. We roomed together with two spare beds between us. She had a spread of materials on each bed: poster boards, glue, markers, multi-colored sheets of paper and a printer/developer for on-site photo printing. Aha! After each tiring day of photo shoot, our job was not done. We spent break time, in-between meals, printing, sorting, pasting, cutting, and arranging pictures until the wee hours in the morning. Walked miles from the kitchen to the rollo rooms, the greens, gravel, paved paths to be there in every event there was. We split the rooms, the halls, entire camp to cover.

I did not see nor hear complaints from my partner. Although I could see the toll on her

back, shoulders, eyes, there were no signs of weariness. To top it all, she delivered an amazing presentation on Rosary.

I am a living witness to what Sister Ophelia did, do and will be doing for the 3-day Cursillo. She has a big shoe to fill, not in heaven I will try to or anyone can. She is a hero among us.

Give it up for Sister Ophelia Highley, the Magnificent.

De colores!



"A friend is a person who knows all about you but likes you anyway".

My Journey as a Candidate then as a Server

By: Sis Edna Marr



"A true friend is someone who reaches for your hand and touches your heart".



It has been a little over a year ago in May 2014, when I had accepted an invitation to attend a 3 day Cursillo weekend retreat. I vividly recall without hesitation giving an immediate "yes" response. There had been various conflicting priorities that would have prohibited me from attending. I persevered in God's calling and made it to the Women's Cursillo #89 retreat. Little did I know what would be manifested in me during the retreat weekend? As I step foot into the Rollo room during our welcome/candle lighting ceremony, the Holy Spirit took over me; allowing me to see "only" lit candles and hear soft and solemn singing in the background. I seemed to recall moving lightly as if in a slow motion into my chair. Other activities throughout the weekend where I was only physically secondary had been the Jesus walk; in this activity, I became the listener. Other examples of such phenomenon, was my visit to the Blessed Sacrament, and the graduation ceremony. In these instances, I was there in body, but the Holy Spirit became my primary voice. It was to my delightful surprise, finding my husband and youngest children witness the clausura event, invited but unbeknownst to me. The day after the graduation, I drove up to Lake Tahoe to join a visiting relative. Here, I was able to soak in the presence of the Holy Spirit, being left alone in peace, not feeling any stress, while reading thru all the palancas I had received for the first time. My chest seemed like it's going to explode, I felt so much JOY, that my relief was a crying outburst. Joy and serenity continued to manifest in me from

that day forward. In contrast, I had the opportunity and experience for the first time to "serve" in Women's Cursillo #91 weekend. Being assigned to the Study group as a Table Coordinator, the revelations of the Holy Spirit allowed me to see the changes in the candidates from the welcome to the clausura and most recently their 4th day. I've witnessed and discerned specifically those new Sister's that had been "broken down" (metanoia effect). It's fascinating to see the immediate change in their demeanor and attitude. The stern or unsmiling beginnings of a candidate yielded with the most beautiful smiles and joy emanating from each of their faces; these are great wonders on their own. The instant gratification one gets as a server gave me the compelling incentive to serve again for many years to come. Looking back at the past year, my overall perspective as a Cursillista greatly far outweighs any weaknesses in myself or others. I had answered God's call, and with my commitment to serve him at whatever capacity, I felt having submitted myself fully to his will. God is an awesome God; Praise be to Jesus for his grace, love and mercy. De Colores!



From The Editor's Desk

The Layperson: Christ's Witness in the World

By: Bro. Vic Ramos



The Cursillo message is not about asking the layperson for a commitment in doing things, to attend events or to belong to groups and associations. The layperson is called to be a living witness of the Gospel in his/her own circumstances by means of radiating the reality of its "grace" in all facets of his/her life.

This is the layperson's contribution in the mission of the Church; that we become the good news; that our actions be apostolic and evangelical; that we reveal through our being the great love of God to modern man. It serves as a faithful guide to return the Cursillo movement to its original purpose of transforming man first, by means of love and friendship, living what is fundamental for being a Christian together with our fellowmen and thus as a group, transforming the world from "being savage into being human and from being human into being divine" [Reference: The Fundamental Ideas of the Cursillo Movement, p. 20, ¶ 18 and Programming a School of Leaders, p. 8, ¶ 3].

This apostolate of being the bearers of the good news does not consist of word alone. Above all, it consists in being a living witness of one who is living out his/her Christianity with all of its consequences.

We become the witnesses through which the world can recognize that Christ is alive today. **He is alive through and in us.**

Each one of us, in our lives, depending on our personality and our circumstances must give the world a bit of the truth and good news since we are laypersons.

This is what it means to be a Christian, a layperson, living in the world today. It gives us an opportunity to make **our life a living translation of the Gospel by what we do**, nothing more than that. We bring Christ with us wherever we go and in whatever we do in our normal everyday lives. We live in grace to transform the world to Christ.

"Did you hear the story about the optimist and the pessimist? The optimist goes to the window every morning and says "Good morning, God". The pessimist goes to the window and says, "Good God, morning". "To change everything, simply change your attitude".



Housekeeping:

- (1) Correction on September, 2015 Issue on page 10: "Little dees of kindness..." should read as "Little deeds of kindness...".
- (2) 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 either Bro Vic Ramos at vicramos266@gmail.com or Sis Temi Garcia at teresaggarcia@gmail.com.
- (3) Mariposa Newsletter can also be viewed on the website. Access www.fccoakland.net and click on Mariposa.
- (4) 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.

Save the Dates in 2015

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| Oct 8-11 | Men's Cursillo #92 Weekend at Camp St. Francis, 2320 Sumner Ave., Aptos, CA |
| Oct 11 | Breakfast Mananita for Men's Cursillo #92 at 7:00AM |
| Oct 17 | Men's Cursillo #92 4th Day at CCTL 2121 Harrison St., Oakland, CA from 6:00PM to 9:00PM |
| Oct 18 | Breakfast Mananita for the English Men's Cursillo at Holy Redeemer at 7:00AM |
| Oct 30-Nov 1 | Fall Regional Encounter in the Diocese of Fresno, CA. Keynote speaker Rev. Fr. Alex Waraksa, the National Cursillo Spiritual Advisor |
| Nov 7 | Annual Memorial Mass for our departed Cursillistas at OLGC 2500 Bermuda Ave., San Leandro, CA at 6:00PM |
| Nov 8 | Breakfast Mañanita for English Women's Cursillo at Holy Redeemer at 7:00AM |
| Nov 21 | Advent Retreat dedicated in memory of Rev. Fr. Jose Roberto Arong, OMI, at CCTL Parish Hall from 8:00AM to 5:00PM |
| Dec 5 | Ultreya & Christmas Party at St. Raymond's Moran Hall, 11555 Shannon Ave., Dublin, CA from 4:00PM to 10:00PM |