



The Official Newsletter of the Filipino Cursillo Community Diocese of Oakland

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A Letter of Appreciation

By: Bro Alex Caragay



My Brothers and Beloved Spiritual Advisors,

Alleluia! Glory be to God for doing and accomplishing His will of bringing our new brothers into His fold in spreading the kingdom of God. I am truly grateful for the outpouring support of all the servers of MC #94 and the Filipino Cursillo Community (FCC). This is indeed a community of people filled with love and united in Spirit.

The testimonies of our new Brothers at the Clausura manifested their encounters with the Lord during the 3-Day Weekend. The success of the Weekend would not be possible without the contribution and concerted efforts of MC #94 team, the FCC, and even the people we don't even know who prayed and offered their sacrifices

Point to Ponder . . .

I look to you . . . to see your power and glory.
For your love is better than life; my lips shall
ever praise you!

Psalm 63:3-4

Reflection:

In Mary's name, I say this to each one of you:
She loves you, each and every one of you. She
loves you very much. She loves you at every
moment and without exceptions.

St. Maximilian Kolbe

through their Palancas, and most all with the Grace of God.

Thank God, the entire Weekend had been blessed with good weather and a generally smooth flow of the activities that contributed to the success of the Cursillo Weekend.

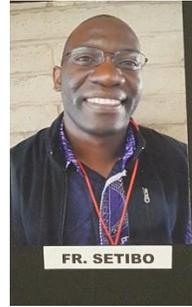
Brothers and beloved Spiritual Advisors, my words are not enough to express my deep appreciation for all your sacrifices and help on the success of MC #94 Weekend.

With love and gratitude, I continue to thank God with all of you for the grace-filled and successful Weekend.

God Bless and De Colores,
Bro Alex

Here are the pictures and names of our new Brothers:

1. Bro Kyle Borley
2. Bro Joseph Carulla
3. Bro Archie Escondo
4. Bro James Hermogeno
5. Bro Steven C. Kricken
6. Bro Reymund Roxas
7. Fr. Victor Setibo



CONGRATULATIONS!!!
May you live your Fourth Day with the blessings & guidance of our Lord Jesus Christ & his mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary.



Point to Ponder . . .
All these blessings will come upon you and overwhelm you when you obey the voice of the Lord . . . May you be blessed in your coming in, and . . . going out!
Deuteronomy 28:2, 6

Reflection:
Entrust to Mary any offering you wish to make to God. In this way, grace will return to its source the same way it came to us. Certainly, God could give us grace without going through Mary. But He chose not to do so.
St. Bernard

REFLECTIONS OF A CURSILLO DEN FATHER

By: Bro Frank Palomares



Candidates and servers to Men's Cursillo #94 on October 6-9 at Camp Saint Francis in Aptos were welcomed by mild temperatures and beautiful sunny weather. I arrived in mid-afternoon. Immediately, I felt good about being there. And that feeling was complemented upon seeing my brother servers who had arrived there much earlier to prepare the facilities for the arrival of the candidates who were to be oriented and initiated over the weekend into our Cursillista family.

Our brother Ed Fernandez and I, as this year's den fathers, immediately went about our initial tasks of receiving the six candidates and making them comfortable in the adjoining room to the dining hall area. They appeared apprehensive and perplexed about what they will go through during the weekend. So we, as den fathers and the two-man hospitality committee, did our best to put them at ease. The long wait before the first activity did not seem to drag out, what with the activity of getting acquainted followed by a lively discussion about current events in the Philippines. We solved some of the problems of the Philippines, but the solutions remained in the room.

Den fathers and den mothers in the women Cursillo weekends are with the new candidates from the very beginning, sleeping in the same dormitories, accompanying them to all the scheduled events and activities, and answering surface questions about the Cursillo movement.

This last 3-day weekend was the third that I have been fortunate to attend, and it has been the most spiritually profound. It was very much like going through my first weekend when I was a candidate, but the last time was so much better. With the responsibility of only getting the candidates to each rollo room activity or chapel visit without actually interacting with them, I was afforded opportunities to immerse myself once more in the rollo presentations and the occasions for prayer. I was deeply affected by my experience as a candidate, but I was more spiritually awakened as a server, retracing my way on the path that the candidates took.

I want to conclude by commending my fellow Cursillo weekend servers. It felt so good working with such a fine group of Catholic men. Their welcoming attitude and kindness not only to the candidates but also to each other certainly were evident throughout all the processes required by the planned weekend. The strong handshakes, pleasant smiles, and manly hugs were so uplifting. It was really nice and exhilarating to be in the company of such sincere spiritual men who are so strong and secure in their Catholic faith. The joking around and friendly banter make them so much fun to be with. I am looking forward to spending the next 3-day weekend with men like them.

De colores!

Point to Ponder . . .

All the words of my mouth are sincere, none of them wily or crooked . . . They are right to those who attain knowledge.

Proverb 8: 8-9

Reflection:

What a wondrous book is the Heart of Mary! Blessed are those who read with intelligence what is written therein, for they will learn the science of salvation.

St. John Eudes



Men's Cursillo # 94 Weekend









Point to Ponder . . .

During those days, Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

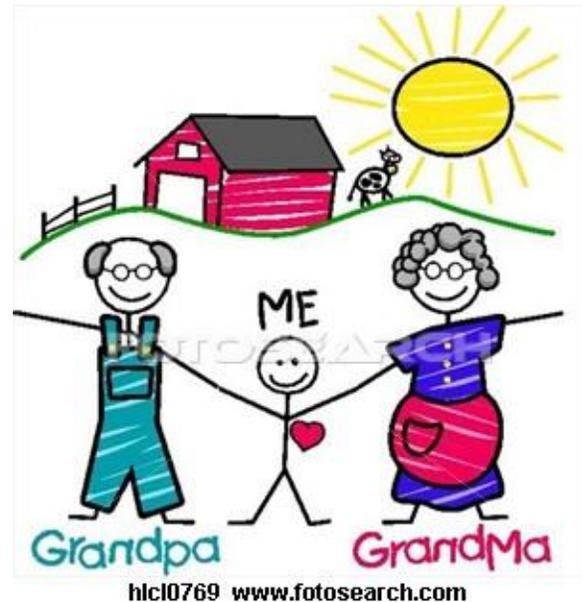
Luke 1: 39-40

Reflection:

In the interior life and in the apostolate, let us always work with Mary. For then, everything becomes easier and more certain, quicker and more delightful.

St. Louis Grignon de Montfort

Calling All Grandparents . . .



Point to Ponder . . .

And Mary said: "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God, my savior."

Luke 1: 46-47

Reflection:

May each one of us possess the soul of Mary to proclaim the greatness of the Lord. And may each one of us possess the spirit of Mary to rejoice in God.

St. Ambrose

Here is a chance for grandparents to share their stories on how they instill the Catholic faith and Christian values to the 3rd generation – their grandchild/ren.

If you are interested, kindly submit your article of 100-150 words, a picture of your grandchild/ren and your bust photo. Lastly, grant us permission to edit where necessary.

Deadline for article submission are as follows:

March 24th, 2017 (Friday)
June 23rd, 2017 (Friday).

Point to Ponder . . .
A woman from the crowd called out . . . “Blessed is the womb that carried you . . .” He replied, “Rather blessed are those who hear the word of God and observe it.”
Luke 11: 27-28
Reflection:
Mary is blessed most of all because she heard the word of God and carried it out. She preserved the Truth in her mind even more than she preserved the Flesh in her womb.
St. Augustine

From The Editor's Desk

By: Bro. Victor Ramos



Support of a Community of Faith: A Long Practiced Cursillo Tradition
Condensed from “HIS WAY” by Fr. David Knight

Jesus Presence in the Spirit

The very fact of a listening congregation at Mass bears witness of the Lord's presence. It is a visible public manifestation of faith in the reality of Jesus speaking to his people through his Word.

Already in the homily, we also have Christ becoming present in another way; not only through the scripture but also through the Holy Spirit speaking in a member of Christ's Mystical Body on earth.

By the “Mystical Body” we mean the Church – all those who have been reborn through Baptism and are living as members of the Body of Christ one earth.

The action of the Holy Spirit is not confined to the priest and religious. The Spirit acts in every member of Christ's Body, in each member of the congregation. Each receives gifts of the Spirit to be used for the good of the community. No one comes to the Mass empty-handed; each has something to contribute to the overall experience of God acting through his people at Mass.

The essence of a worshipping Christian community is to be an assembly of believers who “remember the Lord”, and in so doing make him present through their remembrances. In this way, Christians support one another in the basic belief upon which all our hopes and lives are founded; “Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again”.

The Secret: Sharing What We Have

When the crowds followed Jesus out into the desert to hear his words, they so lost track of time that it was nearly sundown before they began to realize that they didn't have any shelter or provisions, and the night was coming on. The apostles came and pointed this out to Jesus:

“Dismiss the crowd so that they can go into the villages and farms in the neighborhood and find themselves lodging and food, for this is really an out-of-the-way place” (Lk 9:12). Why do you not give them something to eat yourselves?” Jesus answered (Lk 9:13).

“Because we don’t have anything. Even with the whole years’ wages we couldn’t buy enough bread to give each person a mouthful!”

So Jesus told them to look around in the crowd to see if anybody had anything to eat.

They went out and came back to report they had found a small boy who had five loaves of bread – not even wheat bread but barley and a couple of dried fish.

“Jesus told them to have the people sit down. Then, Jesus took the loaves of bread, gave thanks, and passed them around to those reclining there; he did the same with the dried fish, as much as they wanted” (Jn 6:11). And he had the disciples gather up the leftovers – 12 large baskets!

The lesson should not be lost on us. There are in the Christian community sufficient resources for all our needs. God’s Word! Christ’s presence, the gifts of the Holy Spirit. These resources are spread out, diffused throughout the community in the form of natural talents and spiritual gifts.

We need not run around the “farms and villages”, to fads and movements, looking for the bread that nourishes our souls. It is in our midst: Jesus is there. His Word is here. We are here. We have only to share, and to encourage others to share the gifts that we have.

Our gifts may not seem like much to us. To the little kid in the Gospels, his five loaves and couple of dried fish must not have appeared very adequate for the needs of the 5000 people. But he gave them, without asking any questions. And the Lord multiplied them.

If each one of us will put at the service of the community and the world, the little gift

we have – a suggestion, a prayer, an insight, a moment of service, a smile, half a barley loaf, or the tail of a fish – then, even if our combined resources are about as adequate to the world’s problems as the five barley loaves and two dried fish to the 5000 it will be enough. Jesus will take what we are willing to share; he will give thanks, bless it and multiply it.

And there will be baskets left over.

Point to Ponder . . .
Let us confidently approach the throne of grace to receive mercy and to find grace for timely help.
Hebrew 4:16
Reflection:
The life-giving graces flow from Christ the Head, through the Blessed Virgin into His Mystical Body.
Mary received the great honor from God that no one should obtain any grace except through her hands.
St. Bernardine of Siena

By the Grace of God
Part 2 of 3 parts:
By: Bro Elmer Serrano



Spiritually, I had the opportunity to have my early education in a private catholic school and later transferred to public school to continue my elementary education. I experienced receiving my 1st Holy

Communion while at the catholic school and the rest of my catechism in the public school.

After receiving my confirmation my catholic learning has just been through attendance of Sunday masses. Most of the time if not all the time my attendance to Sunday masses is not to increase my spiritual awareness and belief but rather to meet old friends and find new friends.

This attitude went on for years through college until I got married. My wife, Purie and I may only have enough to get by on a daily basis, however, we made sure we had a catholic wedding. This is a far cry from our initial wedding at Reno, NV since I was petitioned on a fiancé visa and have to be married within 90 days of arrival in the US. I also need to look for a job right away since we are now married and have a new responsibility to support a new beginning. We stayed with my in-laws during our 1st year of marriage and this gave us the opportunity to save and buy the things we need to start living on our own. Pots and pans are the must have aside from the water buckets and toilet cleaners to name a few.

Throughout our married life my wife has been instrumental in getting me get dressed on Sundays to attend mass. I mostly attend mass to go through the motion. As soon as the mass is over I was itching up to go home. There are times when we do not even wait until the recessional hymn has finished. I guess I could be called a “show Catholic”. I’m Catholic just for show and deep inside there’s nothing, it’s hollow. I have lived this pretentious life for as long as I allowed it to be.

..... to be continued on next issue

Point to Ponder . . .

She is . . . found by those who seek her. She hastens to make herself known to those who desire her; one who watches for her at dawn will not be disappointed.

Wisdom 6:12-14

Reflection:

The Blessed Virgin is invoked in the Church under the titles of Advocate, Auxiliatrix, Adjutrix, and Mediatrix.

These however are to be so understood that they take nothing away from nor add anything to the dignity and efficacy of Christ the one Mediator.

Vatican II, The Church, 62

**FCC Annual Christmas Ultreya & Party
December 3rd, 2016 at St Raymond's
Moran Hall in Dublin, CA**



St. Mary, Corpus Christi and Agape Group Reunion Teams (GRT)



Agape and Transfiguration GRT



Food Servers from Post Cursillo Committee



St Patrick GRT



Blessing of the food and food servers preparing to serve



“The Christmas Story” presentation of the Host Teams: Our Lady of Good Counsel and Our Lady of Manaog.



Bottom: Our Mother of Perpetual Help GRT

A Thank You Note from the Post Cursillo Committee

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Wow! What a blast! Congratulations to all for another successful FCC gathering.

A great starter from Sis Evelyn Isidro with a candle lighting by Bro Mario in remembrance of Fr. Jose Arong's 2nd year death anniversary. Followed by Divine Mercy Chaplet and a heartwarming witnessing from Sis Gid on how Fr. Arong made a difference in her faith journey. It was indeed a solemn presentation and a great tribute to our beloved, never forgotten, Fr. Joe Arong. Thank you, Sis Evelyn, Sis Gid and also Sis Vangie for leading the Divine Mercy chaplet.

A big thank you . . .

- to Bro Willie for coordinating St. Raymond Parish Moran Hall as the venue for FCC annual Christmas Party;
- to Sis Evelyn for the colorful flyer;
- to the Decoration and Set-Up teams of Agape, Verbum Dei and Our Lady of Holy Rosary for the beautiful Christmas centerpieces;
- to all the Team Reps/Alt Team reps for motivating team members to attend FCC activities;
- to all our family and friends for gracing the occasion. We were so blest with the presence of 5 deacons and 1 priest;
- to Deacon Steve for the spiritually-filled opening prayer and to Deacon Rey for the inspirational talk;
- to our Hosts: Our Lady of Good Counsel and Our Lady of Manaoag Teams, for the great presentation. *"The Christmas Story"* is an old time favorite and reliving it with the

creativity infused by the Director Deacon Noe, made it exceptional and truly enjoyable to watch. The show was greatly executed from the cast to music, costumes, etc., Sis Jean and the narrator were awesome and so was the rest of the cast. Congratulations Host Teams! Congratulations, Director Deacon Noe, for an Oscar-winning award presentation;

- to the Secretariat for subsidizing the refreshments;
- to the Food committee: Sis Josie for the Hors d'oeuvres, Sis Ella and Sis Edna for the delicious dinner and to Sis Mirriam, Sis Pat for continuously helping in the kitchen ... and to all the elves who prepared and served at the buffet table and cleaned the kitchen as well;
- to all who donated bottled water, coffee creamer, coffee, cooked rice, and delicious desserts;
- to Bro. Anito for lending (again) his big coffee maker;
- to our DJ, Bro. Noli for the great music that everyone truly enjoyed dancing (wished we had more time);
- to Sis Cora P, Sis Evelyn, Sis Marie, Sis Celsa and Sis Cecille for manning the registration;
- to Sis Temi for collecting the \$5 donations from all Team reps;
- to Sis Annie for collecting the gifts from parents;
- to Santa and Mrs Claus and lots of photo sessions. This year's Santa and Mrs. Claus seem to be a big "hit";
- to Sis Alma for coordinating the games and prizes with Sis Shiela as her elf;
- to those who brought donations for the Warm Heart Project;
- to Sis Lolit and Sis Mila for distributing the Warm Heart

- Project collection;
- to the Clean-up Teams: Mother Teresa of Kolkata, Transfiguration, St. Patrick and St. Joseph for making sure the hall is cleaned up and to Bro Willie for the final walk through;
 - to the members of Post Cursillo Committee for their unquestionable commitment to FCC. Such an awesome group to work with ... the collaboration is fantastic, no qualm, just work and work from start to finish! Very fantastic group ... working the Cursillo way;

Finally, to our Heavenly Father who made all things possible. Thank you for giving us the greatest gift of all...your son, Jesus, who we celebrate! So let Heaven and Nature Sing!

We wish you and your family a *Merry Christmas and God's bountiful blessings for the years to come.*
De Colores!

Point to Ponder . . .

Hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to use.

Romans 5:5

Reflection:

The Holy Spirit is all the love of the Blessed Trinity and Mary is all the love of Creation. In their union, heaven is united with earth, the whole of eternal Love with the whole of created love. It constitutes the zenith of love!

St. Maximilian Kolbe



St Patrick, OMPH and Antioch GRT



Holy Spirit and Our Lady of Fatima GRT



Verbum Dei and Chosen Flock GRT



Chosen Flock and Transfiguration GRT



St Matthew, Agape and OLF GRT



Our Lady of Manaoag and OLGC GRT



The FCC-Oakland Secretariat Team



Holy Spirit and the Mother Teresa of Kolkata GRT



Fremont and Our Lady of the Holy Rosary GRT



Top: guest and children; Bottom: the dance begins



And more dancing . . .

More dancing . . .





Top: Warm Heart Bin Collection headed by Sis Lolit and Sis Mila
 Bottom: the Kitchen Crew (partial)



Christmas Mananita at Oakgrove Springs Facility in Oakland for its residents particularly Bro Richard Cacabelos by the St. Mary GRT. Assorted gifts, goods and Christmas cards given by Canon Kip Seniors SF and St. Mary's.

Housekeeping

- (1) Mariposa Newsletter can also be viewed on the website. Access www.fccoakland.net and click on Mariposa.
- (2) Bookmarking the FCC website is easy. [a] In Google Chrome, after entering the web address (#1 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.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Please pray for continuous healing and all those suffering from challenges to the body, mind and spirit. We pray to the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary and through the precious blood of Jesus Christ. Amen.

- Sis Lucy Custodio
- Sis Perla Delemos
- Bro Philip Delemos
- Bro Frank Escuro
- Sis Norma Escuro
- Sis Ine de Guzman
- Sis Myrla Raymundo

NOTE: It seems that interest in submitting names for the Intercessory prayer is almost nil. Hence we will discontinue this section beginning January, 2017.

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SOL:	Cora Tuason
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SAVE THE DATES
1st Quarter of 2017 Only

POST CURSILLO

- Jan 14 Ultreya - Oakland
- Jan 28 East Ultreya – Concord
- Feb 2-5 Reg XI Cursillo de Cursillos
Holy Redeemer, Oakland
- Feb 11 Ultreya – Oakland
- Feb 25 East Ultreya – Concord
- Mar 17-19 Reg XI Encounter - Fresno
- Mar 25 Lenten Retreat – Dublin
- Mar 25 Joint Ultreya – Dublin
(Stations of the Cross)

NOTE:
Oakland – 2121 Harrison Street, Parish Hall
Concord – Queen of All Saints Parish Hall
2390 Grant Street (near Almond St)

Reg XI Cursillo de Cursillos available only to 16 community members for each FCC of the region. \$135.00 fee per pax includes food and lodging. Contact Secretariat.

Dublin – St. Raymond Moran Hall & Church
11555 Shannon Avenue, Dublin CA.
Lenten Retreat = 10:00AM-5:00PM
Joint Ultreya = 5:00PM-8:00PM

SCHOOL OF LEADERS (SOL)

- Jan 23 SOL – The Real Presence
Speaker:
Fr. Brandon Macadaeg
- Feb 27 SOL – Sacred Sex &
Chastity as Good News
Speaker: Dcn. Steve
- Mar 20 SOL / Team Reps Meeting

Venue: CCTL in Oakland at 6:30PM.

NOTE: Team Reps Meeting follows SOL.

3-DAY COMMITTEE (or Cursillo Proper)

As required by the FCC-Oakland By-Laws, we are pleased to announce the Discernment of 2017 for the Understudy Rectora and Rector.

- When: Saturday, January 21, 2017**
- Time: 10:00AM to 2:00PM**
- Venue: Cathedral of Christ the Light
Social Hall
2121 Harrison Street
Oakland, CA 94612**

Our prayers and wishes for a fruitful, peaceful, healthy, joyous, safe and blessed New Year to all! God bless & guide us all! DeColores!