



Filipino Cursillo Community
Diocese of Oakland



Issue 1 Volume IV Year 2022

EDITORIAL by Sis Celsa Taraya

Slowly we meld ourselves back to normalcy.

Borders opened, vacations taken, and face-to-face encounters happen.

Is this reality short-lived? What if there's a surge again? Or, is it just a fleeting breath of fresh air?

I cannot be bogged down thinking of what to happen next.

Each day is a gift. Open it. Embrace it with the best attitude in the universe. Seize the day with vigor, with gusto.

Sing to the hills, to the sea, to the mountains and meadows.

Live!

That is utmost joy. Sharing it is the best gift to give back.

As we move on to the busyness of life, Jesus is with us, around us, on our right, on our left, above and below us.

We are filled with the Triune God in unity which is "not self-enclosed, but a thrust into the world", Cardinal Tagle said in one of his keynote speeches.

We are walking together in friendship for a common good between consultation and decision, dialogue and reciprocity, conversation and innovation. That is what Synodality is.

We walk not in the valley of darkness, but in light.

We walk with friends, not alone.

We carry our brothers and sisters, not leave them behind.

Rejoice and be glad.

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MARIPOSA FEATURE

50 YEARS: A MILESTONE CELEBRATED

We lauded the virtual presence of Cardinal Tagle to deliver the keynote speech.

Sis Cora Tuason, our Lay Director posted a topic question.

“How can we remain good and authentic Christians in the midst of a wounded world?”

“Turn to the Bible,” the Cardinal began...

*Jesus said to Thomas, ‘Touch my wound. Put your hand on my side. Do not be unbelieving.’
Thomas fell down to his knees and said, ‘My Lord and My God’ – the highest confession of Jesus.
In His glory, the wounds remain. He accepted the wounds of the world and laid down freely.
Like Jesus, accept being wounded. Do not inflict wounds to others. Do not be self-righteous.
Imitate Jesus.*

*The deepest wounds are inflicted by those we love, our families and friends. They hurt the most.
Who betrayed Jesus? Who denied Jesus? Who slept when he was praying in the Garden of
Gethsemane? His disciples - Judas, Peter, Andrew, James... They were so close and so loved.
Our tendency is to look at our wounds. Open them over and over again, always reminded of the
hurt inflicted.*

We become unforgiving and hateful.

*Imitate the wounded and crucified Jesus. He was betrayed, denied, left alone and yet He appeared
to the disciples and said, “Peace be with you” - words of utmost forgiveness and love.*

Be agents of forgiveness, not to judge but to understand.

In closing, the Cardinal blessed everyone.

Mass was celebrated followed by Ultreya, food, and entertainment.

Job well done Secretariat and its Committees!

Jesse Manibusan was a total entertainer. He is a comedian who sings and delivers inspirational talk.

He said “Your existence is intentional and purposeful. When you encourage others to laugh, hearts are wide open to the Holy Spirit.”

The remains of the day brought merriment and sadness.

Gaiety, and yet it has to end somehow, not to rot away but look forward to another 50 years.

His Eminence Luis Antonio Tagle

Prefect of the Congregation for Evangelization of Peoples

Appointed December 8, 2019

Created Cardinal November 24, 2012, by Pope Benedict XVI



POPE FRANCIS promoted Luis Antonio Tagle to the highest rank of cardinal, Cardinal-Bishop, on May 20, 2020. On Feb 22, 2021, Cardinal Tagle was appointed as a new member of the Administration of the Patrimony of the Holy See.

He has views about the Church which were frowned upon. He spoke from the floor about the lack in number of priests in the Philippines during the General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops in 2005, discussing priestly celibacy. A colleague of his expressed reservations about modification to the Church's requirement of celibacy for priesthood. Bishop Tagle suggested that the Church should consider such a change to mitigate the shortage of priests. It is an ongoing topic in synodality.

In a March 2015 interview, Bishop Tagle said the Catholic Church needed to develop "a new language for addressing homosexuals, unwed mothers, divorced and remarried Catholics". The words that were used in the past to refer to them were quite severe. He was open to hearing arguments on the discussion of allowing divorced and remarried Catholics to receive communion as the Synod on the Family opened public discussion.

In February 2012, at the Symposium of Healing and Renewal at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome, Bishop Tagle discussed the "way the sex-abuse crisis manifests in Asia, where it is more common for priests to violate their vows of celibacy by taking mistresses than to engage in the sexual abuse of minors. He carried on that the deference to authority common in Asian culture, combined with the

dominance of the Catholic Church produced a culture of shame that continued to inhibit the reporting of abuse".

The relative silence with which the victims, face the scandal is partly due to the culture of shame that destroys family, and community. Silence could be a way of preserving what is left of one's honor and dignity.

The Filipino people are a "touchy-feely culture." They love to touch to express affection or other emotions through physical contact that created problems of interpretation and mandatory reporting to authorities.

He advocated women's rights by recognizing their valued roles as mothers and wives, but rallied against funding, information and devices distributed which are considered abortion in the Philippines.

Cardinal-Bishop Tagle is very forthcoming with his thoughts and opinions, fearless. He speaks for the oppressed and upholds the principles the Church is built. He welcomes change and tries to see the needs of the Church in these current times.

He makes us proud.

By: Celsa Taraya (References: Articles published in various religious and lay media)



Bro Ceferino Aguillon, Jr

National English Coordinator



Alleluia! He is risen! Our hope is in the Resurrection! De Colores!

On behalf of the National Secretariat and Staff, I congratulate you on this momentous occasion, 50 years of communicating God's love and friendship to the person (1972-2022).

After two years of isolation, today is a time to celebrate and give thanks for all the blessings that we have received through the gift of Cursillo. It is a time to give thanks for the love and friendship we share and for the opportunity to gather in person.

We are "on the way", on pilgrimage, there is still much work to be done to evangelize our brothers and sisters who are waiting to hear the Good News of God's love.

The Father has a plan for us. He wants us to bring Jesus to others to capture their hearts. We are here to share his Word, his Sacraments, his fellowship, and his mission.

Let us view this celebration as a "point of departure", a time to rejuvenate, a time to be grateful, a time to deepen our friendship so that we may continue to journey to the Father through Christ, with the help of our Mother Mary and all the Saints, as we bring our brothers and sisters along with us.

We are called to become the Good News, the Gospel, to others through acts of humility that focuses on the person and their needs. We are evangelists like St. Mark and the other Apostles because we are living testaments to the power of the cross and the saving message of Christ.

To live Cursillo is to live the Gospel!

Cursillos' charism of friendship with oneself, with Christ, and with others is universal. Let us continue to make friends so we can make them friends of Christ.

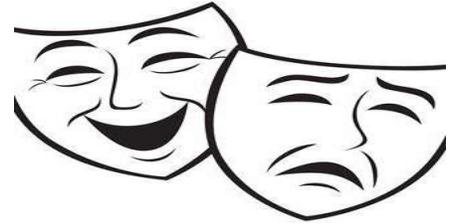
I thank you for your service, friendship, and leadership! It is a joy to walk with you on this journey. I have witnessed your love for Christ and each other as we gather for workshops, regional, and national encounters throughout the years.

My brothers and sisters, I am thankful and happy that you exist, and the world is more beautiful because you exist!

God Bless you and De Colores!

Bro Cef Aguillon

The funny side of things



What time does Sean Connery arrive at Wimbledon? Tennyish.

"Doctor, when my hand gets better, will I be able to play the piano?" "Of course" said the doctor. "That's great. I could never play the piano before!"

I never wanted to believe that my dad was stealing from his job as a road worker. But when I got home, all the signs were there.

"Did you know it takes three sheep to make a sweater?" "I didn't know sheep could knit."

Two goldfish are in a tank. One turns to the other and says, "Do you know how to drive this thing?"

What did the Buddhist monk say to the hot dog vendor? "Make me one with everything."

What do you call an alligator wearing a vest? An investigator.

Why does a chicken coop always have two doors? Because if it had four doors it would be a chicken sedan!

If you visit the National Air and Space Museum you might think the title is misleading, because it is actually full of stuff.

Who is the roundest knight at King Arthur's table? Sir Cumference.

Did you take a bath today? No. Is one missing?

THE ULTREYA REPORT

A MOVEMENT - ONWARD >>>

Each month the FCC (Filipino Cursillo Community) members are drawn to meet even during pandemic.

For some, this is a way of coping, a way of forgetting the whys, of getting strength from each other when there's none.

For others, it is encumbering, uninspiring, and wasting of one's time. They become faraway, alienating themselves from the very essence of Cursillo, from friends, and families.

Now that we are back to an in-person encounter, the "magic" begins.

Ultreya!

The joyous gathering, the sharing of the day-to-day life, the food, and best of all, hearing the lay witness speaker; the affirmations from members and summation from our Deacon - a total revelry denied from us for two years because of Covid.

Last Saturday, the 11th of July 2022, I saw Cursillistas greeting each other, milling around so as not to miss anyone, talking, laughing, and eating arroz caldo, adobo, mungo with rice, banana, donuts for dessert, with water to drink.

I saw Sis Clarita reminding everyone to wear a mask. I heard the sweet voice of Sis Lourdes leading our songs joined by many.

I saw Transfiguration – the host team displayed its plumage of red and gold, ran the event led by Bro Reggie, the team leader with Sis Belle's help, the coordinator.

I heard Sis Vangie, the Lay Witness speaker poured out her life experience before and after the journey in Cursillo.

The hall reverberated with gaiety and laughter.

"The wind beneath my wings" and "You've got a friend" echoed the meaning of a Cursillista. Everyone sang, prayed, and bade goodbye.

Till we meet again, my friends.

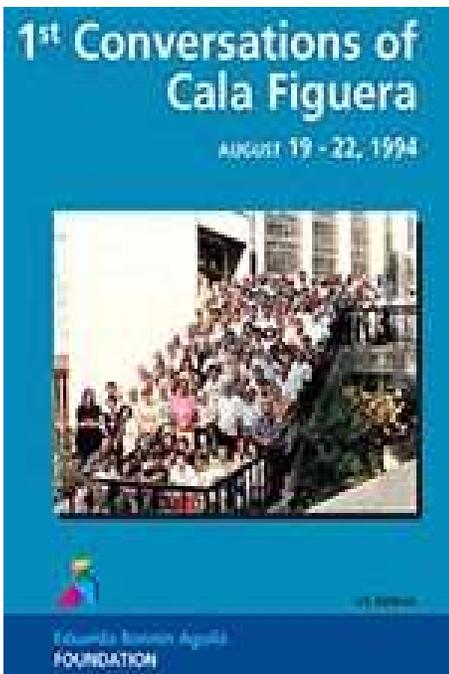
The Cursillo School of Leaders

SOL TECHNICAL TALKS FROM THE BOOK

“1ST conversations of Cala Figuera” – by Sis Gid Eugenio

Our SOL technical talks for the years 2021 thru 2022 are dedicated to study and learn the book – **1ST CONVERSATIONS OF CALA FIGUERA**. Now I understand why Bro. Cef highly recommended this book because 10 important topics or rollos were developed and presented by different Cursillistas in 1994 at Cala Figuera, including our founder – Eduardo Bonnin, **“topics that if they are well understood with the mind and heart will bring the person closer to the Foundational Charism of Cursillo, the foundations of our personal journey as Cursillista of gradually drawing closer to God on a daily basis”**.

We learned that the **“PERSON”** is undoubtedly one of the basic and essential components, if not the prime concept of the foundational thinking of the Cursillo movement.



When a **“PERSON”** discovers his condition of **“FREEDOM”** with responsibility and chooses to live by the code of **“LOVE”**, that is to say without fear or reluctance or being judgmental, using **“FRIENDSHIP”** as the best means or method or platform of true communication that is guaranteed by his strong beliefs and **“CONVICTION”**, then **LOVE Himself** reveals and shows the person how to walk in the truth with **“SINCERITY”**. When the PERSON walks in the truth with **SINCERITY**, he is directed by a **CRITERION** – which appears as the art of adapting his personality to circumstances and interpreting **LIFE** as something always to be tried and which is always beginning anew. If the person accepts this condition, not indulging in mental prejudices nor sudden fits of passion which are born out of instincts, he gives his affairs only the importance that they merit and, therefore, he appraises them objectively, within the **NORMALITY** of ordinary life.

Then true **JOY** is possible to come alive in a person when all the themes (or topics) which were in these conversations are assimilated because they are all essential in the definition of **JOY**. (Jesus R. Valls Flores – 1st Conversations of Cala Figuera – pg. 195)

CHRIST...

- lives in every person,
- is love,
- gives us the measure of freedom,
- opens us to friendship,
- provides the conviction,
- gives us the transparency to communicate with sincerity,
- is the criterion and life,
- lives also in our normality (everyday life) and that
- is Joy.

Jesus Valls Flores, August 1998

The Chronicles of Joy...

The Grotto

By Sis Joy Inocencio



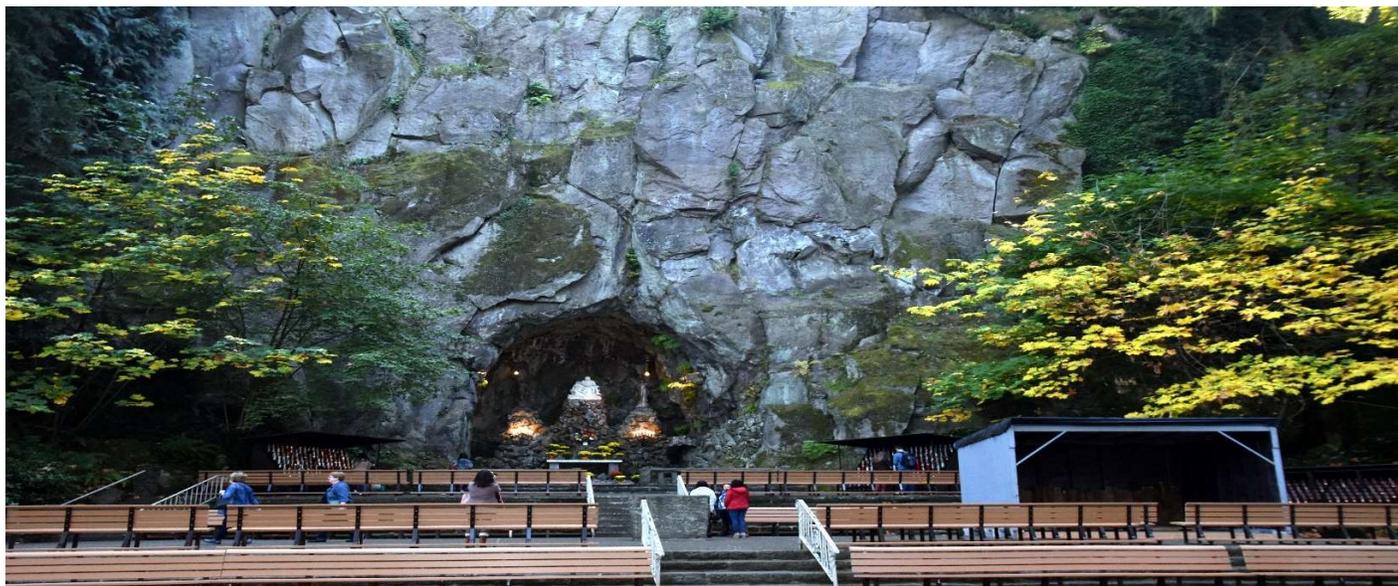
Sis Joy Inocencio

Our Lady of the
Holy Rosary Team

Exploring and experiencing life itself is one of the greatest gifts God bestowed upon us. In appreciation, I am sharing some of these stories with you – Sis Joy

The National Sanctuary of our Sorrowful Mother, popularly known as The Grotto, is a Catholic outdoor shrine and sanctuary located in the Madison South district of Portland, Oregon, United States. Founded by Ambrose Mayer, created and constructed in 1924. The sanctuary covers 62 acres, set both at the foot of, and atop, a 110 foot cliff.

and in 1918 was sent to minister as the first Servite pastor in the Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon. He carried with him the desire to fulfill his childhood promise, often disclosing to his associates his dream of finding a site on which to build a suitable tribute to Mary, the Mother of Jesus.



The story of this beautiful shrine begins at the end of the 19th century, with a young boy who learned that his mother laid near death after giving birth to a daughter. In tears, the boy ran to the little parish church in Kitchener, Ontario, Canada. He prayed for his mother's life, promising that if she were spared, he would one day undertake a great work for the Church. Both his mother and baby sister survived. The future Father Ambrose Mayer never forgot his promise.

As a young man Ambrose joined the Servite Order

Fr. Mayer came across some acreage in 1923 which was owned by the Union Pacific Railroad Company. The property was a rugged, untamed wilderness that was once a quarry used to obtain rock for rail beds and was currently scheduled for sale as residential property. He saw this as a natural cathedral which, once cleaned up, was perfect for the realization of his dream.

Although the asking price was \$48,000, Fr. Mayer was not deterred. With the enthusiastic



encouragement and approval of Portland Archbishop Alexander Christie, Fr. Mayer bid all that he had—\$3,000—which was accepted as an initial down payment. A national campaign provided the balance of the funds.

Crowning the initiation of the project was a letter from Pope Pius XI, written in his own hand, imparting a Special Apostolic Blessing to all those who “in any way or measure, show their good will and assist in erecting the Sanctuary of Our Sorrowful Mother in Portland.”



In September of 1923, the work began. A caveout of the 110-foot basalt cliff side, and a stone altar built, above which was placed a depiction of Mary holding the body of her Son after His crucifixion. A replica of Michelangelo’s Pietà was added several years later.

On May 29, 1924, three thousand people gathered for the first Mass and dedication of the Sanctuary of Our Sorrowful Mother. At the blessing, Archbishop Alexander Christie offered this prayer:

“Let this be a sanctuary of peace for all peoples of the earth and surely in this day a sanctuary is needed. Torn with differences, strife, and grief, the world needs sanctuary where the human spirit can seek peace and consolation.”



The Chapel of Mary, Mother of the Human Race, was dedicated in 1955 by Portland Archbishop Edward D. Howard. The chapel was designed by L. L. Dougan of Dougan & Heims, Architects.

In 1983 the shrine was designated a National Sanctuary. Through the years, more than ten million visitors have marveled at The Grotto’s serene environment. Today, we continue to welcome people from around the world, people of all faiths and no faith. Without exception our visitors speak of the peace they experience here in the spiritual and natural beauty of this sanctuary, where God’s natural beauty of this sanctuary, where God’s presence abounds and where special tribute is given to Mary, the Sorrowful Mother of Jesus.



The Grotto continues to grow over the years to meet the needs of the people in an ever-changing world. The dream, work and promise of one man have become the ministry of all who serve here.

Come and visit the website www.thegrotto.org, the place at 8840 NE Skidmore St, Portland, OR 97220. Phone number (503)254-7371.

QUOTES TO LIVE BY

HELEN KELLER:

“Optimism is the faith leads to achievement; nothing can be done without hope”

“When one door of happiness closes, another opens; but often we look so long at the closed door that we do not see the one which we opened for us”

“I’d rather walk with a friend in the dark, than alone in the light”

SARAH WILLIAMS:

“I have loved the stars so fondly to be fearful of the night”

HIPPOCRATES:

“Everything in excess is opposed to nature”

PSALM 116: 1, 2

“I love the Lord because He has heard my voice in supplication”

“Because He has inclined His ear to me the day I called”

ISAIAH 45: 5

“I am the Lord and there is no other, there is no God besides me. It is I who arm you, though you know me not.”

AUDREY HEPBURN:

“As you grow older, you will discover that you have two hands – one for helping yourself, the other for helping others.”

ABRAHAM LINCOLN:

“To ease another’s heartache is to forget one’s own.”

MAHATMA GANDHI:

“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.”

MAYA ANGELOU:

“When you learn, teach. When you get, give.”

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Sept 1 - 4, 2022 - Women's Cursillo Weekend @ St Clare's Retreat, Soquel
- Sept 29 – Oct 2, 2022 - Men's Cursillo Weekend @ St Clare's Retreat, Soquel
- Oct 7 – 8, 2022 - Regional Encounter
- Oct 29, 2022 – Friendship Dance
- Nov 5, 2022 – Memorial Mass

WOMEN'S CURSILLO # 101		MEN'S CURSILLO # 102	
			
Sis Cecille Cansino (Antioch Team) RECTORA	Sis Alma Chew (Agape Team) UNDERSTUDY	Bro Robert Cansino (Antioch Team) RECTOR	Bro Lino Centeno (Antioch Team) UNDERSTUDY
Date: Sept 1-4, 2022 Venue: St Clare's Retreat Center, Soquel Ca.		Date: Sept 29- Oct 2, 2022 Venue: St Clare's Retreat Center, Soquel Ca.	



Filipino Cursillo Community – Diocese of Oakland
Annual Friendship Dinner & Dance
"Fall in Love"
Saturday – October 29, 2022
 6:00 P.M. - 11:00 P.M. (Dinner at 7:00 P.M.)

Double Tree by Hilton
 7050 Johnson Dr.
 Pleasanton, CA 94588

Donation: \$65 per person
Attire: Semi-Formal

Music: Charlotte & Friend

Host Teams: Antioch & Divine Mercy

Contact: Sis Cecille Cansino 925-437-0182
 Sis Marie Centeno 925-285-2425

REMINDER:

- Secretariat Meeting – every 1st Tuesday of the month
7 pm Via ZOOM Meeting ID: 846 5195 3571 Passcode: SECRETARIAT
- SOL Book Club – every 2nd and 4th Monday of the month
7 pm Via ZOOM Meeting ID: 836 7743 6577 Passcode: BOOKCLUB
- SOL / Team Rep Meeting – every 3rd Monday of the month
7 pm Via ZOOM Meeting ID: 882 9453 2558 Passcode: SOL
- PCC Meeting – every 2nd Saturday of the Month

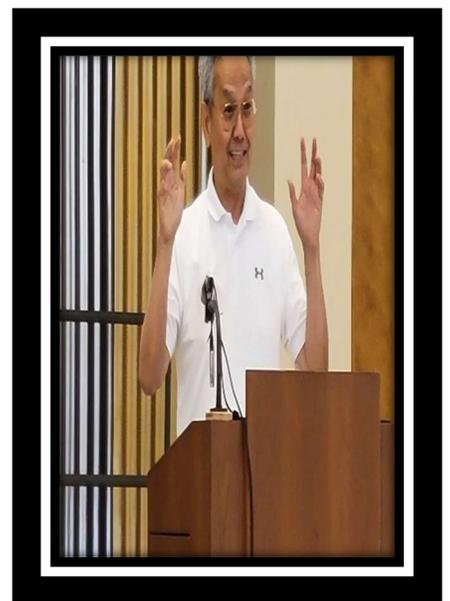
*** For more information, check the FCC Website – <https://www.fccoakland.com/> ***

GALLERY

June ULTREYA Host

Agape Group Reunion Team:

Sis Gid Eugenio
Sis Kay Cunanan
Sis Gie Columna
Sis Alma Chew
Sis Gigi Enriquez



July ULTREYA Host

Transfiguration Group Reunion
Team:

Sis Farida David
Sis Lourdes Barrozo
Sis Tess Anilao
Sis Beth Evangelista
Sis Shiela Ulgado
Sis Vangie Dizon
Bro Danny Anilao
Bro Lucio Garcia
Bro Reggie Padilla

