



Filipino Cursillo Community Diocese of Oakland



Issue 5 Volume IV Year 2023

EDITORIAL by Sis Celsa Taraya

Justice and mercy. Is it one or the other, or can it be together? This was the question thrown to us at Mass last Sunday.

Somehow it made me wonder what justice really is. Is it a concept, an idea that people are to be treated impartially, properly, and reasonably by law of the highest authority? Give them what they deserve in reward or punishment?

The Bible says it clearly. "Give justice to the weak and the fatherless; maintain the right of the afflicted and destitute," (Psalm 82:3)

If one lights a little candle followed by many, there will be light in darkness. If one learns to do good; corrects the oppression; grants mercy, there will be no wars to fight; prison cells will be empty.

Loving and forgiving should we, as the Father taught us. Let not His lesson be in vain.

De Colores

IN THIS ISSUE

- ❖ Editorial
- ❖ Mariposa Feature:
The Lay Director's Address:
To the New Graduates of Men's
Cursillo 104

A Message of Encouragement
- ❖ Angels Among Us
- ❖ Acts of Charity
- ❖ Poet In Our Midst
- ❖ Quotes to live by
- ❖ Ultreya Report
- ❖ School of Leaders – SOL Presentations
July to Sept 2023
- ❖ 3 Day – WC103 & MC104
- ❖ What I Felt About the Cursillo Weekend
- ❖ Chronicles of Joy
- ❖ Upcoming Events & Reminders

MARIPOSA FEATURE

To the new graduates of Men's Cursillo #104

By: Sis. Cora Tuason

Hello and good afternoon. I am your Sis Cora Tuason, the current Lay Director of the Filipino Cursillo Community in the Diocese of Oakland. I lived my Cursillo in 1995, No. 52 at St Anthony Claret Retreat House, Clayton, CA. I belong to the table group of St. Therese. As the Lay Director, it is my pleasure to welcome you, new Brothers, to our community.

YOU are now Cursillistas. But what does that mean?

Being a Cursillista is a calling. Just like being called to the religious life or to be an active layperson in Church **IS** a calling. The essence our calling is **MISSION**. That is for you and all of us. We are called upon to bring the Truth of the Gospel to the world.

However, a Cursillista responds to his Mission with our unique method – Friendship. Our method is “to make a friend, to be a friend, and to bring a friend to Christ.” Which means, we need to connect, to reach out to those who are moving or have moved farther away from God, from the Catholic and Apostolic Church, and we need to bring them back to be a friend of Christ. We call them “faraways”. Some or many of them are probably your current friends, your spouse, your officemates, or people you encounter regularly each day. Let them come to the Cursillo. Let them look and see the Cursillo. Let them hear and understand the Cursillo. Share with them the experience you have had this weekend. After all, you love them, don't you? So, why keep this enlightening experience to yourselves?

This weekend you encountered yourself, Christ and others. Certainly, not everyone has nor can experience that. Yes, bring them along.

And how can you convince them that this weekend, you had an amazing discovery – the discovery that God loves you, no matter how you lived your lives so far? How? By going back to the real world, to your usual environment, to your own square meter environment, family, work, Church, and social circle. But this time with a difference. Now you have the realization that God loves you, and you want to share that love with others. So yes, move on with the living Grace of God. Live your life with that message of Love showing in your everyday action. Live your life in such a way that when you pass them by, people can actually feel that Christ has passed their way too. Be a good influence to others.

It will not be an easy task, mind you. Pray a lot, keep in touch, stay connected with the new friends you found this Three-Day weekend. Your journey starts here.

So, please belong to a group reunion team, stay in your group reunion, do things with the group, and practically live with that group reunion team. Your sponsors will be there with you. The Cursillo Community will nurture you, and hold your hand along the way for the rest of your life which we call your Fourth Day.

My dear Brothers, I ask you to go forth now and do the mission of a Cursillista. Reflect the Love of God in your everyday life that you may successfully bring back a friend to Christ.

And this is my prayer for all of us “May each one of us here be the salt of the earth”. Let us be stewards of our Faith.

Thank you.

De Colores.

A Message of Encouragement at the Clausura Women's Cursillo #103

Good afternoon – I am your Sis Gigi Enriquez. I lived my Cursillo in 1996, Cursillo #56 at St. Anthony Claret in Clayton CA and I belong to the table group of St. Clare of Assisi.

Hello, my beautiful NEW sisters! You made it! You've lived your Cursillo weekend! Now you know what Sis Alma means when she said you need to live the Cursillo weekend in order to know and understand what Cursillo is!

I see those beautiful smiles! God has truly blessed this weekend, and each of one you made it very special! The Holy Spirit is definitely with us. We felt God's love in all the talks, the Mass, the homilies, the Blessed Sacrament, the sharing and most especially in the friendships we found in each other!

You are probably anxious to go home to your families. Or maybe you want this weekend to go on and on... but whether we like or not, we have to face the realities that are waiting for us. The world out there, our environment has not changed but you have. This weekend has changed you for sure. As Fr. Eddie said yesterday "When you go back, most of the people that you encounter don't know Jesus the way you do now." Keep that in mind when you are getting stares and asking what happened to you, they will definitely notice the change in you. Your encounter with yourself, with Christ and with our community this weekend has changed you. Christ is calling you be that change for your own environment, to bring the Christ you've encountered this weekend to your families, co-workers, friends, and everyone you encounter! I know you would want what you've experienced this weekend for your loved ones. When you are a little bit kinder, a little bit more patient, more loving and forgiving then you're bringing Christ to them. We all know that our troubled world needs Christ, and Christ needs you to bring all you encounter to Him. Christ is counting on you, and we all need to count on Christ.

If you are sad that the weekend is ending, don't be. The beauty of Cursillo is that it continues after the 3day weekend. Bringing Christ to others is not easy and you will need support. Remember Sis Alma's talk on total security? This is the beauty of Cursillo. You are not left alone after a beautiful weekend like this. You have all of us. Look around you. You see these beautiful sisters and very handsome brothers? These are your support team! All of us will help you continue with your Cursillo journey. The seed that was planted in you this weekend will continue to grow and flourish through the help of your Cursillo family. I say this from experience having been in Cursillo for 27 years.

Remember sisters, Christ is counting on you... and us in His grace.

De Colores! 😊

ANGELS AMONG US

By Sis Celsa Taraya

As I was going around asking members what they do over and beyond Cursillo, the following are excerpts from our Sisters:

Sis Edith Guevarra – “I boxed supplies for kids. Send them to Laguna, Philippines. I do this when my box is full.”

Sis Cora Tuason – “Starting last year, my cousins and I contribute to give food bags to the least fortunate during the first Saturday of Holy Week. Dcn Noe and I did it this year. It was so fulfilling, but we came down COVID positive with symptoms after. Our friends and families were so amazing catering to our basic needs while quarantined in the condo we stayed. They were Angels on earth. Thank God we got over it, came home safe and fully recovered. We will still do it each year regardless.”

Sis Cecilia Donaldson – “My work in partnership with Engineering feeds 500 adults every quarter with PB&J (Peanut Butter and Jelly) sandwiches. Wishing I could describe more the feeling I have each time. It’s amazing.”

Sister Volunteers of the MC #104 Weekend – Unprecedented. Unusual, not standard. All of the Sister volunteers were assigned in the kitchen hardly ever seen by the men candidates because they were not supposed to be there. The weekend was supposed to

be for men only. But Men’s Cursillo Weekend needed help. Short in servers, Angels came to the rescue - **Sisters Vangie, Alma, Jean, Marie, Norma, Irma**. Sis Vangie was describing how curtailed and restricted their services were. As much as possible they cannot be seen until Sunday Mass, Sunday Lunch and Clausura. Although exhausted and sleepless, they were very happy to serve. Their presence although “unseen” showed the unrelenting support of the movement.

Sis Percy Fiscus sent an article about her charity work in Negros Oriental, Philippines.

You see, there are Angels among us. For sure there are more of you out there. Selfless, caring, loving, giving, and using your time and resources for the welfare and benefit of others especially the underserved.

Well done, Angels.



ACTS OF CHARITY

By Sis. Precy Fiscus

Hi, Sisters and Brothers, I am your Sister Precy Fiscus. I lived my Cursillo in September of 2015 at Camp Saint Francis in Aptos, California. My table group is St. Bernadette Soubirous

Extending humanitarian acts of kindness always appeals to me. I find it really rewarding and certainly fulfilling

The Divine Mercy, the Blessed Chapel in Sibulan, Negros Oriental was established in 2021. On 12/26/21, during the blessing and opening, I had a feeding outreach to benefit the less fortunate children in the community, and giving them Jollibee goodies. I did exactly the same charity work last year and again, this coming 12/26/23.

For over a year now, through the financial assistance of Sister Shirley Viduya, for which every one of us is indeed very thankful, I am able to set-up a community

to set-up a community pantry within the chapel area, and distribute 5 kilos of rice each family to the less fortunate. I am not only doing this in my hometown, but in the other towns as well.

There are times when people would come to me and ask for money to buy food. They don't even have salt to eat with anything. Some don't have cash to pay for their medications. There are other issues that are very hard to say NO to; my heart goes out to them. I wish I could help them all. It is never enough regardless. I am doing what I can with the help of others. Thank God for that.

Someday, with the Lord's grace and additional blessings, I am truly looking forward to help a lot more poor and needy people.

De Colores!

Poet in Our Midst

Help Me See You

(Eucharistic Thoughts)

By Sis Daisy Lopez

Amidst the fun, once
Amidst the joy, once
Amidst the success, once
Did I miss your presence?

Indeed, I rejoiced with all
All who came to celebrate
All who came to participate
Did I miss your call?

The scene was in Santarem
Attention? Did not have at all
Heard about you and your miracle
Paid no attention after all.

Help me to see you
Amidst the crowd and woe
Help me to see you
For souls long for you.

Remind me that you're here
Remind me that you're everywhere
So I will take care and see
See you in me and in others

Lord that I may see you
Amidst all my activities
Lord that my eyes may see
To follow you and be free.



(2015 visits to Lanciano, Italy & Santarem, Portugal)

QUOTES TO LIVE BY

"There's only one proof of ability – action" Marie Van Ebner-Eschenbach

"The Maker of heaven and earth upholds the cause of the oppressed and loves the righteous" – Psalms 146: 6-8

"Sometimes miracles are just good people with kind hearts" – Unknown

"A life lived without forgiveness is a prison" – William Arthur Ward

"I praise God for giving me the courage to speak what my heart and mind dictated, that despite the differences in opinions that we will continue to thrive, as a loving and united Cursillo family." – Sis Cora Pediglorio

"Despite whatever horrible that person might have done to you, move past your own pain and judgments, and show forgiveness" – Unknown

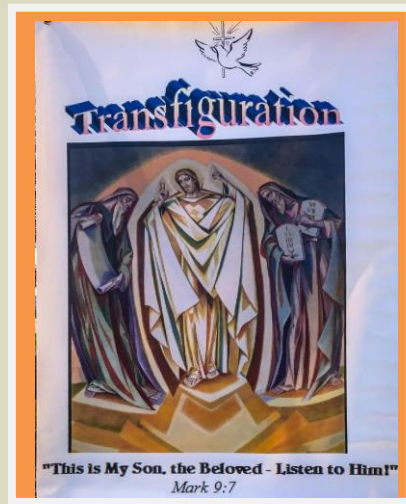
"Carry out a random act of kindness with no expectation of reward, safe in knowledge that one day someone might do the same for you" – Princess Diana

Ultreya Report...

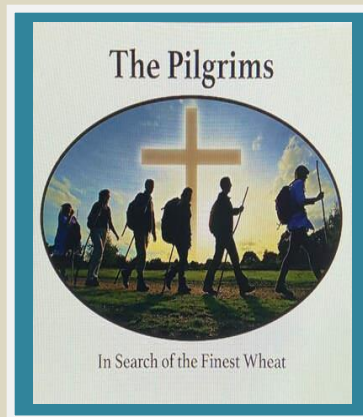
July 2023 Ultreya

was hosted by The Transfiguration Team.

Sis. Mila Padilla was the witness speaker

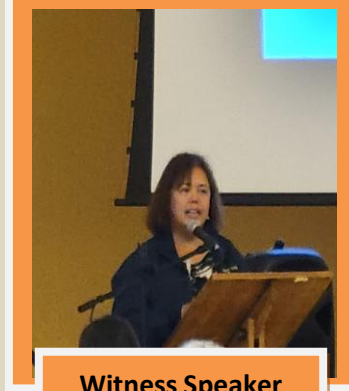


August 2023 Ultreya was hosted by the Pilgrim Team. Sis Jhennie Sebastian was the witness speaker.





FREMONT TEAM



**Witness Speaker
Sis Gina Solon**



**Doctrinal Summation
Sr Mary Peter**

September 2023 Ultreya was hosted by the **Fremont Team**. The witness speaker was Sis Gina Solon. The community also welcomed the **New Cursillistas from WC#103** headed by the Rectora, Sis Alma Chew. There were 14 graduates and 12 of them were present at the Ultreya.



September Birthday Celebrants



Women's Cursillo 103 new Sisters serenading the community with the song "Hold On to Love" during Ultreya

L to R – Sis Kris, Sis Angie, Sis Paz, Sis Irene, Sis Linda, Sis Grace, Sis Peen, Sis Wilma, Sis Beth, Sis Vicky, Sis Annie and Sis Maureen

THE SCHOOL OF LEADERS

SOL PRESENTATIONS for July, August & September 2023

By Sis Gid Eugenio

Our **July SOL doctrinal presentation** on “Journeying with the Holy Spirit in Crucial Conversations” by **Deacon Noe Tuason** set the tone on learning how to listen to the Holy Spirit in times of divisions and misunderstandings within our community. Deacon Noe did a wonderful job explaining to us the wisdom of **Spirituality of Synodality** – teaching us how to be open to the Holy Spirit guiding us through our listening to each other, dialogue, and discernment. We learn that in dialogue, we don’t argue or confront, we seek only what is objective, what is true, noble and good or the common good of all keeping in mind the true purpose, essence and mentality of the Cursillo Movement. School of Leaders met in person for the first time after the pandemic at Our Lady of Good Counsel in July and incorporated the so-called “Townhall 2” into the SOL agenda as “**Listening Session**” instead. The intention is to change the political “townhall” mindset into a “Spirit of Synodality” to steer the direction of our community from confrontational conflict back into communion and fraternal dialogue and discernment in facing those issues.

As I’ve mentioned before, sometimes it is easy to forget the most basic and simple truths of what we are called to “**be**” as Christian Cursillistas without continually discerning the will of God in our lives. The book “**Whom Shall I Send? Discerning The Will of God**” by Fr. Frank Salmani is a **powerful tool** to guide us as Cursillo servant leaders.

In **August SOL**, the Technical talk was on **Chapter 6: Allegiances: Paul or Apollos? and Chapter 7: Cursillo “and” Christ Vs. Cursillo “or” Christ** - presented by bro. **Anito Acaba** of **Transfiguration team**. Bro. Anito reminded us on what he learned from bro. Dan’s talk on “**attachments**” that it is the source of forming allegiances and alliances within a group. Whether in a religious or secular group; people tend to have allegiances to a certain clique, group or person. Very often problems arise within a community because the allegiance is not to the IDEAL or purpose or work to be done, but to personalities.

This happens in business, in families, and even within religious circles; when it does happen, the group loses its focus. According to **Fr. Salmani** (author of the book), *“If we are going to be apostles of Jesus, we must put aside all allegiances and attachments and follow Jesus alone.”*

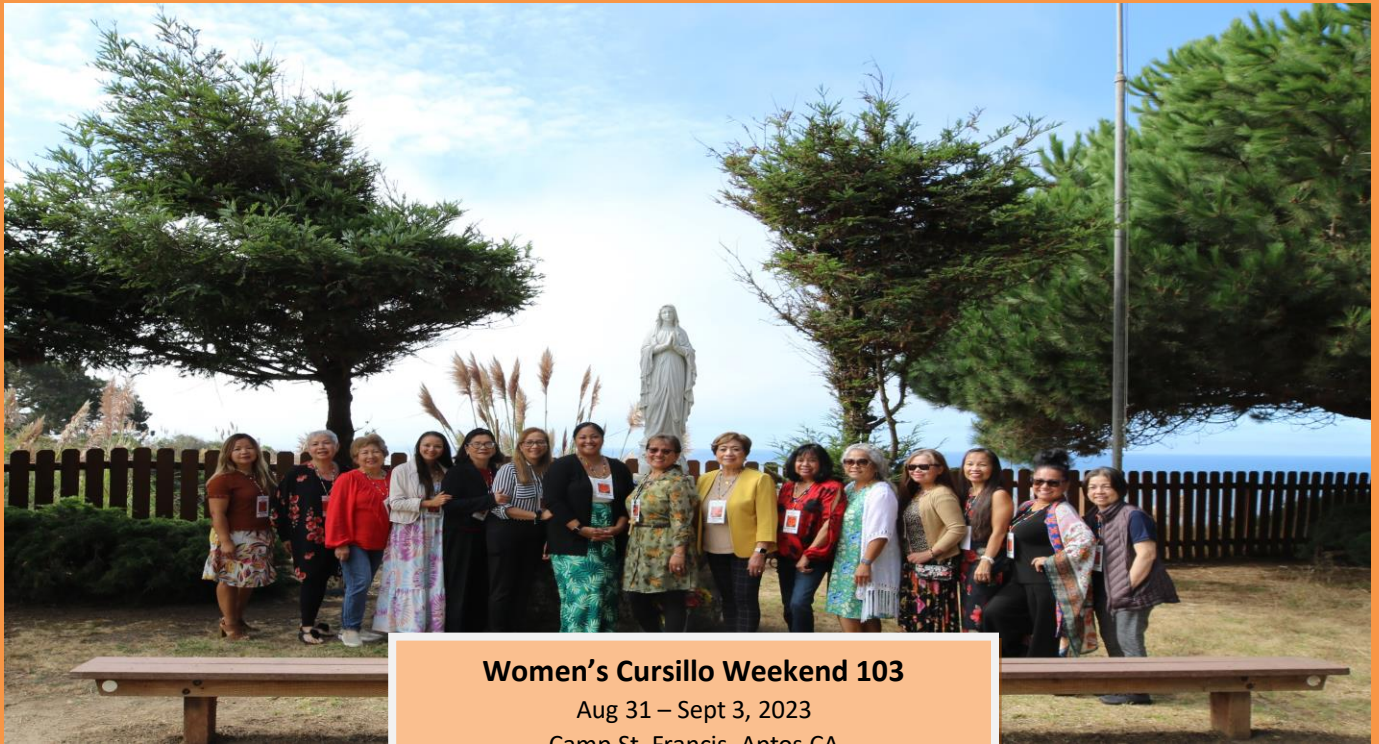
Therefore in **Chapter 7: Cursillo “and” Christ Vs. Cursillo “or” Christ**, we learned that there is no distinction between Christ, the Church, and the Cursillo. The end and purpose of each one is one and the same. Thank you, bro. Anito, for your inspiring and encouraging SOL Technical talk for the month of August.

In **September**, the SOL Technical Talk was on **Chapter 8: Covenants and Commitments** and **Chapter 9: Spiritual and Political Power** presented to us by **bro. Art de Leon of the Pilgrims Team**. Bro. Art stated in his talk on **Covenants and Commitments** that in order to *“discern God’s Call and to properly answer His Call we need three things: **Idealism** (refers to our highest lifetime ultimate goal), **Self-surrender** (our willingness to offer ourselves) and **Charity** (a selfless act of love for others).”* Bro. Art also mentioned that *“God wants the best for us, so we need to give Him our **100%** effort. We have to be open to His Call and to listen and NOT come to Him with our own agenda. The mentality of the Cursillo is not a matter of debate, but a DECISION and to ask ourselves, “Is this what God wants from me to do right now?” We can only answer this if we are honest with ourselves and listen to God’s Will for us. All of this process must be done out of love. And ultimately, we can only decide for ourselves for nobody will.”*

Regarding the chapter on **Spiritual and Political Power**, bro. Art beautifully concluded this topic with this statement: *“The power of leadership is deeply rooted upon humble service we give to God’s people. Thus, in the case of the Cursillo Movement/Group Reunion, through friendship, it is intended to draw out the Christ in each one of us by unitedly working together. We as leaders and servants of Christ are called to that higher power – one that comes not from ambition, but humility which is a power and strength itself that no force in heaven or on earth can ever take away from us and whose source is the ONE who came so that we might have life and have it to the fullest.”* Thank you, bro. Art de Leon for presenting these essential qualities needed to be a good Cursillo Leader.

Please note that the SOL Technical presentations are captured in video and are available at the FCC website – www.fccoakland.com

THREE DAY CURSILLO



Women's Cursillo Weekend 103

Aug 31 – Sept 3, 2023

Camp St. Francis, Aptos CA



Men's Cursillo Weekend #104

Sept 21 – 24, 2023

Camp St. Francis, Aptos CA

What I Felt About the Cursillo Weekend

By Sis Grace Echalas

A graduate of WC103



My name is Sis Grace Echalas. I lived my Cursillo on August 31 to September 3, 2023 at Camp St. Francis in Aptos, CA. Women's cursillo #103. My table group is Our Lady of Manaog.

My journey to the Women's Cursillo Weekend. Sister Alma has been inviting me for many years. I wanted to join, but I had many excuses why I couldn't spend the Weekend in Cursillo. But, at the same time I felt that I wasn't ready. When she told my sister and me that she was going to be the Rectora, I was excited. I said maybe this will be it, but I was still hesitant about joining. A few months before the Cursillo Weekend, Sister Alma asked me again if I was going to join. I finally gave in and filled out the form, even if my sister couldn't join me.

My Cursillo Weekend actually started before the actual day. I say this because I was nervous of not knowing what to expect and how it was going to be (that's the OCD in me). So, I prayed everyday that week for guidance and for the Holy Spirit to guide me and prepare for the Weekend.

On the first day, I graciously offered to pick up Sis Hazel (one of the Cursillistas). When we arrived at Camp St. Francis my nervousness was nowhere to be found. The camp site felt inviting and the ocean view was beautiful. Besides the site, the Cursillistas were hospitable and all smiles. We, candidates, were brought into the meet and greet room where we had to learn each other's name. It was a good way to test our memories, that's for sure. Alas, all candidates were present and our weekend begun.

My Cursillo experience is one that I will not forget. It was a weekend full of emotional and spiritual bonding among sisters who didn't know each other. Sisters who are wanting to be closer to HIM, experience His present and guidance from the Holy Spirit.

My personal experience of the retreat increased my awareness and knowledge despite what I was taught and learned growing up, and even as an adult. Attending the Cursillo Weekend also made me realize that there were more to experience and learn about HIM. A good example of an experience was the visits to the Blessed Sacrament. It was the most powerful times for me. Seeing the cross on the Eucharist the second time we visited, filled my eyes with tears because I am not one who can see or have vision or have feelings of His presence. But that day I did, and I was emotionally touched and thankful because He showed me a powerful sign.

Hearing all the talks increased my awareness and confirmed some of what I knew. But I also learned more on how to carry out to live up to my baptismal life. "GRACES" "PSA" "OBSTACLES" "SACRAMENTS" were some of the topics discussed. What I definitely can take from the weekend is continue praying everyday anywhere and anytime.

"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in Me through their message that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in Me and I am in You....." John 17:20-23

De Colores!

The Chronicles of Joy

The Mediterranean Report Part I



Sis Joy Inocencio
Our Lady of Holy
Rosary

It is almost end of summertime in the States; at this time, we are travelling the Mediterranean region by sea.

From **Barcelona**, we visited Sagrada Familia (the largest unfinished Catholic Church in the world). To purchase tickets, it will require doing it online and schedule to go inside Sagrada Familia. There's no assurance that your group can go together. Shirts and tops covering the shoulders required. When you are visiting Sagrada Familia, remember to wear clothing with sleeves that completely cover your shoulders. Make sure to carry shawls and jackets. Full trousers and mid-length skirts – Visitors are required to wear skirts and trousers that come below the mid-thighs. There were wall to wall people outside.

The next stop is **Gibraltar**, a British Overseas Territory and headland, on Spain's south coast. IT's dominated by the Rock of Gibraltar, a 426m-high limestone ridge. First settled by the Moors in the Middle Ages and later ruled by Spain, the outpost was ceded to the British in 1713. Layers of fortifications include the remains of a 14th-century Moorish Castle and the 18th century Great Siege Tunnels, which were expanded in WWII. The Rock of Gibraltar and Mount Jebel Musa in Morocco stand majestically dominating the entrance to the Mediterranean. Ancient mariners arriving at Rock left gifts to the gods, seeking their blessings before sailing into the unknown.

Marseille is a charming port city in southern France, has been a crossroads of immigration and trade since its founding by the Greeks circa 600 B.C. At its heart is the Vieux-Port (Old Port), where fishmongers sell their catch along the boat-lined quay. Basilique Notre-Dame-de-la-Garde is a Romanesque-Byzantine

church. Modern landmarks include Le Corbusier's influential Cite Radieuse complex and Zaha Hadid's CMA CGM Tower.

Celebrated our **48th Wedding Anniversary** at 360 in-house Restaurant in Enchanted Princess. The dinner is a once in a lifetime experience! Cuisine, service, wine method and technology come into play and integrated into a one dynamic experience! It's a must! At this point, it is by invitation only. In the future, it will be offered to the public, eventually. A must see!

Geneo, Civitavecchia, Meta, mostly have similarities as coastal cities.

And today, we are discovering Naples, Italy, which attracts many visitors for its beloved cathedrals, food, charming places and the birthplace of Sophia Loren!

It was a hot Sunday morning, when we took a private tour of the City of Naples. Fortunately, we were approached by a true Italian local driver that spoke perfect English (he moved from San Fernando Hills) located at the southern area of Los Angeles when he was a teenager. Just like us Filipinos, Italians are very close knit family. He took us around to the most popular areas around and also not so popular

We made our way and wandered around the beautiful (bellissimo) view of Mt. Vesuvius; located on the Gulf of Naples in Campania, Italy. It was breathtaking! As we drove our way to Sorrento, by the Amalfi Coast, we made several stops to take in various picturesque views as well as buying souvenirs and get a taste of Limoncello (we do love the local popular frozen lemon liqueur)! To be continued....

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Nov 4, 2023 – Memorial Service/Nov Ultreya @ OLGC
- Nov 11, 2023 – Discernment for 2025 Rectors @Santa Maria
- Nov 18, 2023 – Advent Retreat @ OLGC
- Dec 2, 2023 – FCC Christmas Party @ Transfiguration

Please visit our website for more details on upcoming events – www.fccoakland.com

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 –www.fccoakland.com ***

Mariposa

Editor – Sis. Celsa Taraya

Editorial Staff

Sis Annie Villarente

Sis. Doris Sunga

Sis. Gigi Enriquez

Mariposa Contributor

Sis. Joy Inocencio