



## Christ the King Parish Assigns Specific Themes for Each Sunday of the Month

For every month of 2018, Christ the King Parish will celebrate each Sunday as a special Sunday.



The first Sunday of every month has already been called Stewardship Sunday. This is when the focus is on 'Stewardship as a Way of Life' in the parish community.

The second Sunday of each month of 2018 will henceforth be Clergy and Consecrated Persons Sunday, with focus on the clergy and the religious orders.

The third Sunday of every month will be known as Outreach Sunday. On these Sundays, the parish will entertain appeals from other diocese and religious orders for financial assistance to restore-renovate damaged worship structures, provide funding for disaster relief and reconstruction, and assist with rural-based church-organized projects. Assigning the 3rd Sunday as Outreach Sunday also imposes a long-needed discipline to the numerous requests for second collections regularly received by CTK.

The fourth Sunday will henceforth be tagged as Public Affairs Sunday, which brings into focus such nationally-relevant issues as - war and conflict, extra-judicial killings, gender equality, justice for the underprivileged, poverty alleviation, and other socio-economic or political matters. ■

## Roxas' Holy Family Parochial School and Novaliches Diocese are Beneficiaries of CTK's January and February 2018 Outreach Sundays

For the Parish Outreach Sunday last January 21st, Christ the King Parish Greenmeadows adopted the Holy Family Parochial School in Roxas, Quezon City on the occasion of Parochial Schools' Month in the Diocese of Cubao. A call was made to support the school's teachers who receive relatively low remuneration.



It is common knowledge that with the recent reforms in DepEd policies, public school teachers now receive much

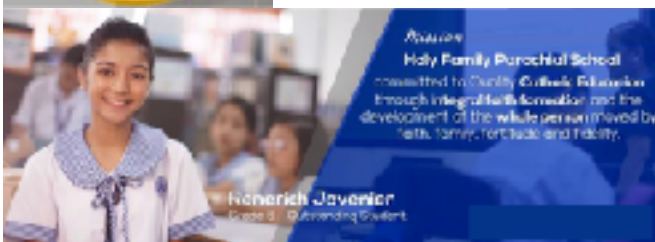
more than non-tier 1 private and parochial schools, leading to an exodus of teachers from private schools to public schools.

For February 18, the third Sunday of February, the designated beneficiary was the Diocese of Novaliches, headed by His



Novaliches Diocese' Bishop Antonio Tobias

Excellency, Most Rev. Antonio R. Tobias, JCL, DD. The Diocese of Novaliches has 69 parishes grouped into 12 Vicariates that are geographically located in two municipalities: Caloocan City and Quezon City.



## CTK Observes Lent

The 2018 Lenten Season has begun. Over the past five weeks, Catholics have been preparing to celebrate the Paschal Mystery: the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Our Lord. Ash Wednesday, which opens the Lenten Season, a season of fasting, prayer and alms-giving, came early this year, on Valentine's Day, February 14, compared to last year's March 1 (see page 3).



Between Ash Wednesday and the Holy Week, which starts on Palm Sunday, March 25, there had been five Sundays of Lent. Christ the King also scheduled several 'Way of the Cross', every Friday at the main church, and on scheduled dates for the different villages (see pages 4-5).

continued on page 5

## What's Inside

- ▶ Ash Wednesday and Way of the Cross
- ▶ Celebrating the Feasts of Sto. Nino, Bible Enthronement, St. Blaise, Epiphany
- ▶ Lenten Pilgrimages by Youth Ministry, Sunrise Ministry
- ▶ World Day of the Sick: Healing Service and EMHC Outreach
- ▶ Cubao Clergy Meets with PPC Coordinators and Formation Ministry Heads
- ▶ Altar Servers: Basic Formation and Renewal
- ▶ Talks by CEFAM's Fr. James Gascon, Ligaya ng Panginoon's Glen Glorioso, Stewardship's Wins Mirasol
- ▶ Confraternity of Mary Mediatrix of All Graces' 33-Day Novena
- ▶ Women's Wellness and Medical Services by Family & Life Ministry
- ▶ PPC Financial Report for 2017
- ▶ Fr. Bong Tupino and Bishop Raul Martinez celebrate their 52nd and 80th birthdays, respectively
- ▶ First Quarter Social Outreach Updates from Ladies of Charity, Catholic Women's League, Buklod ng Panginoon, Mother Butler Mission Guilds
- ▶ Lectors & Commentators' First General Assembly
- ▶ Update on Mustard Seed Ministry
- ▶ Upcoming Pilgrimage to Adriatic Coast and Medjugorje with Fr. Bong Tupino

# Message From Our Parish Priest

## SHEPHERDING THE SHEPHERD: Perspective Beyond A Retirement House

Priests, after their ordination, leave their families and spend their whole life with their parishioners in their parish assignment while they are able. Their parents offer them to God for the service of the church.

Instead of the usual course of working and earning money for one's self and one's family after graduation, the priest, after ordination, is assigned to a parish community, lives in the parish convent and spends his time for his community and his local church, the diocese, under the supervision and care of his Bishop. His parents do not expect him to support them anymore. In fact, when the priest is in need, the family continues to support him in his projects and activities in the parish.



Fr. Bong Tupino III

Time passes and the priest's parents grow old, get sick and die. His siblings marry and have their own families to care for. The priest himself grows old and gets sick. Who takes care of him now? Some priests are fortunate if there are still family members or relatives who are able and willing to take them in. Some are cared for by religious nuns whose apostolate is to take care of sick and old priests. Some priests retire in parishes where parish priests are able and willing to take care of them. Some find themselves in old folks homes being looked after by caregivers. And there are those who choose to stay in the house of parishioners or friends who support them.



After many years of service in the Church some priests retire not really sure of where they would stay and live the rest of their lives. The Bishop, being the head of the local church, the diocese, has the responsibility of taking care of his priests. According to **Canon 538, 3**, "A parish priest who has completed his seventy fifth year of age is requested to offer his resignation from office to the Diocesan Bishop . . . The diocesan Bishop must make provision for the appropriate maintenance and residence of the priest who has resigned".



Faced with these issues, some younger priests, even early on in their ministry, are anxious and insecure that they too might grow old without anybody to take care of them. They then become preoccupied about earning and saving for their retirement. They become conscious of the need to invest in a house or a condominium where they could stay when they would get sick and retire.



The Bishop, when he notices this attitude and disposition among his priests, is duty-bound to reach out to them and assuage their insecurities by assuring them that they will be sufficiently taken care of in the future. This is affirmed in the Vatican II document, **Bishops in the**

"Some younger priests, even early on in their ministry, manifest insecurity about these realities; and, when they realize that they too might grow old without anybody to take care of them, they become preoccupied about earning and saving for their retirement."

**Church, no. 16**, "A Bishop should be solicitous for the welfare — spiritual, intellectual, and material — of his priests so that they may live holy and pious lives, and exercise and a faithful and fruitful ministry."

Building a retirement house for the elderly and the sick must really be included in his agenda. The Bishop has to have a special concern for the priests. He is to ensure that they are provided with adequate means of livelihood and social welfare, in accordance with the law **[Canon 384]**. If priests feel that they are taken care of and a decent retirement life is assured then they will be able to focus on their ministry; and, preoccupations on investing, saving for the future will not compete against their pastoral activities and projects.

The Casa de Silencio project of the Diocese of Cubao, I believe, is an essential and relevant undertaking this Year of the Clergy and Consecrated Life by the Bishop of Cubao in cooperation with the priests and religious themselves and collaboration especially with our lay people. It is not only another building project but an attempt to create a culture of authentic pastoral care among the priests and consecrated persons in our local church. Building the Casa de Silencio, hopefully, will not only directly benefit our retirees and sick members of the presbyterium but also for our young clergy to imbibe an attitude and disposition of trust in their Bishop, the Church and God. Providing them a sense of security through the authentic pastoral solicitude and charity of their Bishop, they will not be preoccupied with worldly concerns, distracted from their priestly tasks; but, constantly focused and zealous in their priestly ministry of caring for souls.

"Providing them a sense of security through the authentic pastoral solicitude and charity of their Bishop, they will not be preoccupied with worldly concerns, distracted from their priestly tasks; but, constantly focused and zealous in their priestly ministry of caring for souls."

The Decree on the Ministry and Life of Priests aptly captures this sense of trust and confidence: "Let priests remember that in carrying out their task they are never alone but are supported by the almighty power of God. Believing in Christ who has called them to share in his priesthood, let them devote themselves to their office with all trust, knowing that God is powerful to increase charity in them. Let them remember too that they have their brothers in the priesthood and indeed the faithful of the entire world, as allies." (**Decree on the Ministry and Life of Priests, no. 22**)

## Fr. Ricky Montanez Leads Burning of Palms and Blessing of Palm Ashes on Eve of Ash Wednesday

Fr. Ricky Montañez officiated last February 13, Tuesday, over the burning of Palms and Blessing of Palm Ashes in time for Ash Wednesday, February 14. The ceremony of the Burning of Palms and the Blessing of Ashes was conducted before the 6:00 pm mass outside Divine Mercy Chapel, with nearly all the regular mass goers helping to observe the event.

After Fr. Ricky started the fire with an initial set of dried palms, he blessed the palms, then invited the attendees to get



additional dried palms from the collection box and mix it with the rest.



The ashes used last Ash Wednesday, February 14, were from dried palms blessed in the previous year's Palm Sunday celebration, when Christians carry palms to recognize the Gospels' reference to Jesus's path being covered in palm fronds on the day he entered Jerusalem. The ashes are usually mixed with Holy Water or oil, and carry the scent of incense.



## CTK Parish Celebrates a Solemn Ash Wednesday, February 14

February 14, Ash Wednesday, opened the 2018 Lenten Season, a season of fasting, prayer and alms-giving. It came much earlier than last year's Ash Wednesday which was celebrated on March 1, 2017. Interestingly, Ash Wednesday coincided with Valentine's Day.



Ash Wednesday is one of the most popular and important holy days in the liturgical calendar and it takes place 46 days before Easter Sunday (40 days not counting the Sundays). It comes from



the ancient Jewish tradition of penance and fasting. The practice includes the wearing of ashes on the head, symbolizing the dust from which God made us and reminds us that life passes away on Earth. As the priest or Eucharistic Minister applies the ashes



to a person's forehead, he speaks the words: "Repent, and believe in the Gospel." Ashes also symbolize grief, in this case, grief that we have sinned and caused division from God. Writings from the Second-century Church refer to the wearing of ashes as a sign of penance. The ashes are made from blessed palm branches, taken from the previous year's palm Sunday Mass.

The Lenten season is one of penance, reflection, and fasting which prepares us for Christ's Resurrection on Easter Sunday, through which we attain redemption.

It was 'full house' at the CTK main church in all the masses, especially the 10:30 am and 12 noon masses, with parking areas all filled up, including street side. Fr. Serge Maniba officiated the 10:30 am mass and was assisted with ash imposition by a full complement of Extraordinary Ministers of the Holy Eucharist.

# CTK Celebrates Way of the Cross in the Main Church and Villages as Part of the Parish Lenten Activities

As part of its Lenten activities, Christ the King Parish Greenmeadows scheduled Way of the Cross every Friday at the main church immediately following the 6 pm mass, also held at the main church. The first Friday Way of the Cross was held last February 16, sponsored by the CTK Parish Pastoral Council and officiated by Fr. Serge Maniba.



Christ, and Christian Family Movement.

- ▶ **March 16**, sponsored by the Sunrise Ministry, Mustard Seed Ministry, and Diwanihan Kristiyano Prayer Group, and Life in the Spirit Parish Prayer Community-Healing Ministry.
- ▶ **March 21**, organized by the Libis community. This is the only Way of the Cross at the main church that was not at 6:45 pm but instead, at 5 pm.
- ▶ **March 30**, sponsored by the Apostleship of Prayer

CTK also scheduled the Way of the Cross in the different villages that make up the parish. The village coordinators assigned 14 village families to each of the stations. The first village to stage its Way of the

Cross was Acropolis, with Fr. Bong presiding.

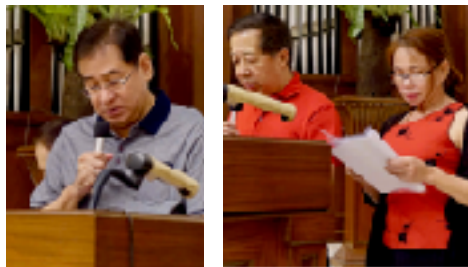
The full village Way of the Cross schedule was as follows:

- ▶ **February 21**, Wednesday, at Acropolis
- ▶ **February 22**, Thursday, at Greenmeadows 1
- ▶ **February 27**, Tuesday, by Enclave and Ivory Court
- ▶ **March 13**, Tuesday, at White Plains
- ▶ **March 14**, Wednesday, at Corinthian Hills
- ▶ **March 15**, Thursday, by Corinthian Gardens and Greenwich
- ▶ **March 20**, Tuesday, at St. Ignatius
- ▶ **March 22**, Thursday, at Arcadia

For every station, the officiating priest starts with 'We adore you, O Christ and we bless you.' To which the crowd responds, 'Because by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.'

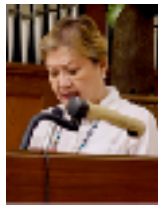
The lector reader assigned to the station then reads the Scriptures or Tradition passage. The designated family member then read the Meditation passages. After, the priest leader would lead the congregation in the specific prayer for that station, but which always ended with 'Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us.' The priest then blesses the family members and thanks them for their service before moving on to the next station, even while the Way of the Cross song is sung in the background.

At the end of the 14th station, the priest then leads the Concluding Prayers, culminating in '... bring back to life all Your faithful servants to be with Him in the eternal life in heaven ...'

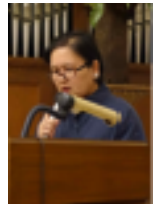


Marie Anne & Bert Santos

David & Fely Ong



Anna Lagman



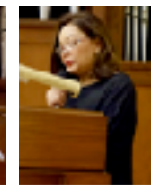
Nadine Navarro



Louie Laudico



Alma Yeh



Eileen de Leon



Boy Angeles



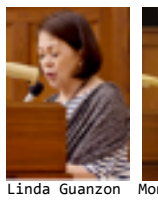
Maan del Rosario



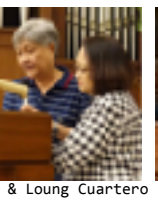
Fe Flores



Althea Geronilla



Linda Guanzon



Mon & Loung Cuartero



Elise & Bing del Rosario

The schedule for the other Way of the Cross at the main church:

- ▶ **February 23**, organized by the Social Services & Development Ministry, Public Affairs Ministry, Knights of Columbus, Catholic Women's League, Ladies of Charity, and Buklod ng Panginoon.
- ▶ **March 2**, sponsored by the Stewardship Committee, Legion of Mary, Mother Butler Mission Guilds, and Adoracion Nocturna Pilipinas.
- ▶ **March 9**, sponsored by Family & Life Ministry, Youth Ministry, Couples for



Acropolis' first Station of the Cross last February 21 at the Acropolis Clubhouse, the first among the villages

continued on next page

# CTK Celebrates Way of the Cross in the Villages . . .



Other Stations of the Cross at Acropolis, February 21



Way of the Cross at First GreenMeadows, February 22. The GM village coordinators used houses around the clubhouse, along Pelican, Bluebird, Hornbill and Warbler Streets. To involve more parishioners, the organizers signed up two families per station so that neighbors from other streets could be part of the event.



Way of the Cross at Enclave-Ivory Court, February 27

## CTK Observes Lent

Holy Week kicks off with Palm Sunday, when parishioners come to mass with newly-acquired palm fronds to commemorate the Lord's entrance into Jerusalem, which they will wave during the mass for blessing by the officiating priest. The Palm Sunday masses are marked with the dramatization of the Passion of the Lord. Holy Week will go until the morning of Holy Thursday when there will only be one mass in the whole diocese, at 6:30 am at Immaculate Conception Cathedral, which is the annual Chrism Mass where the chrism or holy anointing oil, is consecrated and blessed by the bishop for use by the parishes throughout the next 12 months.



Although by popular understanding, Holy Thursday is part of Holy Week, the evening of Holy Thursday and all of Good Friday and Holy Saturday are, by liturgical definition, no longer part of Holy Week but considered belonging to the 'Easter Triduum'. Holy Thursday is marked by an afternoon 'Mass of the Lord's Supper', at 5:30 pm. This is followed by the Eucharistic Vigil when the Blessed Sacrament is brought down to the Divine Mercy Chapel for the Eucharistic Vigil, which will last till midnight.

The last Way of the Cross will be on Good Friday, March 30, when 'the Passion of the Lord' is celebrated at 3 pm. Though not a full mass, it will still have the



Liturgy of the Word, Veneration of the Cross, and Holy Communion. This is followed by the Procession of the Images of the Santo Entierro, the Madre Dolorosa, and various other saints, at 4:30 pm.

Holy Saturday, March 31, the last day of the Easter Triduum, will see the Solemn Easter Vigil which will start at 8 pm and last till 11 pm. The Vigil will include the Service of the Light, the Liturgy of the Word, the Liturgy of Baptism, and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. At the end of this long vigil comes the much-awaited 'Salubong', where the Image of the Risen Christ which will come from the Acropolis gate and the Image of the Blessed Mother which will come from Giraffe corner GreenMeadows Streets meet in front of the CTK Formation Center.

The next day, Easter Sunday, April 1, marks the formal start of the Easter Season, where each mass will have a Renewal of Baptismal Promises. There will be eight Sundays of Easter. The seventh Sunday, May 13, is the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord, while the eight and last, is Pentecost Sunday, on May 20. Pentecost Sunday will mark the end of the Easter Season, after which the liturgical calendar reverts back to 'Ordinary Time'.

## Fr. James Matthew Conducts Healing Service to Celebrate World Day of the Sick, February 11

CTK Life in the Spirit Prayer Community and Healing Ministry held a Healing Service last February 10, Saturday, after the 7:30 pm anticipated mass in celebration of the World Day of the Sick the next day. The service was conducted by Fr. James Matthew of Family Rosary Crusade. The actual 'healing service' was preceded by 40 minutes of prayers.



The EMHCs were on hand just in case there were parishioners who would fall backwards or pass out, i.e., 'slain in spirit'.

Pope John Paul II initiated the World Day of the Sick in 1992 to encourage people to pray for those who suffer from illness and for their caregivers. The Pope himself had been diagnosed with Parkinson's a year before, in 1991, and it is considered that his own illness was impetus for his designation of the day.



World Day of the Sick was first observed on February 11, 1993. February 11 is also the Catholic Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, which a name is given to the Virgin Mary in honor of the apparitions that were seen in and around Lourdes, France, by young Bernadette Soubirous. And did you know that Pope Benedict XVI declared his decision to resign from his post as the Pope on this day in 2013.



## CTK's EMHC Conduct Annual Outreach on World Day of the Sick

Every year, in celebration of the World Day of the Sick which is always celebrated on February 11, the Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, or EMHCs, of Christ the King Parish, conduct a regular outreach to hospital patients. For 2018, they



He cited his failing health as the reason behind his decision.



identified the charity ward patients of Quirino Medical Center.

On top of the requested budgeted amount from PPC funds, the EMHC, led by Albert Quadrante, were able to solicit additional donations and thus donated a total of P100,000 worth of medicines and other healthcare supplies for the needy patients.

Albert thanked this year's Project Coordinators, specifically - Manny de Leon, Robert Locsin, and Lito Pasquin. He also acknowledged the assistance of Alex Quiroz for arranging the visit to Quirino Medical Center.



# Blessing of Candles at the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord

The Christ the King Parish Greenmeadows celebrated the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord last February 2, a Friday. At 5:50 am before the 6 am mass, at 6:50 am before the 7 am mass, and at 5:50 pm before the well-attended 6 pm mass, all just outside the Divine Mercy Chapel, the congregation gathered for the traditional Blessing of Candles.

In obedience to the Old Law, the Lord Jesus, the first-born, was presented in the Temple by his Blessed Mother and his foster father on the fortieth day after his birth. Joseph and Mary brought the Child Jesus into the temple along with a humble sacrifice of young pigeons as a sign of thanksgiving. Jesus' presentation signified God's entrance to His temple. God-made-man entered His temple, presenting Himself to those who were really searching for Him, which included



Simeon and Anna. God promised Simeon that he would not die until he had seen the Messiah. When Simeon saw Jesus, he took the baby in his arms and blessed the Lord and said: "Lord, now let Your servant go in peace according to Your promise, because my eyes have seen Your salvation which you have prepared before the face of all peoples, a light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory to your people Israel." Also, in the Temple was Anna the Prophetess. Anna was about eighty-four years old, had been a widow for many years, and spent her time in the Temple worshipping, fasting, and praying. When she saw the Christ Child she praised God and spoke of him to all who were awaiting the Messiah.

The Presentation of the Lord is also known as Candlemas day, since the blessing and procession of candles is included as part of the liturgy. Christ is the light of the nations, the 'light of the world', as well as, in the words of Simeon, 'the light to enlighten the Gentiles', hence the **blessing of candles** on this day. The

faithful take them home and light them when they need Christ' intervention such as in times of illness or bad weather.

Fr. Bong Tupino was the 6 pm mass officiator and he also blessed the candles. He greeted the congregation as follows:

Forty days have passed since we celebrated the joyful feast of the Nativity of the Lord. Today is the blessed day when Jesus was presented in the Temple by Mary and Joseph. Outwardly, he was fulfilling the Law, but in reality he was coming to meet his believing people. Prompted by the Holy Spirit, Simeon and Anna came to the temple. Enlightened by the same spirit, they recognized the Lord and confessed Him with exultation. So let us also, gathered together by the Holy Spirit, proceed to the house of God to encounter Christ. There we shall find Him and recognize Him in the breaking of the bread, until he comes again, revealed in glory.

Afterwards, Fr. Bong blessed everyone's candles and said the following prayer:



Oh God, source and origin of all light who on this day showed to the just man Simeon the Light for revelation to the Gentiles, we humble ask that, in answer to your people's prayers, you may be pleased to sanctify with your blessing (+) these candles, which we are eager to carry in praise of your name, so that, treading the path of virtue, we may reach that light which never fails.

Fr. Bong then sprinkled the candles with holy water, got a lighted candle, and led the procession towards the chapel, announcing, "Let us go forth in peace". ■

## Blessing of Throats on the Feast of Saint Blaise, February 3

Saint Blaise was the bishop of Sebaste in Armenia during the fourth century. According to various accounts, he was a physician before becoming a bishop, a 'physician of souls'. His cult spread throughout the entire Church in the Middle Ages because he was reputed to have miraculously cured a little boy who nearly died because of a fishbone in his throat. When Blaise was put in jail in Sebastea, the mother of the child whom Blasé had saved came to him and brought two fine wax candles in an attempt to dispel the gloom of his darkened cell. Which is why Saint Blaise is often depicted holding two crossed candles in his hand. And from the eighth century onward, he has been invoked on behalf of the sick, especially those afflicted with illnesses of the throat.

On the day of his feast on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of February, the blessing of St. Blaise is given: two candles, blessed the day before on the



Above, with Fr. Bong Tupino at the 7 am mass is EMHC Leo Tan. Below, is EMHC Niño Mendoza. the EMHCs who assisted Fr. Bong at the 6 am mass were Ben Puruganan and Ely Santos.

feast of the Presentation of the Lord ("candlemas"), are held in a crossed position by a priest or the lay minister and the people are touched on the throat with them, one at a time. At the same time the following blessing is given: "Through the intercession of St. Blaise, Bishop and Martyr, may God deliver you from every disease of the throat and from every other illness." Then the priest makes the sign of the cross over the faithful. This annual blessing of throats is a traditional sign of the struggle against illness in the life of the Christian.



Fr. Bong officiated the February 3, Saturday 6 am and 7 am masses where there was Blessing of Throats at the end of each mass. ■

# Lectors-Commentators Hold First General Assembly, February 17

Christ the King Parish's lectors and commentators had their first General Assembly for 2018 last February 17, from 10 am to noon, with 71 LeComs in attendance. The LeCom ministry is headed by Lead Coordinator Mel Novales, which is under the Worship Ministry headed by Peter and Leila Banico.

Deputy LeCom Coordinator Trix Delena delivered the Opening Prayer to start off the assembly.



Mel Novales then gave the schedule of LeCom GAs for the rest of the year:

- 2nd on April 21, Saturday
- 3rd on July 18, Wednesday
- 4th on October 20, Saturday

Since the Lectors and Commentators are required to attend at least one General Assembly and two formation talks, Mel also clarified which events were valid formation talks:

- ▶ Talks arranged by Formation Ministry (schedules to be announced later through the Viber groups)
- ▶ Lenten Recollection talks on: Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday
- ▶ Talks at the monthly EMHC General Assemblies every 3rd Thursdays of the month

Mel Novales also reminded the lectors-commentators that if they cannot make it to their assigned schedule, they have to find a substitute a day or two before and inform their coordinator who the substitute will be. Mass Coordinators were also reminded to regularly remind their members of their schedule a day or two before the scheduled date.

LeCom Ministry Treasurer Ellen Manansala gave a financial update. As of February 17, 2018, net available funds contributed by the members totaled PhP112,500.

Worship Ministry head Leila Banico then took up most of the remaining time to

review the Lenten and Easter Seasons' activities. Among the key points:

- By definition, Lent runs from Ash Wednesday up to morning of Holy Thursday. Holy Week makes up the last part of Lent, running from Palm Sunday to Holy Thursday before the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper.
- All images in the church and village chapels will be covered before the Palm Sunday mass until Holy Thursday.
- The Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday begins the Easter Triduum,

which ends on Saturday evening.

- The Easter Season formally begins on Easter Sunday and lasts for eight Sundays until Pentecost Sunday.
- Alleluia is not sung or said during Lent until the Easter Vigil. In place of the 'Alleluia', the choir may sing, 'Praise and honor to you, Lord Jesus Christ' or 'Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ'.
- No Gloria during Lent except on Solemnities and Feasts, e.g., Solemnity of St. Joseph on March 19.
- For Profession of Faith, the Apostle's Creed is used instead of Nicene Creed.
- During Lent, the altar will not be decorated with flowers, except for the 4th Sunday of Lent, or Laetare Sunday, and on Solemnities and Feasts.
- The liturgical color is violet, except for Solemnities (white) and Palm Sunday (red).
- Palm Sunday masses will consist of two parts - the commemoration of the Lord's Entrance into Jerusalem which includes the Gospel Reading of the account of the Lord's entrance into Jerusalem; and the mass itself, with the Gospel Reading being the narrative of the Passion of the Lord.
- The Recollection for Kasambahays and Drivers is scheduled for Holy Monday and Holy Tuesday (two different batches).
- Kumpisalang Bayan will be for three evenings, from Holy Monday to Holy Wednesday, from 6:45 pm to 8 pm.
- On Holy Thursday, we have the Chrism Mass at Lantana in the morning, which celebrates the institution of the priesthood and where the bishop blesses and consecrates the Chrism oils for all the diocese.

- The Parish Recollection will be on Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday, all at 9:30 am.
- The Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday will be at 5:30 pm. The priest receives the parish's share of the Holy Chrism oils. It will also feature the Washing of the Feet of the 12 Apostles. But there will be no final blessing.
- The Holy Thursday mass will be followed by the Eucharistic Vigil from 7 pm to 12 mn at the Divine Mercy Chapel's Altar of Repose when the Blessed Sacrament is transferred and the consecrated communion hosts are reserved for use the following day. Villages will be assigned for each hour during the vigil.
- The Good Friday Celebration of the Passion of the Lord will be at 3 pm. There will be no entrance procession, no entrance song, no final blessing, and altar will be bare. There will be a Veneration of the Cross, with the 12 Apostles assisting.
- The Procession of the Santo Entierro and Madre Dolorosa will be at 4:30 pm following the Good Friday 3 pm celebration of the Passion of the Lord. This will be from CTK to Greenmeadows 1 and back.
- The Solemn Easter Vigil ('the mother of all vigils') takes place on Holy Saturday at 8 pm. It consists of: Service of the Light; Liturgy of the Word; Liturgy of Baptism; and Liturgy of the Eucharist.
- At 11 pm after the Easter Vigil, the Salubong follows, where the image of the Risen Christ coming from Acropolis meets the image of the Blessed Mother coming from Giraffe Street meet at Christ the King parish grounds.
- On Easter Sunday, which marks the beginning of the Easter Season, the faithful:
  - ▶ renews its baptismal promise;
  - ▶ recites-sings both Gloria and Alleluia;



- ▶ uses Regina Coeli instead of the Angelus;
  - ▶ lights the Easter candle in all masses
  - ▶ uses Apostle's Creed to profess our faith
- For the rest of the Lenten Season, the Regina Coeli, the Easter Candle, and Apostle's Creed will continue to be used, up to Pentecost Sunday, which marks the end of the Easter Season.

CTK Stewardship head Wins Mirasol gave an introduction to CTK's brand of stewardship as the last item on the General Assembly agenda (see separate article on page 19). ■



## Lenten Recollection for EMHCs, March 3

The Eucharistic Ministers of Holy Communion's (EMHC) annual Lenten Recollection, which includes EMHC spouses as well as retired EMHCs, was held last March 3, 2018, Saturday, at the St. Luke's Room, facilitated by Fr. Serge Maniba. This activity forms part of the EMHC Ongoing Formation program to help the ministers live out the EMHC Mission of "Bringing Christ closer to everyone through the Eucharist and by living a Eucharistic Life".

and transform the words of our lives. Our Lenten pilgrimage should begin with an inward journey, a silent retreat to the vast



For this recollection, Fr. Serge started off with one of his favorite scriptural passages:

"Blessed are those who trust in the Lord; the Lord will be their trust. They are like a tree planted beside waters that stretches out its roots to the stream: It does not fear heat when it comes, its leaves stay green; in the year of drought it shows no distress, but still produces fruit" (Jeremiah 17: 7-8).

He stressed the importance of allowing God's Word, through contemplation of and praying with Scripture, to confront

'desert' of our hearts so we can confront our present distractions. From this pilgrimage, we hope to benefit from for the two gifts of Lent: a) Humility and b) Self-discovery, so that we can more fully appreciate and be reminded of the unconditional love God has for us, made concretely manifested in Jesus' Passion, Death and Resurrection.

In total, there were approximately 40 participants at the recollection. EMHC coordinator Albert Cuadrante gave special thanks to Joel Tamor, ably assisted by his wife, Annavi, for arranging the ministry's Lenten recollection. ■

## Confraternity of Mary Mediatrix of All Graces Launches 33-Day Novena

The Confraternity of Mary Mediatrix of All Graces, Christ the King Greenmeadows Chapter, mounted its 33-day novena starting last February 20, in preparation for the total consecration to Jesus through Mary. Fr. Diego Ibarra IVC from Argentina was invited to talk at the kick-off, entitled 'Spirit of Reparation: Console the Heart of Jesus and Mary'. His talk was based on St. Louise de Monfort's book, 'True Devotion to Mary'. Written by Monfort in 1712, the manuscript was discovered by chance in 1842 and when published in 1843 became an instant



success. Monfort's 'True Devotion to Mary' attracted attention in the 20th century when in an address to the Montfort Fathers, Pope John Paul II said that reading this book had been a 'decisive turning point' in his life.

Considered by many to be the greatest single book of Marian spirituality ever written, 'True Devotion to Mary' is St. Louis de Montfort's classic statement on the spiritual way to Jesus Christ through the Blessed Virgin Mary. The book sums up the entire Christian life, showing a way of holiness that is short, easy, secure, and perfect - a way of life chosen by Our Lord Himself. In the book, de Montfort explains the wonderful spiritual effects which true devotion to Mary brings about in a person's life.

Then last Tuesday, March 6, at 7 pm, Fr. Winston Cabading O.P. did the third talk, 'Spirit of the World'.

The Confraternity of Mary, Mediatrix of All Grace, was officially launched on September 12, 2006 with the signing of the document of recognition and launching by seventeen bishops who had gathered in Lipa, Carmel for the annual celebration honoring our Blessed Mother under this title. ■

# Cubao Diocese Clergy, Lay Coordinators, and Formation Heads Chart Out Strategy Roadmap for 2018 to 2025

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Cubao called for a Plenary Diocesan Assembly last February 20-21, 2018 in Tagaytay and invited all the Cubao clergy, Parish Lay Coordinators, and parish Formation Ministry heads, plus office staff and professional facilitators, for an overnight planning session to formulate the eight-point priority agenda of the diocese for



**P1. Forming Families Of Faith And Mission.** Parishes will be agents to strengthen and support marriages and families facing the realities of present issues.

**P2. Animating Parish Life, Ministry And Communion**

- a. Parishioners experience sense of ecclesial communion, i.e., belongingness. Resolve issues on un-churched, inclusion, mall culture, parish boundaries, gated communities.

- peace.
- f. To create programs that would heighten care for Mother Earth

**P5: Engaging The Youth**

- a. Empowered youth who are Christ-centered servant leaders and active proponents of change through responsive programs (e.g. BEC) and activities that will care, support and journey with the youth.
- b. The youth manifest responsible participation in the life-mission and work of the catholic faith community.
- c. The young people be properly-informed and formed about the catholic faith and christian values.

**P6: Molding Shepherds After The Heart Of Jesus**

- a. Increase in number and growth in holiness of seminarians mirroring the life of the Good Shepherd for future ministry and service to the diocese.
- b. Priests who are integrated, holistic, and formed through Gospel values towards joyful holiness.
- c. Priests who are secured about the future and are assured of care and concern for their retirement.

**P7: Media And New Evangelization**

- a. Dynamic two-way communication is established between the diocese and the parishes, and with the parish pastoral council and the parishioners, where parishioners are properly-informed of parish programs and activities; and the PPC is given feedback in order to arrive at sound decisions. (Effective communication, data gathering, content generation, information dissemination, where parishioners will be informed on how the Word of God will be lived)
- b. Maximization of the use of traditional and modern means of communication: newsletter, parish theatre groups, parish bulletin boards, digital/LED screens, mobile apps/devices, Internet and social media (FB, Twitter, Youtube, Instagram, etc.)
- c. Production and dissemination of creative media from the Diocese level to the parish level and vice-versa: music, films, animation, telenovelas always have lessons that deal with every day concerns (ex., Christmas special, Lenten special, etc.)
- d. Promotion of media information and literacy
- e. Enable, empower and train Diocesan and Parish Media Ministries through skills training, seminars and workshops on media information and literacy
- f. Equip and provide parish media ministries with the necessary tools and equipment for their media productions
- g. Involve the youth in the planning and information dissemination
- h. Synchronization of media programs grounded in the parish level: institutionalize programs from the Diocesan level to the parish level and synchronize media activities, especially involving parishes

**P8: Embracing Stewardship As A Way Of Life**

- a. To make all parishes in the diocese of Cubao "stewardship parishes": where parishioners live out the spirituality of stewardship, recognizing the graciousness and generosity of god calling us to be "good and faithful servants" (Matthew 25:21), acknowledging the gift we have received and sharing them gratefully and generously.
- b. To create a program of formation in the spirituality of to deepen the pastors' and the parishioners' understanding and love for god and his church and to develop ones' gratitude in receiving and generosity and giving.
- c. To create a program of parish involvement to systematize parishioners' participation in the parish life and activities: attending worship, sharing their expertise in the community and supporting the mission and apostolate of the church.
- d. To review the CBCP pastoral letter on stewardship and study the possible ways of implementing appropriate and effective guidelines suited to the context of the Diocese of Cubao.



- b. Parishioners foster a sense of mission. Resolve issues in lack of members, volunteers, aging members, recruitment.
- c. Parishioners are imbued with Spirituality of Stewardship and Spirituality of the Church of the Poor. Address inadequate formation of parishioners, attitude problems

**P3: Ensuring Faith Integration And Renewal**

- a. Institutionalization of Pastoral Development.
- b. Well-informed, formed and transformed parishes.
- c. Formation for the unchurched, nominal Catholics, millennials and other interest and cultural groups.
- d. Synergy of faith-formation programs.

**P4: Upholding Dignity and Integrity Of Creation (Social Issues, Livelihood, Environment-Ecology, Justice And Peace And Integrity Of Creation)**

- a. To create programs that would facilitate inclusion and bridge the gap with the parish and urban poor in the diocese.
- b. To strengthen and implement programs of the social service ministry.
- c. To create programs that would enhance the delivery of basics services by the local government.
- d. To create educational opportunities that would include the poor.
- e. To create programs for active participation and empowerment of lay leaders and laity on temporal affairs, specifically justice and

the next seven years, 2018-2025. The planning was expected to focus on - BECs; formation; clergy; structures and policies; social action; media; stewardship; and catechetics.

In all, there were 163 participants who stayed on for the two half-day planning sessions. Bert Santos attended as CTK Lay Coordinator while David and Fely Ong attended as CTK Formation Ministry heads.

The outcome of the Diocesan Assembly was an eight-point priority agenda, or roadmap, for 2018-2025.

## 2018-2025 Agenda for Cubao Diocese

1. Forming Families of Faith and Mission
2. Animating Parish Life, Ministry and Communion
3. Ensuring Faith Integration and Renewal
4. Upholding Human Dignity and Integrity of Creation
5. Engaging the Youth
6. Molding Shepherds after the Heart of Jesus
7. Promoting New Evangelization and Media
8. Embracing Stewardship as a Way of Life

# CEFAM's Fr. James Gascon on Amoris Laetitia and Family Love

Last February 20, at the February mass and prayer meeting of the Diwanihan Kristiyano Prayer Group, Fr. James Gascon S.J., Pastoral Psychotherapist and Professor at the Loyola School of Theology, and President of Ruben M. Tanseco Center for Family Ministries (RMT-CEFAM), gave a pastoral reflection



on Amoris Laetitia, or, Joy of Love. He reflected on love of family and the challenges that families face.

'Amoris Laetitia', which translates in English to, 'The Joy of Love' was a post-synodal apostolic exhortation by Pope Francis dated March 19, 2016 and released April 8, 2016. The exhortation addresses the pastoral care of families and covered a wide range of topics related to marriage and family life as well as the contemporary challenges faced by families throughout the world. It encouraged both pastors and members of the laity to accompany and care for families and others in situations of particular need. Amoris Laetitia also included an extended reflection on the meaning of love in the day-to-day reality of family life.

As an introduction, Fr. James pointed out that this Apostolic Exhortation by Pope Francis brings together the results of two Synods on the family convoked by Pope Francis after almost three years of consultations with Catholics all over the world. It was in effect a call for love in the family.

Fr. James first addressed the question, 'what makes a family?' He discussed several dimensions:

▶ **Genetics**, which refers to the biological process where a parent passes certain genes onto their children or offspring. Every child inherits genes from both of their biological parents and these genes in turn express specific traits.

- ▶ **Connections**, or the ability to bond with and show active concern for one another characterized by common values and a sense of community
- ▶ **Relationships**, which is the interaction of the individual member of the family with other members of the family in its three dimension: how the individual relates to himself/herself and the God within, how the individual relates with other members of the family and the God in each of them and how the person relates to other persons outside his/her family and the God through them.
- ▶ **Vulnerability**, that is, when the well-being of families are threatened by individual, parental or family circumstances like poverty, single parenting, relationship problems, etc.
- ▶ **Love**, with the family providing a framework for each member to grow as a person in love and security. If we accept that God's love is unconditional, we will become capable of giving boundless love and forgiveness.



## Amoris laetitia Pope Francis



The Amoris Laetitia exhortation posited three key messages:

1. Families are places where God and his love are present and at work. **"The Lord's presence dwells in real and concrete families with all their daily troubles and struggles, joys and hopes."** (AL 515). The family is a place where children first learn to love, respect, relate and interact with others. **"All of us should be able to say, thanks to the experience of our life in the family: 'We come to believe in the love**

**God has for us' (AL 290).**The experience of God's love allows us to love others.

2. All families need to be helped to grow in love. **"No family drops down from heaven perfectly formed; families need constantly to grow and mature in the ability to love."** (AL 325). No family is perfect and families experience tremendous difficulties and challenges in our time. But there also exists the unconditional love that families give despite the difficulties. As Pope Francis states: **"I thank God that many families, which are far from considering themselves perfect, live in love, fulfill their calling and keep moving forward, even if they fall many times along the way."** (AL 57)
3. Families in difficulty and persons in imperfect relationships should be treated with love and mercy. **"The Church must accompany with attention and care the weakest of her children, who show signs of a wounded and troubled love."** (AL 291). A pastor cannot feel that it is enough simply to apply moral laws to those living in 'irregular' situations, as if they were stones to throw at people's lives (AL 305). Jesus wants a Church attentive to the goodness which the Holy Spirit sows in the midst of human weakness.

Love makes - or breaks - a family. Pope Francis reflected on love's indications.

1. **Love is not rude.** In our own families we must learn to imitate Jesus' own gentleness in our way of speaking to one another. **Speak with respect, courtesy, gentleness, encouragement.**
2. **Love is not resentful.** The opposite of resentment is forgiveness. Seek to understand other people and to forgive them.
3. **Love bears all things. Know when and how to be silent about the weaknesses of others.** Limit judgement. Check the impulse to condemn.
4. **Love believes in all things.** Those who know they are trusted can be open and hide nothing; those who know their spouse is always suspicious will tend to keep secrets. So **know how to trust.**
5. **Love hopes all things. Know how to hope for change or some good in others or during a difficult situation.** Love bears every trial with a positive attitude.

Fr. Gascon's talk concluded with a prayer:

Holy Family of Nazareth, make us once more mindful of the sacredness and inviolability of the family, and its beauty in God's plan.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, Graciously hear our Prayer. Amen. ■

## A Discourse on Christian Giving at First Stewardship Talk, February 24

Last February 24, the CTK Stewardship Committee held the first of its quarterly Spirituality of Stewardship talks at St. Luke Room, with Glen Glorioso, a freelance trainer and advocate of Christian giving, doing the talk.

Glen was a former member of Ang Lingkod ng Panginoon - Alabang Chapter, a prayer community of single professionals who practice 'tithing' and use the funds to undertake socially-relevant outreach projects. After getting married in 2003, Glen and his wife Ana



are now covenanted members of Ang Ligaya ng Panginoon, the married counterparts of 'Lingkod'. The couple currently serve together as pastoral leaders to college students. Glorioso has a degree in Marketing and is currently a financial planner and a sales manager with a major life insurance company.

Glen began with the inarguable premise that we don't 'own' the treasures we have received. Since they are God's gifts to us, we are merely 'stewards', tasked with ensuring that the resources entrusted to us - time, talent, and treasure - are managed well.

He differentiated between an owner and a steward, i.e., if you own something, you don't have to be accountable to anyone if you waste or poorly manage the resources. But if you're a designated

steward, you're accountable to those who entrusted the resource to you.

The logic goes - the Lord is the Giver of Life. The Giver of life endows us with talents and skills. These God-given abilities and talents allow us to earn money which allows us to buy things. Hence the questions - who is the real owner of the things you've acquired? Shouldn't we give back some of what we've received? Returning back just a portion of what is truly His is the definition of 'tithing'.

Glen went through several Bible passages that mentioned tithing. In Genesis (14:18-20) for example, 'Melchizedek, king of Salem, brought out bread and wine, and being a priest of God Most High, he blessed Abram. Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything.' From Tobit 1:6-7, 'Bringing with me the first fruits of the field and the firstlings of the flock, together with a tenth of my income and the first shearings of the sheep, I would hasten to Jerusalem for the festivals and present them to the priests, Aaron's sons, at the altar.' And from Leviticus 27:30, 'All tithes of the land, whether in grain from the fields or in fruits from the trees, belong to the Lord, as sacred to him.' And still, from Malachi 3:10, 'Bring the full tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house; and thereby put Me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing.'

So Glen argued that when we don't tithe, we actually steal from God.

So is tithe a tax, Glen also asks, similar to income tax levied by the government? The obvious answer is 'yes', since they're both monetary; they're intended to benefit people; both are prescribed; both have to be given regularly; and both are a certain percentage of what has been received. But tithe is not a tax in that tithing is by choice, not 'by force' as with taxation.

Glen summarized the reasons why we should tithe:

1. [it's a command, not a suggestion](#)
2. [out of gratitude for what has been received and gained](#)
3. [to grow in complete faith in the Lord's provision](#)

4. [it is important in the Lord's economy, i.e., the work of the Lord costs something, and there are people in need and many of them run to Christian communities. Christian giving is the machinery that runs the Lord's economy.](#)

Glen went through another biblical passage, Luke 6:38, 'Give, and gifts will be given to you. A good measure will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you.' He cautioned that if your sole reason for tithing was to expect to get back exactly what you gave, then you miss the point.

And how much to give? The Old Testament says it should be one tenth or 10% of whatever you gained. The New Testament is a bit more flexible - in Corinthians 9:7, 'Each must give according to what he has inwardly decided, not sadly, not grudgingly, for God loves a cheerful giver.'

When you give to the Church, that is,



your parish or diocese; when you give to your religious community, e.g., Ligaya ng Panginoon; when you give to instructors of God's words, you are tithing. Glen differentiated this from giving to a charity or foundation or UNICEF since these are not engaged in the work of God.

So his prescription is: first decide on the amount you wish to give on a regular basis, then as with any 'disciplined savings', immediately separate your tithe amount as soon as you receive your salary.

The talk concluded with a definition of 'Christian giving' - first and foremost, tithing or 'Christian giving' is an expression of thanksgiving. But in addition, it is an opportunity to prove your trust in the Source of the supply. Expressed in the vernacular, **'Pinagkakatiwalaan ka ng Panginoon. Hindi ka ba magtitiwala sa Panginoon?'** ■

# Fr. Bong Tupino Celebrates 52<sup>nd</sup> Birthday with Parishioners



Parishioners and friends of Fr Bong from Christ the King and from his previous parishes joined Fr Bong as he celebrated his 52nd birthday last January 26, 2018, a Friday. His special day commenced with his thanksgiving Eucharistic Celebration at 7am, at the Divine Mercy Chapel. The day also happened to also be the Memorial of Saints Timothy and Titus, Bishops.

His brother-priests concelebrated the mass with Fr Bong. After the mass, everyone was invited to a delightful breakfast at the convent veranda.

It was a huge turnout, with several groups coming to celebrate with Fr. Bong, including former parishioners



from Lady of Peace Parish in Paranaque, San Isidro Labrador Parish in Tandang Sora, Hearts of Jesus and Mary Parish in West



Triangle, and our Lady of Pentecost Parish in Loyola Heights. Also gracing the occasion were former classmates from the San Jose Seminary in the Ateneo de Manila campus.



Near the end of the breakfast, Fr. Bong was asked to blow out the candle on his birthday cake. ■



# Bishop Raul Celebrates 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday

Bishop Raul Q. Martirez, former Bishop-Emeritus of San Jose de Antique and now retired guest bishop at Christ the King Parish Greenmeadows, celebrated his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday last February 9, a Friday.

In a joyous Eucharistic mass at 7 am at the Divine Mercy Chapel, Bishop Raul celebrated his thanksgiving mass, assisted by Fr. Bong Tupino, Msgr. Tony Mortillero, and Fr. Ricky Montañez. The



mass was followed by a breakfast salusalalo at the convent veranda.

A special guest of Bishop Raul was Msgr. Dan Sta. Maria, former parish

CTK priest and recently-retired Vicar General and Moderator for the Cubao Diocese.



He had so many well-wishers that it took Bishop Raul 20 minutes to navigate the short distance from the chapel door to the veranda.

Bishop Raul gamely went through each of the tables to have his picture taken with the different groups. When the parish staff brought out the birthday cake, Bishop Raul was warmly surrounded and congratulated by Fr. Bong, Msgr. Morti, Msgr. Dan, and Fr. Ricky. They loudly sang 'Happy Birthday' as Bishop Raul blew out the



solitary candle. It was clearly a testimony to his popularity that Bishop Raul was only able to sit down with family members and eat at 9 am.

In 2002, at the age of 65, Bishop Raul took official retirement and spent a year with his parents before joining CTK as its resident retired bishop – and he's been associated with Christ the King Parish Greenmeadows for the last 15 years. Despite his 80 years of age, Bishop Raul continues to assist with CTK affairs, celebrating one or

two masses every weekend, celebrating the occasional daily mass, officiating at some weddings, baptisms, confession sessions, etc. Up to 2015, Bishop Raul also regularly acted as Pilgrimage Chaplain for the annual European and Holy Land pilgrimages led by CTK. His unmatched knowledge and deep background into biblical history and pilgrimage geography had made him much sought-after as pilgrimage chaplain.



## Fr. Herbie Santos Celebrates Second Ordination Anniversary

Fr. Herbert 'Herbie' Santos, former parochial vicar of Sta. Rita de Cascia Parish, celebrated his second presbyteral ordination anniversary at his new assignment in Sta. Maria della Strada Parish, in Katipunan corner Pansol Street, Loyola Heights, last February 22.

Fr. Herbie grew up as a CTK parishioner and is the son of Bert and Marie Anne Santos, the current head Lay Coordinator couple for the CTK Parish Pastoral Council. He only left the Christ the King Parish Greenmeadows when he was ordained two years ago, back in February 22, 2016, which coincides with the Feast of the Chair of St. Peter the Apostle, at the Immaculate Conception Cathedral of Cubao, which was also attended by Archbishop Soc Villegas. Eleven months earlier, in March of 2015, Herbie was ordained to the Sacred Order of Deacons

at Christ the King Church. Reverend Herbie is the first-ever priest from the parish of Christ the King-Greenmeadows.

At his anniversary mass, Fr. Herbie was the main celebrant. Fr. Nelson Orqueta, Parish Priest of Sta. Maria della Strada Parish, delivered a nice homily about the Chair of St. Peter.

In attendance during the ordination anniversary mass were: Bishop Ness Ongtioco, Msgr. Tony Mortillero, Msgr. Dan Sta. Maria, Fr. Nelson Orqueta, Fr. Bong Tupino, Fr. Steve Zabala, Fr. Jun Pascual, Fr. Ronald Macale, Fr. Jojo Monis, Fr. Raymond Arre, Fr. Fred Narvasa, Fr. Junjun Borres SJ, Fr. Vic de Jesus SJ, Fr. Jover Domanico, Fr. Roque of Opus Dei, and Fr. Milton from Bangladesh. Msgr. Dan was parish priest during Fr. Herbie's first stint at Sta. Rita de Cascia Parish



while Fr. Vic de Jesus was the San Jose Seminary Rector when Fr. Herbie entered the seminary in 2009.



Dinner with Clergy, family, and close friends together with PPC members of the della Strada parish, followed.

A highlight of the dinner was a surprise video of Fr. Herbie's life that was presented during the reception. Also distributed during the dinner were copies of the latest della Strada parish newsletter that featured Fr. Herbie. Aside from the Santos family and the CTK priests, the parish was also represented by Louie Laudico.



## CTK Parishioners Help Msgr. Dan Sta. Maria Celebrate His 75th Birthday



Monsignor Dan Sta. Maria, former parish priest at Christ the King Greenmeadows, from 2006 to 2012, celebrated his 75th birthday at a mass and reception at Sta. Rita de Cascia Parish, Philam Homes, Quezon City. CTK PPC members who attended were Bert and Marie Anne Santos, David and Fely Ong, Fe Pery, Mila Bangco, and Louie and Nell Laudico. Also in photos from CTK are Chito and Lilet Gomez, Manolo and Linda Dayrit, Tito and Patsy Henson, Linda Famador, Margie San Juan, Alex Quizon.

Monsignor Dan's 75th birthday automatically marked his retirement from active duty in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Cubao. Msgr. Dan had been the Diocese's Vicar General and Curiae Moderator.

# Family and Life Ministry Sponsors Women's Wellness and Medical Clinic, March 11

Last Sunday, March 11, in cooperation with Kalusugan ng Kababaihang Pangkabayanan, or KnKP Inc., CTK's Family and Life Ministry, led by Regie and Joanne Polancos, offered free

patients), breast examination, cervical cancer screening (cryotherapy), pelvic and transvaginal ultrasound, as well as gynecologic consultation.

photographs, and substituted as queue marshals

From Diwanihan Kristiyano:

- ▶ Che Bartolome also assisted with managing the patient queues
- ▶ Julie Barrientos helped with distributing snacks
- ▶ Leny Frades took charge of registration

The Ministry core team started set-up of the Parish Hall as early as 6 pm, since the stage had to be set up for the physical examination beds and ultrasound equipment, then curtained off. Registration began at 7:30 am as soon as the first patients began arriving, with patient numbers being assigned. At the registration desk, patients were immediately asked if they were pregnant or suspected themselves of being pregnant. If they were, they were given priority in the queue and immediately tagged with a P (for 'pregnant') sticker. At 8:15, Regie Polancos began with an Opening Prayer, then introduced the KnKP doctors. By 8:30 am, the first registrants began to be processed, starting with the pre-screening, with patients accomplishing the health forms with the help of core team members Edwin and Michelle Bernardo and Annavi Tamor.



Nearly 200 patients, from Libis, the villages, and other Metro Manila cities arrived for the women's wellness and medical services

The services were made available to all female parishioners, from age 20 up, but everyone had to pre-register to ensure that resources were adequately matched to demand. All the services and consultations were done at the CTK Parish Hall, which was converted into a mini-clinic for the occasion, with the stage being sectioned off for the more private and sensitive tests and procedures.



The KnKP Inc. team was headed by OB-Gyne Consultants Dr. Connie Alfiler and Dr. Tonette Arcales, supported by a full team of OB-Gyne staff, all from The Medical

women's health awareness and medical services at the CTK Parish Hall, from 8

City (TMC).

Regie & Joanne were assisted by the core team members of the Family & Life Ministry:

- ▶ Edwin & Michelle Bernardo took charge of pre screening of patients
- ▶ Jeanette Cagurangan was responsible for snack distribution
- ▶ Louie & Jops Padrinao acted as queue marshals aside from assisting with the physical arrangements
- ▶ Aji & Angie Rualo also assisted with marshalling the patient queues
- ▶ Joel Tamor was a queue marshal while spouse Annavi Tamor assisted with pre-screening
- ▶ Ryanna & Regina Polancos assisted with snack distribution, took

The patients then proceeded to the physical examination and ultrasound section, which was the curtained-off stage. Upon completion, they then did the gynecologic consultation with the senior doctors.



TGP staff dispensing the free medicines

Depending on need, medicines would then be dispensed, for free. The free medicines, which included Amoxicillin, Calcium, Doxycycline, and Ferrous Sulfate, were provided courtesy



Above, Drs. Alfiler and Arcales get the exam-ultrasound room ready. Below, posing with their medical team after a hard day's work.



am to 3 pm. The services continued to be announced in all the morning masses as well as the noon mass.

The free services included: pre-natal ultrasound and check up (for pregnant



pre-screening table manned by Annavi Tamor, Edwin and Michelle Bernardo



Filed lectures on women's health on video loop

continued on next page



## Women's Wellness . . .

of The Generics Pharmacy (TGP), thru Ms. Debbie Pangan, their Corporate Communications Head.



190 registered patients showed up, out of slightly over



Above, Jops Padrinao tries her hand at resuscitation. Below, the Polancos family pose with Dr. Ramboyong and the dummies.



200 who called to confirm their participation. Of the 190, only eight were pregnant and therefore went through a different process. There were 68 patients from the Libis community, roughly an equal number from the CTK villages, while the remainder came from other areas such as Pasig, Cainta, Antipolo, Makati, Sampaloc, Mandaluyong, and Cavite but most of whom tended to hear mass at CTK.

While patients waited for slots to free up with the physical examination and ultrasound, they were treated to a lecture on Basic Life Support by The Medical City (TMC) CPR Group headed by Cardiologist Consultant Dr. Raul Ramboyong supported by his team of cardiologists from TMC. They demonstrated the basic techniques of CPR then asked some of the core team members and a few patients to try their hand, using four dummies that the team brought with them.

There were also filmed lectures on women's health that kept playing in a loop.

# Sunrise Ministry Pilgrimage to Seven Batangas Churches, February 24

The CTK Ministry for the Elderly a.k.a. Sunrise Ministry, headed by Drs. Doy and Estrelle Lopez, held its Lenten Pilgrimage for Seniors last February 24, with a total of 60 seniors and 'super seniors' in attendance. Of the 60, 22 were from the Libis and Bagumbayan communities while the rest were from the villages.

The pilgrimage objective was to visit seven churches within the day. Just before the first stop, the National Shrine of St. Padre Pio in Sto. Tomas, Batangas, Jorge Banal gave the group an overview of what to expect at the shrine. Although for that day, the Padre Pio relic is exposed for veneration only to the very sick, the shrine donor's son, Dr. Gonzaga, made arrangements for a special session with the CTK seniors so they could kiss



the relics of Padre Pio at the Blessed Sacrament Chapel of the Shrine.

Next stop was Mount Carmel Church in Lipa, where the delegation received the latest update on the supposed Mary Mediatrix apparitions. Petals of roses and stampita were also handed out. The group's timing was just right because as they were pulling out, seven buses of pilgrims had just arrived.

Then it was off to the baroque San Sebastian Cathedral, the seat of the Archdiocese of Lipa, facilitated by Anna Lagman, where the group was met by the PPC Lay Coordinator himself. They had a group photo at the altar and were regaled by the story of the contest as to where the seat of the archdiocese would



Our 60 pilgrims pose in front of the altar at Lipa's San Sebastian Cathedral

be located, with the town that could build the biggest church winning the honor. Which is why all the churches in Batangas are huge. In the end, Lipa was chosen because of the elevation and cooler temperature.

The senior pilgrims had lunch at Uncle Cheffy's in Lipa, tasting the famed Lipa lomi and bulalo, plus tawilis, adobong manok, salad, and turon. In addition, throughout the day, the core team distributed ensaymada, boiled egg, nilangang saba (all prepared by Baby Banal), and Sky Flakes to the pilgrims.

The Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Batangas City was the first stop after lunch. An interesting side story was how the bus was stopped by a traffic aide for a violation but when he learned that our Sunrise Ministry members were on a pilgrimage, he radioed all traffic aides who then aided and facilitated throughout their route to the Immaculate Conception Cathedral. The church reminded a number of the visitors of San Agustin Church in Intramuros.

Bauang's Immaculate Conception Parish Church was the next stop, arranged by Lupe Lazaro. Although the altar closed off with a curtain due to renovations, the pilgrims still went around the church. Then to Taal, Batangas for the St. Martin of Tours Basilica, care of Dan Lapid. The tour bus couldn't go up the narrow inclined road so the group had walk up the stairs. But since they were running out of time, the group didn't hear mass anymore.

Then finally, it was off to the Lady of Caysasay Church, also in Taal, arranged by Vinchu Lapid. It was just 150 steps down from St. Martin. But the church was closed so they asked the caretaker who courteously opened the church doors for the pilgrimage. It was already 6 pm and the staff always safely secure the Image of the Lady at 5 pm away from the altar. But the caretaker took the elusive image from the convent so the pilgrims could touch it. The pilgrims then walked up 25 steps to check out the well where the image of the Lady was supposedly discovered. Then it was off for home.



# CTK Youth Ministry Leads 83 Youth Attendees on Lenten Pilgrimage to Regina RICA, March 4

In preparation for the Lenten Season, The CTK Youth Ministry, led by Louie and Lei Abando, held a pilgrimage for 83 CTK youth to Regina RICA, in Tanay, Rizal last March 4, Sunday. Assembly was at 7 am. Food and transportation was provided.

The 13.5 hectares of Regina RICA (the letters R-I-C-A standing for 'Rosarii Institute for Contemplation in Asia') is located along Marcos Highway at Sitio



Aguho, Sampaloc Tanay, Rizal.

Upon entering the gates of the Dominican community of Regina RICA, you immediately see the two large iconic figures of St. Dominic and St. Catherine of Siena at the gate. A few more steps and you see the huge letters making up 'Dominican Sisters of Regina Rosarii'. Right from inside the entrance, you can already see the huge statue located on top of the hills they call 'El Shaddai'.



The construction of the statue started in October 7, 2009 and the blessing took place on March 19, 2010. It was inspired by the Dominican tradition of Our Lady's protective mantle that shelters her devoted children. Below the statue is a canopy of clouds where the faces of 17 angels or cherubims can be seen. The 71-foot high statue of our Lady, Regina Rosarii, Queen of the Holy Rosary, with the young Jesus in her arms, was designed by sculptor Jose Barcena Jr.

The words "El Shaddai" means the breasts of God, and the hills are among the symbols included in the logo of Regina RICA. The three trees symbolize Regina Rica as a place of Prayer, Ecological Sanctuary, and a Wellness Environment. The 13.5 rays of the sun stand for the 13.5 hectare land, and the black and white Dominican seal signifies the Dominican presence at the place.

A brief orientation was given at the



Pilgrim's Place where they gave some background about the place and the house rules that guests needs to follow. House rules include: no smoking, eat only at designated places, and bring home your trash.

The way to the top of the El Shaddai Hills



is also called Mary's Sacred Trail or S-Trail to Our Lady because of the S shaped trail. On your way up you see 13 candle stations where you can leave your candle offerings. The sides of the stairs are lined with sunflowers, and other kinds of flowers can also be seen along the S-Trail.



Before walking up to the majestic statue of Mama Mary, the group did the Way of the Cross, with the 14 stations found around the sprawling grounds. It took the youth group 1.5 hours to complete the Way of the Cross.



There was an area near the statue called the Candle House where members of the group offered colored candles for different intentions. Then the entire delegation paused for prayers at the Adoration Chapel inside the statue,



called the SULOD (Sanctuary of Universal Love and Devotion). SULOD is an Ilongo word that means Enter or Inside.



The new chapel's design, which had its groundbreaking last December 12, 2010, was made to look like a tent, a symbol of God 'pitching His tent' among His people.

Lunch for our young pilgrims was inside the bus on the way home so they managed to get back to Christ the King by 3 pm.



## Reintroducing Stewardship as a Way of Life

Wins Mirasol, Christ the King's Stewardship Committee co-head together with spouse Benjie Mirasol, gave an overview of CTK's brand of 'stewardship as a way of life' last February 17 during the General Assembly of Lectors and Commentators.



The key point she made was - stewardship is really ingrained in Christ the King's parishioners, and we can rightfully claim to be a 'Stewardship Parish' as our website christthekingparish.ph proudly proclaims on its cover page.

Wins proudly pointed out to the lectors-commentators in attendance that the website gave clear evidence of investment of time and talent, as she sowed screen grabs from the parish website of the various ministries, mandated organizations, and prayer-renewal movements present in the parish.

She also pointed out the overwhelming generosity of CTK parishioners as demonstrated by donations inserted in the daily and weekend offertory boxes, regular 'stewards' who consistently contributed their stewardship envelopes; ongoing donations to the Casa de Silencio retirement home project; second collections during third Sundays (Outreach Sunday); and special call for donations to be sent to calamity sites, e.g., Marawi, Bohol, Leyte, etc.

Wins Mirasol quoted Matthew 6:19-21:

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in and steal; for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

So she asked the audience, 'Where is your money going? How do you spend your free time? What are your recurring thoughts? How do you interact?' The answer tells you where the heart is.

## PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL PPC Treasurers' Report on the Sources and Uses of Funds for 2017

The Parish Pastoral Council spent a total of Php 6,711,486.18 on its various programs for 2017. Almost 60% of this amount was allocated to Social and Development Service programs which include scholarships, feeding programs, outreach to the elderly and prisoners, medical missions, livelihood programs, and kasambahay recollection activities. The PPC organizations responsible for execution are the: Catholic Women's League, Ladies of Charity, Apostleship of Prayer, Buklod ng Panginoon and Knights of Columbus.

The Worship Ministry which includes the EMHCs, Lectors, Greeters and Collectors, Altar Servers, and Choirs accounted for 9% of expenses for the on-going training and preparation of the various servers in the Holy Mass. The PPC expenses, which covers administrative salaries and meeting costs, accounted for 8% of the total budget. Parish funds amounting to more than P400,000 were used to subsidize PPC expenses. However, under-budget spending over all the ministries allowed the end-of-year reimbursement of Parish funds used by the PPC.

One million pesos from the Pastoral funds was turned over to the Parish funds to assist in the various parish and diocesan outreach projects and activities. Details of uses of funds below is followed by the table showing the Sources of funds and ending 2017 pastoral fund balance.

Uses of Funds (in PHP)	
Catholic Women's League	797,798.93
Ladies of Charity	2,315,421.42
Apostleship of Prayer	182,771.90
Buklod ng Panginoon	146,951.75
Knights of Columbus	248,960.00
<b>Total for Social Services and Development</b>	<b>3,331,352.70</b>
Formation	240,081.98
Mundard Sero	15,228.63
WIC	16,182.00
Worship	6,319,000.00
Youth Ministry	179,506.70
Catechetical Ministry	15,704.50
Public Affairs	0000
Vocation	18,184.50
Family & Life	14,882.68
Parish Pastoral Council	54,881.12
Almshouse	45,800.00
<b>Total for other Ministries</b>	<b>1,780,112.48</b>
<b>Turnover to CTK Parish Funds</b>	<b>1,000,000.00</b>
<b>Total Uses of 2017 Funds</b>	<b>6,711,486.18</b>

Sources and Uses of Pastoral Funds (in PHP)	
Beginning Balance, January 1, 2017	1,485,340.48
Plus: Turnover from Stewardship	
07-Feb	900,000.00
04-Apr	900,000.00
18-Jun	900,000.00
26-Jul	900,000.00
08-Sep	900,000.00
18-Dec	1,200,000.00
<b>Plus: Interest</b>	<b>4,110.88</b>
<b>Less: Uses</b>	<b>6,711,486.18</b>
<b>Ending Balance, December 31, 2017</b>	<b>108,865.18</b>

## Basic Formation for New Altar Servers, January 20

Ten new altar servers attended the Basic Formation for new altar servers that started last Saturday January 20. The ten altar server candidates listened intently to Vocation Ministry head Louie Laudico's explanation of the Liturgical Calendar and Liturgical Seasons, as well as the significance of the different vestment colors at the different Liturgical seasons. The ten new altar server candidates included:



Kristian Canlas answering Louie Laudico's question about the number of days in Lent.

1. Rain Benedict Arche
2. Alano Aldea
3. Gabriel Ludwig P. Abando
4. Jonathan Paolo Chupungco
5. Jaime Antonio E. Coronel
6. Jaime Alfonso G. Cruz
7. Jose Luccas M. Leong
8. Karl Francis Manlosa
9. Samuel Edward P. Sabat
10. Dion Andre' N. Shani

One of the formation's guest speakers was senior altar server John Juat, who gave an eloquent explanation to the New and Active Altar Servers why he continues to serve in the mass. John, who started as an altar server when he was nine years old, is currently 27. He confessed that he's happy and feels very fulfilled whenever he serves at a mass. He also enjoys teaching the new altar servers the do's and don't's of serving in the mass.

Most of the new altar servers who completed the Basic Formation were immediately thrust into apprenticeship service the following weekend, serving in the January 28 Sunday masses.



Above, two new altar servers, Zui and Luccas started serving last January 28, Sunday during the 6:30 evening mass, presided by Fr. Bong Lupino. Abram Roxas and brother Sam were there to help the two.

# CTK Altar Servers Undergo Renewal Formation, February 17

The Facilitators of the Ministry of Altar Servers of the Diocese of Cubao went to the different parishes to conduct the Renewal Formation for Active altar servers. Assigned to Christ the King Parish was Brother Angelo Lance Torres who met with the CTK active servers last February 17, Saturday. Brother Lance is on his 3rd year college course on Religious Education at UST. He is

Candle and passed the light to the next altar server until everyone's candle was lit. The facilitator explained the light as Jesus Christ.

**Part 3, Washing of the Feet.** This act was used to show the Altar Servers that they are to be examples of humble service to others and witnessing to the life of Jesus with Credibility and Integrity.

The facilitator, Bro. Lance, also explained that the act of washing each other's feet becomes an act that challenges everyone to live lives in real communion with each other.



Seated L to R: Jacob Paraiso, JC Cornelio, Thomas Cornelio, Jaime Santos, Andre Angeles, Bro. Lance. Standing L to R: Bro. Lito Pasquin, Enzo Cruz, Joshua Kyle Abando, Abram Roxas, Jan Pasquin, JG Gonzales, Brian Morales, Charles Caluste, Paolo Songalia, Sam Roxas, JoMari Pasquin, Garet Hernando, Michael Mendoza and Vocation Ministry co-head Louie Laudico. Not in photo are Marco and Miko Cuadrante.

presently serving at Sta. Maria Dela Strada Parish in La Vista. Like most of the CTK boys, he also started serving at the age of nine.

The renewal formation is in line with the Year of the Clergy and The Consecrated Persons.



Below, the Rite of Passing the Light, as Andre Angeles passes the light to Sam Roxas



Top, Charles Caluste washes the feet of Jacob Paraiso. Above, after washing and drying of the right foot, Charles gives Jacob a hug. Below, JC Cornelio washing the feet of Jaime Santos. Bottom, it's Charles' turn to have his foot washed.



L, Mico Cuadrante introducing himself to the other altar servers. R, it's brother Marco's turn.

The Formation was divided into three parts.

**Part 1, Introductions.** The altar servers introduced themselves, telling their nicknames, favorite color, and food.

**Part 2, Passing of the Light.** Each participant was given a candle. The first altar server lit his candle from the Paschal

## Coffee After Church (CAC) Continues to Welcome Sunday 9 AM Mass Goers

Enjoy fellowship with fellow parishioners and get to know your parish community better.

Come join the Parish Pastoral Council for 'CAC', that is, 'coffee after church'.

Simply visit the tent outside the church after mass and savor free coffee with light snacks, every Sunday after the 9 am mass.



February 4 CAC, sponsored by EMHC



January 21 CAC hosted by Diwanihan Kristiyano



February 18 CAC, hosted by Santoses and Ongs of PPC



February 25 CAC, hosted by Couples for Christ



January 14 CAC, hosted by Ladies of Charity

## Catholic Women's League Donates Storage Boxes at Their Annual Prison Outreach to Camp Karingal

The Catholic Women's League (CWL) - Christ the King Chapter paid their annual prison outreach visit to the Camp Karingal Ladies Detention Dormitory last November 7, 2017. As of that that, there were 1,200 recorded inmates.

The advance team had met with the prison officials prior to the official visit. The prison superintendent, Marie Rose Laguyo, had requested that in lieu of the traditional gift of t-shirts, the request was for large-capacity transparent storage boxes with handles where the detainees could put their valuables. After an extensive search, CWL found a 20 liter capacity 'Mega Storage Box' retailing at P153 each. CWL bought 600 units and left it to the superintendent to identify 50% of the inmate population who would receive the storage boxes.



Above, the CWL ladies in the middle of distributing the mega storage box gifts. Below left, the entire CWL team posing at the gate of the detention dormitory. Below right, CWL President Kim Cua (right) and CWL's Girlie Alampay (2nd from left) with Jail Superintendent Marie Rose Laguyo.



# Activity-Filled January and February 2018 for Ladies of Charity

The LOC ladies gave a send-off breakfast last January 15 for 19-year old Clifford Barizo, LOC's very first UP scholar (taking up B.S. Geography) under the LOC scholarship program. Clifford was recently tapped as an exchange student in Asturias, Spain, with the University of Oviedo, for six months, from January to July, 2018. Clifford is from Bagumbayan and had been a CTK scholar for the last six years - since second year high school.

college scholars; in fact, attendance is a prerequisite to maintaining the scholarship, aside from keeping a GPA of 85. Welcoming back their scholars after the Christmas break, for the January 6 catechism class, LOC held an adoration of Baby Jesus and Offering of Love Letters to Mama Mary.

February 12 was the 'Libis Lolás' Day Out. The 'Lingap lolas', so called because the Ladies of Charity pick them up from the Libis community every week and gather them at the Lingap Center for prayers, mass, reflection, sharing, snacks, and the occasional medical check-up, were treated to an 'outing' by the Ladies of Charity to the National Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes in Sta. Mesa Heights. ■



CTK's Ladies of Charity regularly conduct catechism classes for its high school and

## Ladies of Charity Start Their First 2018 Livelihood Project: Pinoy Hilot Wellness and Massage

The Ladies of Charity - Christ the King Parish unit - started their first livelihood project for 2018 - Pinoy Hilot Wellness and Massage - at Barangay San Roque last January 10.



The training, to be held every Wednesday and Friday, full day, would last until March. 15 participants started the program but organizers are hopeful they will end up with 25. LOC's Teri Floro has tied up with Nuat Thai Massage in Eastwood for guaranteed employment after the training period. ■

## GreenMeadows 1: on the Road to BEC

First GreenMeadows is earnestly trying to build their gated community into a true Basic Ecclesial Community, or BEC. Already on their third meeting, the third get-together drew 18 participants. Village coordinators Eileen de Leon and Dulce Barreto invited Fr. Bong Tupino to expound further on what it means to be a BEC. Conducting the GM1 BEC session was resident Mila del Fonso, who talked on 'Spiritual Warfare'.

The village coordinators-BEC organizers intend to continue having their every-two-months BEC meeting on the last Wednesday of the second month, at the GM Clubhouse. The first BEC meeting speaker was Rissa Kawpeng and the second meeting speaker was Tessie Moran. The organizers pray that GM1's BEC will continue to grow - slow and steady. ■



# SIV's Buklod ng Panginoon Activities

Buklod ng Panginoon, the renewal movement based in St. Ignatius Village, had a busy fourth quarter 2017.

Last October 23, 2017, Buklod ng Panginoon held a Halloween celebration for Barangay Libis children beneficiaries of Buklod's feeding program. BNP



president Cita Pabillo was supported in the activity by members Evelyn Sumbillo, Carol Marana, Tiny Perfecto, Rose Famanila, and Agnes dela Cruz.

Then last November 7, 2017, Buklod had its annual outreach program at the Molave Youth Home, inside the compound of Quezon City Hall, where 200 juvenile offenders are housed. BnP visited Molave at 3 pm, providing counseling services before distributing food and electric fans. As a sign of gratitude, the Molave youth did a song and dance number. Cita Pabillo was assisted at Molave by BNP members



Evelyn Sumbillo, Norma Chico, Tiny Perfecto and Agnes dela Cruz.

Buklod also hosts a weekly Bible study, Lecio Divina, mentored by Fr. Serge Maniba every Tuesdays at 5:20 pm at the SIV Community Center.

Last February 10, Buklod ng Panginoon sponsored a morning-only free medical check-up via ProHealth for St. Ignatius Village (SIV) residents at their community center.



On February 27, Buklod ng Panginoon members took time off from mission duties to undertake a pilgrimage to St. Peter's Parish Shrine of Leaders in Commonwealth Avenue before enjoying a picnic lunch at La Mesa Eco Park.

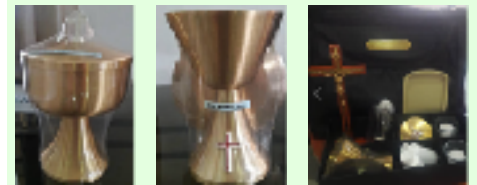
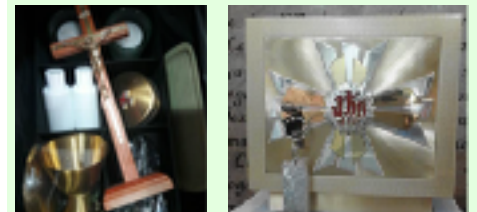


## MBMG-CTK Shows Off Religious Gift Suggestions in Exchange for Donations

Betsy Tenchavez, current head of the Mother Butler Mission Guilds (MBMG), CTK Chapter, presented a wonderful array of potential gift suggestions at the January PPC meeting.



MBMG carries a wide line of clergy and church related paraphernalia which donors and benefactors could 'buy'. MBMG would then donate the said mass kit to a poor church or mission, usually in the rural areas. At the same time, the donor is presented with a beautifully-crafted and ribboned gift box which indicates that a



gift, say, a mass kit, has been donated to a specific church or mission in the gift recipient's name. The gift box would indicate who gave the donation, the name and photo of the item bought in his name, and the identity of the priest or church to whom it was given by MBMG.

A sick call kit, which consists of a cross, pyx, corporal, stole, oil stock, and bottle for holy water only costs the donor P1,500. A chalice to hold the wine or ciborium to hold the consecrated hosts costs P2,500. A mass kit, consisting of a small chalice, paten, host box, bottles for water and wine, two candle holders, standing cross, tray, bell, vestments, and linen costs P3,500. P4,500 gets the donor a censer and boat to carry incense for burning.

Costlier, at P9,500, the donor can donate a monstrance, for exposing the Blessed Sacrament, to a needy or start-up church. And for P17,000, a generous donor can endow a tabernacle, the repository of the ciboria.

## Christmas Vigil Mass, December 24, 10 pm offered by Parish Pastoral Council with CTK Youth Choir

The Christmas Vigil Mass last December 24th was celebrated with significant drama. The Christmas Eve masses were held at 6 pm, 8 pm, and 10 pm.

Co-celebrated by Fr. Bong Tupino and Fr. Ronald Plomillo, offered by the CTK Parish Pastoral Council and sung to by the CTK Youth Choir; the 10 pm mass, the one that drew the biggest crowd, began with 'lights out' as a group of selected

Libis and village children led the offertory, carrying lighted candles.

The children, all dressed in white, then went up the stairs to light up the belen and, on cue, the church lights turned on. Fr. Bong Tupino then blessed the belen.

At the end of the mass, the blessed image of the Baby Jesus was held up by the assisting deacon for veneration by the parishioners.



## Libis BEC Holds Belated Christmas Gathering, January 3

The Libis 'Basic Ecclesial Communities', or BEC, held their belated Christmas gathering last January 3 in the afternoon at the social area of the CTK Weekend Market.

In response to their request for donations in cash, kind, party food, and prizes, the Libis BEC leaders received an overwhelming outpouring of support from different members of the PPC. For example,



Fr. Bong Tupino donated a bilao of pansit, an electric fan for raffle prize, and 100 filipino gospel booklets for the BEC's weekly bible sharing. Just a sampling of donations received - David and Fely Ong donated six whole chicken, Mila del Fonso donated P1,500 in cash, Henry and Joyce Tañedo gave a box of sardines.

In her note of thanks, BEC's Ching Botero said, 'Sobra-sobra yung food and prizes; lahat umuwi ng masaya. We are very lucky to have generous parishioners like you; your thoughtful support really made Christmas memorable for us.'

## Simbang Umaga by AP for Karingal Female Detainees, December 19

Last December 19, 2017, the Apostleship of Prayer, CTK Chapter, sponsored a 'Simbang Umaga' at the Quezon City Female Dorm in Camp Karingal. Mass celebrators were Bishop



Ness Ongtioco, head of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Cubao, and Fr. Marvin Pajarllaga, Cubao Diocese Prison Ministry coordinator. After the early morning mass, the AP ladies distributed 'wellness packs' to over 1,200 detainees.



# Fr. Bong Tupino to Lead the Pilgrimage Tour to the Adriatic Coast with Medjugorje, April 2018

Christ the King Parish is inviting its parishioners and regular mass goers to a Marian Pilgrimage to Medjugorje, Bosnia-Herzegovina to visit the Mary Queen of Peace Shrine. Although Medjugorje and Mostar, the Bosnia-Herzegovina capital, are the primary destinations, the pilgrimage includes visits to other shrines of Our Lady in Austria, Slovenia and Croatia. The pilgrimage is from April 14 to 28, 2018 and the Pilgrimage Chaplain is CTK's own Fr. Bong Tupino. The religious tour is organized by Journeys of Faith, a regular partner for pilgrimage tours with the Diocese of Cubao.

The tour departs Manila in the evening of April 14 and begins in Graz, Austria the following day, for the Basilica Mariatrost, then crosses over to Slovenia. First stop in Slovenia is Maribor, then to Lake Bled



Above, the 1566 Stari Most Bridge in Mostar, Bosnia-Herzegovina. Below, Lake Bled in Slovenia. Bottom, Dubrovnik in Croatia.



with its Assumption of Mary Pilgrimage Church in the middle of the lake, then on to the capital Ljubljana. Spend three days in charming Ljubljana, including Skocjan Caves and the National Shrine of the Holy Mother in Marija Bistrica.

From there, the tour crosses over to Croatia, with the capital Zagreb as the first stop. Then visit Plitvice National Park, then on to Zadar. The next day, travel to Split on the eastern shore of the



Above, the view of St. James Church and Medjugorje. Below, the Statue of Virgin Mary at Podbrdo, place of apparition.



Adriatic Sea, and visit the ancient Roman Palace of Emperor Diocletian.

The tour then crosses into Bosnia-Herzegovina, with Medjugorje as first stop. The pilgrims celebrate Sunday mass and do a private tour to learn more about the apparitions and messages of Our Lady which began in 1981. Then depart for the capital Sarajevo. The next day, cross back into Croatia for Dubrovnik, a UNESCO World Heritage site and one of the most prominent destinations on the Adriatic Sea. On April 27, take the evening flight back to Manila.

## The Medjugorje Apparition

Medjugorje, the most important pilgrimage stop, has been an unofficial place of Catholic pilgrimage since the Virgin Mary appeared to six children - Ivan, Jakov, Marija, Mirjana, Vicka, and Ivanka - on Apparition Hill, or Podbrdo, on June 24, 1981. The visionaries often refer to the apparition as the 'Gospa', which is Croatian for 'Lady'. There is a 'Queen of Peace' statue marking the site of the first apparition and one in front of the St. James Church. A concrete cross tops Cross Mountain, to the south. Since the apparitions began in 1981, approximately 40 million people of all faiths, from all over the world, have visited Medjugorje and have left spiritually strengthened and renewed. Many bring back stories of deep conversions back to God. The messages attributed to Our Lady of Medjugorje have a strong following among Catholics

worldwide, with Medjugorje turning into Europe's third most important apparition site. The six children, now all middle-aged adults, allege to continue to see the apparitions and receive messages from Our Lady on a daily basis since 1981.

## The Church's Stand

The apparition has been investigated by the Yugoslav bishops since the mid 80s and under Vatican study since 2010. Unlike Fatima, Portugal or Lourdes, France, the Medjugorje phenomenon has never been declared authentic, in part because the local bishops have long cast doubt on the reliability and interests of the visionaries. While no 'official' pilgrimages can be endorsed or organized until a final decision has been reached, private pilgrimages are accepted and encouraged by many clergy, including by Pope John Paul II.

Pope Francis has effectively dismissed reports of the continuing apparitions of the Virgin Mary at the Medjugorje shrine in southern Bosnia, based on the 2014 Vatican report that cast doubt on the ongoing visions. Francis emphasized that the key to the Vatican investigation is to distinguish between the original visions during the seven days in 1981, which is meriting serious consideration for approval as a pontifical sanctuary by the Church, and the current doubtful claims of continuing daily apparitions and messages. But he said it is undeniable that people go to Medjugorje and are converted from sin. He said: "People find God and change their life. You can't deny this spiritual and pastoral fact." The last official word was in August 2017 by the Papal Envoy to Medjugorje, Archbishop Henryk Hosier, who said, 'In any event, this movement will not stop and should not be stopped, because of the good fruit that grows out of it. It is one of the most alive places of prayer and conversion in Europe - and has a healthy spirituality.'

## Other Pilgrimage Tours with Fr. Bong

Fr. Bong Tupino will also be Pilgrimage Chaplain for two other pilgrimage tours this year. The first is the 'Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Guadalupe With the Colors and Spices of Mexico', scheduled from August 22 to September 2. The other is 'Christmas in Bethlehem', scheduled for December, that will include Jordan and Egypt, aside from Israel.

# Bible Enthronement Sunday at Christ the King Parish, January 28

January 28, 2018 was National Bible Sunday. Christ the King Greenmeadows Parish, like the other parishes in the Diocese of Cubao, assigned specific families to each of the weekend masses for the Enthronement of the Holy Bible, not only at the main church but in all the village masses - Corinthian Garden, White Plains, Corinthian Hills, Saint Ignatius and Acropolis - as well. Then after each mass, the officiating priest

blessed the bibles that were brought to the front by parishioners.

For the 7:30 pm anticipated mass of January 27, Saturday, officiated by Fr. Serge Maniba, the family assigned for the Bible Enthronement were the Manansalas of Acropolis, led by parents Ernie and Ellen Manansala. While Ernie brought up the Bible, daughter Eileen led the prayers.

Fr. Serge then blessed several bibles brought to the front by parishioners at the end of the mass.



Bible Enthronement is a celebration of the Word of God. It's a rite which started in the early part of the Church but was lost through the years. During the Second Vatican Council, the meeting of Bishops from all over the world held in Rome from 1962 to 1965, the Bible was solemnly enthroned every morning at the opening of their sessions. Through this liturgical ceremony, the bishops reminded themselves that they could only effectively preach the Good News if they first listened to God's Word. Since then, in many Church gatherings like congresses, conventions, workshops, meetings, retreats and recollections, the first activity would always be the Enthronement of the Bible. ■

## Christ the King Parish Celebrates the Feast of the Sto. Niño, January 21

The Parish celebrated the Feast of the Sto. Niño last January 21. In commemoration of the feast of the Child Jesus, all the CTK masses, including the January 20 anticipated masses, featured the special blessing of children and the blessing of beautiful Sto. Niño images borrowed from or donated by parishioners.



Devotion to the Santo Niño (Holy Child), an image of Jesus as a small boy typically dressed as a king, is a mainstay of Philippine Catholic life.

The oldest and most popular Santo Niño image is the Santo Niño of Cebu City, originally given in 1521 as a gift by explorer Ferdinand Magellan to Rajah Humabon and his wife when he landed on the island. The statue measures approximately twelve inches tall, is made of a dark wood in flemish style and depicts the Child Jesus as a king dressed like Spanish royalty. The expressions, accessories and hand posture of Santo



## Christ the King Parish Celebrates the Feast of the Sto. Niño ...

Niño de Cebu are similar to the Infant Jesus of Prague. It is believed that both statues originated from the same European source, with the devotion to Santo Niño starting earlier of the two. The statue is clothed



Original image of Señor Santo Niño de Cebu

in rich fabrics, wears jewelry such as gilded neck chain and bears imperial regalia including a gold crown, globus cruciger, and various sceptres mostly donated by devotees.

In Cebu, devotion to the Santo Niño reaches a fever pitch early in January, when crowds flock to the basilica that houses it, and the city and its harbor are taken over for days by processions, colorful parades and other celebrations. The name of that feast, Sinulog, refers to a ritual dance inspired by and performed before the Santo Niño. In recent years the events have drawn 1.5 to 3 million participants in a city of fewer than 900,000 people, making Cebu's celebration one of the largest annual events in the Catholic world.



Above, St. Ignatius Village celebrated the Feast of the Sto. Niño last January 21 with Fr. Bong Tupino. The St. Ignatius village coordinators were able to gather a huge number of SIV youth to participate in the special mass.

## Mustard Seed Ministry Thanks 2017 Student Volunteers and Hopes for More Sign-Ups for 2018

Mina Mejia, who with husband Sonny Mejia, currently heads the CTK Children's Ministry a.k.a. 'Mustard Seed', gave a short background on the ministry. 'The Ministry has been teaching the children of the 9 am Sunday mass goes since August of 2015. Through fun and engaging activities, the children have learned more about the Gospel and our Catholic traditions. Believe it or not, some of the children are now serving as readers in the monthly Children's Mass and some have joined the CTK Altar Servers.'

The Mustard Seed Ministry never seems to run out of ideas on how to make every Sunday unique for the children. For example, during the Feast of the Sto. Niño last January 21, with the help of the youth volunteers, the Mustard Seed Ministry set up a booth and gave out sweets and stampitas to the young parishioners of the morning masses. Mass goers were also greeted by the musically-talented Nicky Maza with her violin renditions of worship songs. Inside the activity room, the children did an artwork of pasting shapes to form the Sto. Niño image which they later paraded during the 9 am mass.



The ministry continues to grow, Mina Mejia points out. With the desire to implement the program in the other masses, Mustard Seed has been conducting sign-ups for 'teacher volunteers' who are willing to spend at least one hour a month in forming the future of our Parish. It was fortunate that last year, in line with 2017 being the Year of the Parish, a number of catholic schools required their students to be more involved in their parish activities. Students of St. Paul Pasig came to volunteer, conducting arts and crafts activities with



the children, and making lesson plans based on the assigned Sunday Gospel. Last year's volunteers were a big help during last October's Kingdom of Heaven fair that was jointly organized by the Family & Life, Mustard Seed, and the Youth Ministries. With their vocal and musical talents, the volunteers also added vibrancy to the Coffee after Church program when Mustard Seed and the Catechetical Ministries were the assigned sponsoring groups.

With the positive experience of engaging volunteers from the religious schools, Mina hopes that schools would run these volunteer program on a more regular basis. Mustard Seed had been blessed to have Youth volunteers from St. Paul and Poveda who are fruits of these parish involvement requirements. Now that the schoolyear is

continued on next page

## January 7 Solemnity of the Epiphany Includes Special Blessing of Electronic Calendars and Appointment Books

CTK celebrated the Solemnity of the Epiphany last January 7.

The feast of the Epiphany celebrates the three events that Christ has made Himself known to the world, manifesting the mission and divinity of Christ: the visit of the Magi, the baptism of Jesus, and the miracle at Cana.

The visit of the Magi is emphasized on Epiphany Day. Christ's baptism is celebrated the next day, and the miracle at Cana the Sunday after that.

All the January 7 masses included the special blessing of calendars, smartphones, and appointment books. Near the end of the mass, the prayer for the Blessing of Calendars on the Feast of the Epiphany was recited by all (see prayer below).



Above and below, Fr. Ricky Montañez blesses the smart phones held up by parishioners after the 5 pm mass of Sunday, January 7.



It was interesting to note that 15 years ago, everyone would have been holding up paper-based planners and notebooks. But on the January 7 weekend, nearly

everyone was putting up smartphones to be blessed, with just one or two paper planners held up in the crowd.

### Prayer for the Blessing of Calendars on the Feast of the Epiphany

In every age, O God, you have been our help. To the wise men of the East, your star rose at the appointed time to lead them to your Son. To those at the Jordan, your Spirit descended upon Jesus to show us that indeed the time of your kingdom had come. And at the wedding banquet of Cana, time stood still as the guests drank fully from the bottomless cup of joy Christ provided. You created all time and set the stars in motion, and yet not one second of our life goes by without your care.

Bless then our timekeepers— our calendars and clocks, watches and daytimers, computers and cell phones, notepads and notebooks. Help us not be slaves to them or to fill them so much that we miss your presence here and now. But let us use them to help us be in the right place at the right time where we can do your will and witness you at work in our world. May we remember each moment and never forget that you are with us until the end of time. This we pray in the name of Christ, yesterday and today, the beginning and the end, Alpha and Omega. To him be glory and power through every age for ever and ever. Amen. ■

continued from previous page

## Mustard Seed Ministry Thanks 2017 Student Volunteers and Hopes for More Sign-Ups for 2018

about to end, the ministry leaders hope that these girls will come back next year to play a more active role in Christ the King!

Parents, if you have pre-communicants from three to seven years old and you haven't signed them up yet for Mustard Seed, please do so at the soonest possible time. If you have musically-inclined

children who might be able to join the CTK Children's Choir, please inquire about the choir's regular practice times.

But most importantly, if your older children or teenagers might be interested in signing up as Teacher Volunteers, please don't hesitate to have them contact the parish office. ■

## MESSAGE FROM THE EDITORS

This issue will mark a full two years, marked by eight quarterly issues, since the new Media Ministry took over the CTK Herald. We continue to try hard to capture all the important events in the life of Christ the King Parish Greenmeadows.

It's also an important milestone since this could well be the last issue whose distribution Fr. Bong Tupino will personally witness. The next issue, for the 2nd quarter, will be released on the last week of June, at which time Fr. Bong will no longer be around since a new parish priest would have taken over.

Lent started early this year, hence despite cutting off on March 15, we still had a lot of Lenten activities to report on - the traditional burning of the ashes on the eve of Ash Wednesday, Ash Wednesday itself, start of the Way of the Cross in the main church and some of the villages (Acropolis, Greenmeadows, Enclave, and White Plains will have completed as of press time). When you get to read this, it'll probably be Palm Sunday already and the start of Holy Week. So we will be covering Holy Week, the Easter Triduum, and the Easter Season in the 2nd quarter issue.

In this issue, we write up about - two Lenten pilgrimages; the World Day of the Sick; goings-on within the Worship Ministry groups; birthday celebrations of Fr. Bong, Bishop Raul, Msgr. Dan, Fr. Herbie; the Cubao Diocese roadmap for the next seven years; several inspiring talks; your Parish Pastoral Council's financial report for the past year 2017; outreach activities of several mandated organizations and renewal movements; the forthcoming pilgrimage led by Fr. Bong Tupino to the Adriatic Coast countries; and an update on the Mustard Seed Ministry. That's a lot of content crammed into 28 pages.

It's important not to lose sight that the CTK parish's media thrust is four-pronged:

- regular print publication that is The Herald,
- our internet presence which is [christthekingparish.ph](http://christthekingparish.ph),
- our social media, i.e., Facebook, that is primarily [www.Facebook.com/CTKPGreenmeadows](http://www.Facebook.com/CTKPGreenmeadows) (led by Sheryl Coronel) plus other dedicated FB pages
- our electronic bulletin board located at the church steps, with its announcements, news items, and other frequently-asked information which runs the whole weekend

Again, we thank our photo and text contributors for this issue - Joanne Polanco, Agnes dela Cruz, Eileen de Leon, Louie Laudico, Leila Banico, Albert Cuadrante, Loung Cuartero, Fely Ong, Bert Santos, Mina Mejia, Ching Botero, Doy Lopez, Kim Cua, and Betsy Tenchavez.

**Bing and Elise del Rosario**  
Media In-charge