



Viva La Virgen de Peñafrancia!



The Peñafrancia pilgrim image being carried into the main church by PPC Assistant Lay Coordinator Henry Tañedo and Worship Ministry head Peter Banico

The Pilgrim image of Our Lady of Peñafrancia arrived at Christ the King Parish Church last September 3 at 4:30 pm. In a fitting tribute, the 6:30 pm mass was officiated by **Archbishop Tito Yllana**, the Papal Nuncio to Australia.

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Winners Yet Again!



The entire Christ the King Parish Greenmeadows joined hands to congratulate the parish Bible Quiz team of **Peter Banico**, **Sheryl Coronel**, and **Trix Delena** for winning the Diocese of Cubao Bible quiz, called **Bible Encounter 2017**, last July 22. They

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'Sunrise' Ministry for Seniors Launched

The **Ministry for Seniors**, also known as '**Sunrise Ministry**', of Christ the King Parish was launched last April 30, 2017. An exhibit of paintings by members of the Sunrise Artists Group opened at 9 AM, with ribbon cutting by **Fr. James Ferry** assisted by the ministry's core members. The formal launching was at the 5 pm

Eucharistic celebration, presided by **Bishop Raul Martinez**.



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Bishop Ongtioco's Episcopal Pastoral Visitation

Bishop Honesto Ongtioco was welcomed warmly by the CTK Parish Pastoral Council last June 10 during his **Episcopal Pastoral Visitation**.

The visit was intended to give the Bishop a clear picture of the life of the parish and to give him an opportunity to get to know the parish pastoral council members in a deeper way. At the same time, it was meant to give the PPC an opportunity to meet Bishop Ongtioco and get to know him better as their chief pastor.

By way of presentation and dialogue, the visit would assist the bishop to evaluate the parish and assist in carrying out its function more effectively going forward.



At the same time, with the help of the Vicar Forane of the vicariate to which the parish belongs, the head of the diocese would be looking into the condition of the church, the chapel, the furnishings and other accessories, as well as the

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Message From Our Parish Priest

STELLA MARIS

By the time this article is published, I would have finished our Jubilee Pilgrimage to Fatima and the other Marian shrines in Europe. Setting out on a pilgrimage has always been to me a very great blessing. It is indeed a source of consolation and strength in my faith. The pilgrims too, who are with me bring their own life stories and prayers to be offered to Mary for intercession to Jesus, her Son and our Lord.



Fr. Bong Tupino III

We were in Fatima on September 8, Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and what a wonderful blessing to celebrate the Eucharist at the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima as we commemorate the 100th anniversary of her apparitions to the three shepherd children, Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta.

From Fatima we traveled to Burgos to visit the Cathedral dedicated also to Our Lady, then to Our Lady of Monserrat, Our Lady of the Pillar in Zaragoza, Our Lady of Torreciudad, Our Lady of Lourdes, Our Lady of Rocamadour, Our Lady of Miraculous Medal and Notre Dame in Paris.

“Pilgrimage to shrines is the most eloquent expression of the faith of God’s people. When we see people doing pilgrimages to shrines, we remember that each pilgrim brings a special wish in their hearts, a prayer.”

- Pope Francis

It is amazing to think that Our Lady has marked her presence in these places and has been a comforting assurance for people who are seeking for healing in their sickness, for hope in their desperate situations, for faith in their unbelief, for courage in their fears. Mary becomes not only a companion in the pilgrim way but especially a Mother who takes care, supports and encourages her children. Mother Mary is every where we seek God and she points to us the Way, the Truth and the Life, that is Jesus Christ.

In Fatima, Our Lady appeared standing on a tree; in Zaragoza, on a pillar; in Lourdes, in the rocky grotto; and in Montserrat she is seated on a throne. Even in her appearances she brings forth Jesus Christ depicted as the tree of life, the pillar of faith, the rock of our salvation, the seat of wisdom. She bids us to come to Him and to find solace in His love for us.

Pope Francis, during the celebration of the Year of Mercy, said that the pilgrimage to shrines is “the most eloquent expression of the faith of God’s people.” It is a way of sharing our faith. He said, “In the shrines, in fact, our people live a deep spirituality, that of the piety that through centuries has reflected the faith with simple, but very meaningful, devotions.” He said that when we see people doing pilgrimage to the shrines, we remember that “each [pilgrim] brings a special wish in their hearts, a prayer.”



Ave Maris Stella: an Italian holy card of Mary as Star of the Sea

Saint John Paul II has also spoken of pilgrimages as a celebration of faith, a process of conversion, and a gift of grace. He said, “In the course of history, Christians have always walked to celebrate their faith in places that indicate a memory of the Lord . . . to shrines honoring the Mother of God . . . Their pilgrimage was a process of conversion, a yearning for intimacy with God, and a trusting plea for their material needs. For the Church, pilgrimages, in all their multiple aspects, have always been a gift of grace.”

In this pilgrimage of faith, Saint John Paul II reminds us that Mary, our Blessed Mother, is Stella Maris, the Star of the Sea. She shines forth in the community of pilgrims as model of faith and we raise our eyes to her, who leads and protects us with her maternal love.

Our Lady of Peñafrancia Pilgrim Image Visits CTK



her arms sitting on a golden throne. Mary asked him to dig at that spot and he found embedded among the rocks, the most coveted image of the Holy Virgin with the Child in her arms.

Fast forward to 1712 in the Philippines, when a Spanish colonial official from Peña de Francia, Spain, settled with his family. The official's son Miguel de Covarrubias, a seminarian, fell seriously ill and prayed to Our Lady of Peñafrancia for recovery, vowing to construct a church by the Pasig if he got cured.

Our Lady of Peñafrancia is a wooden statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary venerated in Naga City, Bicol, Philippines. The image comes

Miguel was miraculously cured and then ordained a priest not in Manila but in Ciudad de Nueva Cáceres, now Naga City. To fulfill his vow, Miguel built his nipa and bamboo church by the banks of the Bicol River and ordered a local artisan to carve an image patterned after the picture of Our Lady of Peñafrancia that he always carried with him.

Stories of miracles surrounding the image began circulating immediately. A letter sent by Miguel to the Dominicans in Salamanca, Spain in 1712 reported numerous miracles through the intercession of Our Lady. The number of devotees eventually increased beyond the Diocese of Nueva Cáceres,



Archbishop Tito Yllana officiating September 3 Sunday 8 pm mass

from the original image enshrined in Salamanca, Spain. In the 1400s, a Frenchman and Mary devotee named Simon was roused from slumber by a voice telling him to go to Peña de Francia to the west where he would find the shrine of the Blessed Virgin Mary. He sold everything he had, gave it to the church, then began his quest. For some time, no one could confirm that such a place existed and several times, he almost gave up the quest. Then, in 1434, near Salamanca, Spain, at a distance on a rocky hill, he saw a glaring and dazzling light and when he approached, he found the Virgin Mary with the Child Jesus in

the world along with the Filipino diaspora.



EMHCs bringing the image to the Divine Mercy Chapel for adoration after 8 pm mass

Starting September 8, the birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary, all roads and routes lead to Naga City in Camarines Sur where six million Bicolanos from both Bicol and abroad flock to that progressive city to pay honor to the Virgin of Peñafrancia, miraculous patroness of the Bicol Region. They will shout "Viva la Virgen" to the high heavens. On the last day, the image is returned to her shrine following the Naga River route where the colorful evening procession is lit by thousands of candles from followers in boats escorting the image back to the cathedral.

The Peñafrancia pilgrim image came from the Parish of San Isidro Labrador near East Avenue; the entourage was led by Isidro Labrador parish priest Fr. Arvie Bello. To welcome the Lady, the CTK parishioners waved their handkerchiefs upon her arrival at 4:30 pm.

After the 8 pm mass by Archbishop Yllana, the devout CTK parishioners stayed to spend an hour of adoration until 10 pm. The parish then said farewell to Our Lady of Peñafrancia the next day, Monday, September 4, after the 6 pm mass at the Divine Mercy Chapel.



Fr. Bong blessing the pilgrim image of Our Lady of Peñafrancia

which comprised the Bicolandia and Marinduque, and in modern times the devotion has reached other parts of



Warm Reception for Bishop Ongtioco's Episcopal Pastoral Visitation



Above, meeting and greeting Bishop Honesto Ongtioco at the main church before proceeding to the Divine Mercy Chapel (below) for the para liturgical celebration (bottom)



administration of church property, finances, and administrative record-keeping. All in all, the visit would be a complete investigation of the spiritual and temporal affairs of the parish, and together with the Saturday visits to the

other 46 parishes from May 2016 to November 2017, would provide a full picture of the state of the diocese.

After a warm meet-and-greet at the main church, there was a para-liturgical celebration at 9:15 am at the Divine Mercy Chapel, presided over by Bishop Ness and Fr. Bong Tupino. The celebration included mass prayers, gospel reading about the 'lost sheep', and the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. This was followed by fellowship with snacks at 10 am.

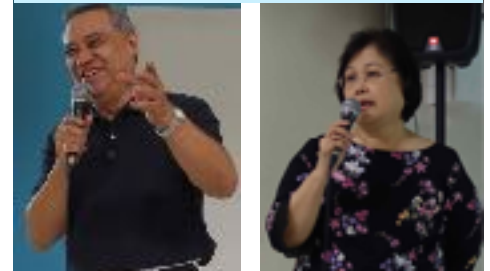
At 10:45 am, the formal presentations to the Cubao Diocese head by the various ministry heads proceeded as scheduled. This included: Tiny Perfecto on BECs; Regie Polancos on Family & Life; Lei Abando on Youth; Wins Mirasol on Stewardship; Mila Bangco on Social Action; Bing del Rosario on Media; Alma Yeh on Catechetics; Bert Santos on Vocation (on behalf of Louie Laudico); Leila Banico on Worship; Henry Tañedo on TransParochial Groups; Doy Lopez on Sunrise Ministry; David Ong on Coffee After Church. Bishop Ness expressed immediate interest in the Coffee After Church project by David and Fely Ong.

Since there was an anticipation of a dialogue that could include perspectives on parish priest performance, Fr. Bong had earlier recused himself and accompanied Fr. Arnel Recinto, in his role as Vicar Forane, in examining the parish canonical books and physical state of the parish facilities, structures and surroundings. The presentation of plans by, accomplishments of, and challenges faced by the

ministries was then followed by a lively Q&A, which included questions from a Libis Youth leader, Jo Piyaw and Ching Botero as Libis Co-Coordinator and BEC Co-Heads, Bert Santos, Fe Pery, and a lively comic-yet-serious exposition of Fr. Bong's contributions by Lulay dela Cruz.



Above and below, ministry heads presenting their programs, including challenges faced



Libis youth and BEC leaders engage Bishop Ongtioco in dialogue



Below, Lulay dela Cruz making a point to Bishop Ongtioco about Fr. Bong Tupino



Praise for the Coffee After Church Program of Christ the King's Parish Pastoral Council

Below, reprinted in full, is Bishop Ness Ongtioco's June 12 **letter of thanks** and appreciation to the CTK Parish Pastoral Council related to his pastoral visit last June 10. Bishop Ness has asked the CTK PPC to continue to support the project and have it contribute to the 'communion

of communities'. Bishop Ness Ongtioco again mentioned the CTK Coffee After Church (CAC) project at his live Facebook presentation last June 14. PPC secretary couple and CAC proponents David and Fely Ong have recently reiterated their request for PPC members and friends to

help invite churchgoers over to the CAC tent, to help explain what the different ministries, mandated organizations, and renewal movements are doing, to get invitees to fill up forms on the ministry of their interest, as well as to assist with the distribution of food and drinks.



The Roman Catholic Bishop of Cubao

41 Lantana Street, Cubao, Quezon City, Philippines 1111

June 12, 2017

Mr. Bert Santos
CTK PPC Coordinator
Christ the King Parish
Greenmeadows Avenue
Quezon City

Dear Bro. Bert & CTK PPC Officers, Ministry Head and BECs Coordinators,

The Love and Peace of Jesus!

A million thanks for your warm hospitality and reception during my pastoral visit last June 10, 2017. Thank you for making me always feel at home every time I come to the parish. Your love and concern for my well being as your shepherd are deeply appreciated.

Every time I pray and think of you, I pray with joy. Thank you for keeping the faith alive through your active involvement in the different ministries and programs of the parish. Your dedication and commitment to the mission of the Church are commendable. May your tribe increase!

Congratulations for the comprehensive, pictorial and detailed reports, for all the organized programs of action to make our priorities operative in many ways. As I have mentioned in our dialogue, the landscape of the Church has changed and it makes it more difficult to get more volunteers and workers. But we strive to invite and get more people involved in the parish especially in the BECs level.

The "Coffee After Church" will perhaps motivate more people to take an active role in the parish. The CAC is also an opportunity for every member in the parish to know the other members and how they can interact as a community. It is a good venue not just to deepen the friendship and bonding that should be promoted in every community but also a way of making people know what is happening in the parish and this might motivate them to be more proactive and participate in some apostolate or ministry.

We need to be more creative in involving the youth in the parish. Their knowledge of the new technology and social media can re-enforced their involvement to promote the new evangelization of the Church. More avenues have to be explored more. Let us not forget that Social Media is a powerful and effective tool.

As we celebrate the year of the parish with the theme "communion of communities" we have more reasons to be thankful to the Lord for the communion that exists in the parish. The different reports show that the community is alive. There is the challenge to establish more paragonas or BECs clusters for it is a way of being church. There are more opportunities to be interactive and sincere responsiveness among the members. The early Christian community draw the attention of their neighbors because of their love and concern for one another. I hope and pray that more and more people will see this reality as an effective way of being a Church.

I am also very thankful to the Lord for the growth of the Stewardship Program which has become a way of life for many. I praise the Lord for your generosity which sustains many of our projects not just in the parish but also in the diocese. Many communities and individuals have benefited from your kindness. Your sense of mission is reaching out to the poor who are precious to the Lord is made visible. Structures in the parish are not that effective unless they deliver something in concrete. You have served as a model in just in the diocese but even outside the diocese of Cubao. Thank you for the donation of five million pesos to help finance the construction of the Bishop's Residence.

I appeal to you to pray for more workers and to help us campaign, motivate young people including professionals to think more about the priesthood. We need to look ahead and plan for the future. Some of our parishes are life and we cannot just hide them. We lack priests and so I ask you to double your efforts to pray and campaign. Some of our present parish priests will be retiring in the near future. Our present seminarians are very few. We hope to get more from your parish.

Your formation programs will ensure the maturing of faith of our parishioners. Keep up your creative in finding ways and avenues by which we can enrich their spirituality. The presence of charismatic and prayer groups in the parish is a testimony of your response to the hunger of the spirit. They remind us that there is something more in life that we have to deal with.

Allow me to thank you also for the many charitable and scholarship programs that you have in the community to reach out to the marginalized. This is a good encouragement for the poor to study and think about their future. We cannot just imagine how many poor people you have helped, you have given hope and strength to move on in spite of the many difficulties they have to face each day.

These are some of the concerns and priorities that are close to my heart. Again thank you for being good stewards of the kingdom. Thank you for nurturing not just your faith but also the faith of others. Continue your good work. Be generous in sharing whatever you have received from the Lord and blessings will come.


I pray that the Lord will bless all your families and loved ones. We pass only once in this world. Let us give our best to nurture our faith and make it operative each day. Make your faith and love visible and concrete the way Jesus showed His love for us.

Be assured of my remembrance in my daily masses. Please pray for me too. You are blessed with a good dedicated priest in the person of Fr. Rong Tapino. Kindly take good care of him.

Please pray also for the renewal and sanctification of the clergy.

May the Lord in His love and mercy reward you all with more joy, love, peace and happiness. May He keep you from all harm and bless you with every good gift.

Very sincerely yours in the good Lord,


+ Honorable P. Ongtioco, DD
Bishop of Cubao

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Bishop Ongtioco's Episcopal Pastoral Visitation

Several Libis Youth leaders in fact attended, invited specifically by Fr. Bong.

At 12:15 pm, Fr. Bong Tupino and Fr. Arnel Recinto rejoined the group for lunch. At 1 pm, Treasurer Elise del Rosario presented the budget and actual spend of the Parish Pastoral Council for 2017 to-date, followed by Fr. Bong who presented the status of parish funds.

In preparation for the June 10 pastoral visit, Fr. Bong met with the PPC in a special meeting to brief them on objectives, expectations, and agreed on the format and timing of the presentations. Fr. Bong also gave tips and reminders to PPC members based on lessons learned from the previous pastoral visit-dialogue.



Above, Bishop Ness gamely participates in the sing-along. Below, he leads the closing prayer. Bottom, posing with the PPC officers.



Coffee After Church Project Marches On

For the past month and a half in July and August, **Coffee After Church**, or **CAC**, the special project of the Parish Pastoral Council that had heretofore been singly coordinated and organized by PPC secretary couple David and Fely Ong, had been sponsored and coordinated by various parish groups, based on assignments agreed upon at the July Parish Pastoral Council meeting. The CAC is regularly held after the Sunday 9 am mass in the front garden. The schedule of the sponsoring organizations:

- ▶ July 16 by Life in the Spirit Prayer Community
- ▶ July 23 by Ladies of Charity and Apostleship of Prayer led by Wanda Reyes
- ▶ July 30 by Couples for Christ and Knights of Columbus
- ▶ August 6 by Acropolis led by Irene Robles and Maan del Rosario, Worship Ministry by Peter & Leila Banico, and Arcadia-Enclave
- ▶ August 13 by Mother Butler Mission Guild led by Betsy Tenchavez and Bet Montecillo and CWL led by Kim Cua
- ▶ August 20 by Youth Ministry led by Louie & Lei Abando and Family & Life Ministry led by Regie & Joanne Polanco
- ▶ August 27 by Christian Family Movement led by Leo & May Nitorreda and Buklod ng Panginoon led by Tita Pabillo and Lulay dela Cruz
- ▶ September 3 by Stewardship Committee and White Plains

The rest of the September Sundays will be sponsored by: the BEC (Sept. 10), Catechetical and Vocation Ministries (Sept. 17), and PPC Officers and Greenmeadows 1 (Sept. 24)

July 16 by Life in the Spirit Prayer Community



July 23 by Ladies of Charity and Apostleship of Prayer



July 30 by Couples for Christ and Knights of Columbus



August 6 by Acropolis, Worship Ministry, and Arcadia-Enclave



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COFFEE AFTER CHURCH

August 6 by Acropolis, Worship Ministry, and Arcadia-Enclave



August 13 by Mother Butler Mission Guild and Catholic Women's League



August 20 by Youth Ministry and Family & Life Ministry



August 27 by Christian Family Movement and Buklod ng Panginoon



12th Anniversary of Stewardship in CTK

September 3 was also the **12th anniversary of Stewardship in the parish**. In celebration, Bishop Ness Ongtioco, Head of the Diocese of Cubao, officiated the 5 pm mass. Earlier in the day, at the Corinthian Gardens 10 am mass, Bishop Ongtioco also celebrated a Stewardship Mass.



Benjie Mirasol gives Stewardship collection checks to Bishop Ongtioco, above, and PPC lay coordinator Bert Santos, below



During the dinner following the Stewardship Mass, the Stewardship Committee headed by Benjie and Wins Mirasol which hosted the dinner took the opportunity to turn over the regular quarterly stewardship donation to the diocese, through Bishop Ness. The head couple of CTK Stewardship also turned over the equivalent quarterly stewardship share for the CTK Parish Pastoral Council, represented by head lay coordinator Bert Santos.



The schedule of Stewardship Masses by Bishop Honesto Ongtioco had been finalized as follows:

Sept 3	10:00 am	Corinthian Gardens
	5:00 pm	Christ the King parish
Sept 30	5:30 pm	Greenmeadows
Oct 1	9:00 am	White Plains
Oct 8	8:30 am	St. Ignatius
Oct 15	4:30 pm	Acropolis
Oct 22	10:30 am	Corinthian Hills

Marawi: Stewardship in the Face of Conflict and Terror

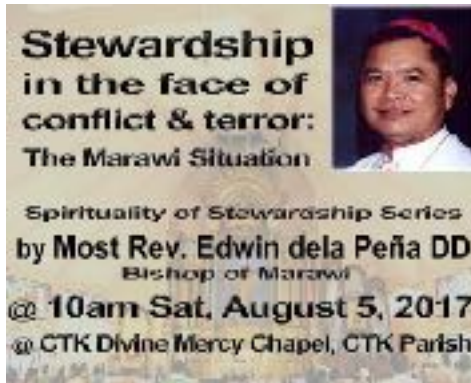
There has always been good relations between Muslims and Christians in Mindanao, especially at the highest levels. The government could have taken advantage of the Marawi crisis by using Christian and Muslim leaders to

Divine Mercy Chapel. The talk is part of the CTK Spirituality of Stewardship Series.

Bishop dela Peña had recently been in the news for slamming the Maute terrorist group's deliberate destruction of St. Mary's Cathedral and desecration of religious statues and religious posters during their forceful occupation of Marawi. In the video that the terrorist group released, they showed their young men setting the church ablaze and stomping on religious images. At the start of the siege, the terrorist group also abducted Fr. Teresito 'Chito' Suganob, the vicar general of the Marawi prelature. Bishop de la Peña also opposed the extension of martial law in Mindanao, despite having supported the initial declaration, arguing that the remaining threat could be addressed without martial law.

For his talk, Bishop de la Peña first showed a CNN video on the siege of Marawi. He then talked about gratitude - being grateful for all our blessings - as the basis for stewardship.

He made a special point about there being peace in Mindanao, especially in Marawi, between the predominant 97% Muslim population and the minority 3% Christian population since 9-11. He even emphasized that there are Muslims helping Christians escape the ISIS in Marawi. Thus this conflict is not between Catholics and Muslims. His message: if only the government used the Christian and Muslim leaders to negotiate with the extremists, perhaps a lot of violence could have been avoided.



negotiate with the Maute extremists. This was the primary message of **Most Rev. Edwin de la Peña, DD, Bishop of Marawi** at his talk, 'Stewardship in the Face of Conflict & Terror: The Marawi Situation', last August 5 at 10 am at the



CTK's 2nd Workshop on 7 Habits of Highly Successful Families Another Success

CTK successfully held a second conduct of **'The 7 Habits of Successful Families'** Workshop, during the two Saturdays of July 22 and July 29. For two full days, from 8 am to 5 pm, husband and wife team **Rene and Consie Montemayor** led 31 participants, consisting of 10 families (they were either parent couples, single parents, or parents and their children), seven singles, and two seminarians, through talks, reflection, sharing and exercises meant to strengthen their families and create happy homes. The workshop is based fully on FranklinCovey Education materials which in turn are based on Stephen R. Covey's best-selling book, 'The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Families'.

The workshop, which usually costs several thousand pesos, was staged at no cost to CTK, with participant couples or families being charged only P1,000 to cover the workbook cost.

It will be recalled that the first conduct of the workshop was last September 2016 (17th and 24th).

The book made waves when it was first released in 1997. With the same profound insight, simplicity, and practical wisdom that propelled The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People to worldwide acclaim, Stephen Covey focused on the primary concern of society today - the family. It is widely accepted that too many families are in trouble. In his book, Covey shows how families can move from a problem-solving to a creative mindset, focusing on accomplishing goals and contributing together in meaningful ways. The objective is to build the kind of strong loving family that lasts for generations.

In the book, as with the workshop, the famed 'seven habits' had been reapplied in the context of family life. Specifically, 1) Be Proactive was reapplied as, Becoming an Agent of Change in Your Family; 2) Begin with the End in Mind, i.e., Developing a Family Mission Statement; 3) Put First Things First, i.e., Making Family a Priority in a Turbulent

World; 4) Think 'Win-Win', i.e., Moving from 'Me' to 'We'; 5) Seek First to Understand, i.e., Solving Family Problems Through Empathic Communication; 6) Synergize, i.e., Building Family Unity Through Celebrating Differences; and 7) Sharpen the Saw, i.e., Renewing the Family Spirit Through Traditions.

The book, and the workshop, also covered the four stages on the path to progress, starting with - 'survival', where the day-in, day-out objective is simply to survive; to 'stability', where the family



Some of the family participants with their family mission statements



and the marriage becomes stable, dependable, and predictable; to 'success', where meaningful goals are set and achieved and there's genuine happiness, better living, and better loving; to the final stage of 'significance', where the family has a sense of stewardship or responsibility to the greater family of mankind and where the family legacy includes reaching out to other families who might be at risk and making a difference in the community through their church or other service organizations.



The workshop ended with the discussion on the four family leadership roles for the parents. This includes - role modeling; mentoring; organizing; and teaching.

Fatima 2017: Mary's Triumph, Our Hope, a Final Warning

The CTK Stewardship team in cooperation with Diwanihan Kristiyano sponsored a talk by **Dr. Peter Howard**, internationally known author and speaker, last July 11 from 8 to 10 pm at the CTK Formation Center. The talk was entitled **'Fatima 2017: 100 Years Later - Mary's Triumph, Our Hope, A Final Warning'**.

Dr. Howard pointed out that 1917 was the year that launched a great Marian revolution that would forever change the world. A hundred years ago in the tiny hamlet of Fatima, Portugal, the Blessed Mother appeared to the three children with a message of a warning, hope, and a promised triumph over evil. She singled out that consecration to her Immaculate Heart would be the means to bring it about. So this needs to be number one in our family priorities, according to Dr. Howard.



In a prayerful environment last July 11, Dr. Howard led the attendees through the heart of the message of Fatima, explaining the biblical and theological foundations that have motivated the great saints of the Church to live and preach total consecration to Mary as **the** secret to the greatest possible holiness, to defeating Satan, and disposing souls and families to the most dynamic life in the Holy Spirit so that they can in turn be powerful leaders for the new evangelization.



Ministry for Seniors, a.k.a., Sunrise Ministry, Launched

Ministry Heads **Drs. Fernando and Estrellita Lopez** gave an overview of the about how the ministry came into being – an idea from CTK parish priest Fr. Bong Tupino back in June 2016 who saw the need for a ministry which specially caters to the needs of seniors. It just so happened that by December 2016, the Lopez couple were completing their 21st year as chair couple for the Family & Life Ministry.

retreat in November 2016, they devoted half a day to brainstorm on the ministry for seniors. But official planning was during a Tagaytay weekend in March this year, participated in by, aside from the chair couple - associate head couple Manolo and Linda Dayrit, Jorge and Baby Banal, Dan and Vinchu Lapid, Bon and Nina Intengan, Tony and Lupe Lazaro (whose Tagaytay house was planning venue), Louie and Nell Laudico, and Charito Barredo. Then in April, before the formal launch, a final organizational meeting was held, attended by Fr. Bong Tupino, to finalize the assignments to the different committees and planned activities.

lectors, readers of the Prayer of the Faithful and Prayer of Seniors, and offerors. The group asks for prayers from all parishioners for this novel ministry, the first ministry specifically for seniors in the Diocese of Cubao.



Above, original planning team members in Tagaytay. Below, Jorge Banal runs through key points for his June 24 talk.



Above, painting session; below, Lupe Lazaro on ikebana, or flower arrangement



Top, ministry head couple Doy and Estrelle Lopez. Above, Manolo and Linda Dayrit lead "The Senior's Prayer"

"The Sunrise ministry aims to enrich the lives of seniors spiritually, emotionally, physically, and socially. We will need your help to be able to achieve this formidable task," explained Doy Lopez. There was a fun moment when Bishop Raul sprinkled the core members with more than the usual amount of holy water after their induction. The extraordinary shower of holy water augured well for future blessings.

So the Lopez couple took on the challenge and began to form the core team. When the MVP group had their last



Fr. James Ferry cuts the ribbon to open the Sunrise Ministry painting exhibit assisted by (from left) Lulay dela Cruz, Anna Lagman, Nina Intengan (partly hidden), Estrelle Lopez, Manolo Dayrit, and Doy Lopez

"Why 'Sunrise'? Many refer to the senior years as the 'sunset years,' but this is a misnomer, because the senior years are a preparation for a new life – a rising again to a new life with the Lord, hence we opted to call this the 'Sunrise' Ministry," explained ministry co-head Estrelle Lopez.

The group then proceeded to the formation center for fellowship, where they were joined by Fr. Bong Tupino.

At the 5 pm launch mass, core members of the ministry were assigned as



The Sunrise Ministry Core Group with Bishop Raul Martirez after their induction, from left - Lulay dela Cruz, Tony and Lupe Lazaro, Bon Intengan, Yvette Celis, Nina Intengan, Carmelita Capinpin, Baby Banal, Bishop Martirez, Estrelle and Doy Lopez, Anna Lagman, CTK Parish Council Lay Coordinators Bert and Marie Ann Santos, Charito Barredo, Linda and Manolo Dayrit.

Sunrise Ministry's First Seniors' Day Assembly

The first Seniors' Day assembly was held last June 24, Saturday, from 9 am to 12 noon. The event was organized by the 'Sunrise Ministry', which is the name of CTK's Ministry for the Elderly, headed by **Doy and Estrelle Lopez**, former heads of CTK's Family & Life Ministry.



The organizers promised lots of fun and surprises – and indeed they delivered. Outside the hall was a nurse station where three AIDE nurses were measuring blood pressure and giving BP



Above, Mito Bacus on the 'Senior Years'; below, Dra. Porshia Natividad on 'Killing Pains Without Killing Kidneys'



Dra. Natividad's take-home messages: different types of drugs kill pain but it's important to know the cause of your pain; pain killers are safe and effective to use, but at the recommended doses, but used improperly could cause kidney problems; for patients with kidney disease, analgesics like paracetamol and tramadol are safe to use at recommended doses; do not use non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs such as aspirin, ibuprofen, naproxen) and COX-2 inhibitors (such as Vioxx, Celebrex) if you have impaired kidney function (< 90 ml per min); avoid prolonged use and avoid high doses of pain relievers of any kind.

The organizing team pulled out all the stops - in addition to the three main talks, the program was enlivened by



Fr. Bong Tupino opens the Seniors' Day Assembly. Below, the AIDE station providing free blood pressure measurements.



management advice. just inside the sliding door was a booth dispensing Glucobest for diabetes control.

After Fr. Bong Tupino gave his welcome remarks, Mito Bacus of Unilab, a regular motivational speaker, gave an inspiring

discussion on "The Senior Years: A Celebration of Life", spiced with lots of jokes and anecdotes.

This was followed by a medical-oriented talk on 'Killing Your Pains Without Killing Your Kidneys'. The speaker, Dra. Porshia Comes-Natividad MD, an Associate Professor at the UST Faculty of Medicine & Surgery, a practicing nephrologist and who had been teaching about kidney diseases for the past 10 years, went through the types of painkillers that most seniors take, their p r e s c r i p t i o n s , contraindications and risks. She then talked about the kidneys and the liver as the waste disposal units of the human body and how certain painkillers, taken in large doses or frequently or for extended periods, could

damage the kidneys beyond all recovery. She also went through frequently asked questions like: an aspirin everyday as recommended by my doctor to prevent heart attacks – will it hurt my kidneys? (A: no evidence if in small doses)



Participants introduce themselves in their small groups, above. Below, Anna Lagman talks about the creative activities in store. Below, Girl Valencia leads seniors in sing-along.



icebreakers (Luong Cuartero organized the participants into groups and asked everyone in the group to talk about their origins and what they were doing), displays (Anna Lagman as Creative Committee in charge showing off the

continued on next page

First Seniors' Day Assembly



dancercise (first, LOC dance instructor Mark Reniva who led everyone into a dancercise segment, later followed by CTK PPC secretary Fely Ong leading the attendees into a six-routine zumba break.



The final speaker was CTK regular Jorge Banal, current president of the Federation of Senior Citizens' Associations of the Philippines, who talked about the 'Rights and Privileges of Seniors in the Philippines'.

Above, PPC secretary Fely Ong leads seniors through zumba routines.



Jorge talked about:
Free Dental, Medical Services, and Vaccination, including, X-rays, blood test, computerized tomography scans, vaccination, but not limited to in government facilities as long as it's owned by the government. Along with the services availed, the professional fee of the doctor must be 100% waived when availed by a senior citizen.
Free Parking in Quezon City Malls and Exemption from Number Coding Scheme in Makati. When in Quezon city, you don't need to pay any parking fee in your first three hours in the mall. The process to qualify is different for each mall so make sure to present your ID before entering just to make sure. The only time you will be charged is when you stay more than three hours. Now if you live in Makati, you are also exempted from all number coding scheme in the city.

products of the previous painting sessions), sing-alongs (Girl Valencia, CTK parishioner, professional singer, and daughter of Marriage Vocation Program facilitators Boy and Tes Valencia, who led the crowd into group singing, and



Educational Scholarship. If the senior citizen decides to pursue secondary, vocational, post tertiary or technical education, they are entitled to educational assistance in the form of grants and subsidies. All the senior citizen needs to do is to meet all the admission requirement of their chosen institution.

5% Off Water and Electricity Bill. Senior citizens are entitled to a 5% discount from monthly utility bills including water and electricity services, provided that the account is registered under the name of the senior citizen and does not exceed a 100 kWh of electricity or 30 cubic meters of water.

Discounts for Air and Sea Transportation Fees within the country. All senior citizens are subject not just for the 20% discount but also VAT exemption.

Mandatory Government Assistance Including Death Benefit Assistance, Social Pension and PhilHealth Coverage. As soon as a person is officially a senior citizen, they are automatically entitled to receive PhilHealth coverage, death benefit assistance and financial help when needed. This includes a minimum of P2,000 death benefit assistance, P500 monthly stipend for indigent senior citizens, and receive financial, food and medical assistance.

Free Movies on Mondays. Senior citizens have free admission to most cinemas in the country every Monday. To qualify for this privilege, you need to be from the same city where the mall is located.

Express Lanes. Senior citizens also have their own express lanes in all government offices, most banks, fast-food restaurants, movie houses, and even bathrooms. All they need to do is ask assistance from any employee and they will instantly be led to the exclusive lane, or if none exists, pushed in front of the queue.



Loot bag and its contents

Jorge Banal's talk lasted up to 12:30 and everyone stayed to the end. One reason was that loot bag distribution was at the end. Each bag contained a box of Minute Maid orange juice tetra packs and four kinds of biscuits. The Minute Maid juice pack, Tita biscuits, and the bag itself was courtesy of Irene Robles while the specially-baked cookies were from Nina Intengan. As expected, the seniors happily lined up for them, with big smiles on their faces.

CTK Commissions 16 New Extraordinary Ministers

Sixteen new **Extraordinary Ministers of the Holy Communion**, or EMHC, were commissioned last Sunday, August 27 at the 5 pm mass officiated by none other than **Fr. Bong Tupino**, CTK parish priest.

With the addition of the 16 new members, there are now 96 active EMHCs.

Led by **Albert Cuadrante**, the EMHC had been looking for new candidates since

June. A new twist in the EMHC recruitment drive was to ask the lectors and commentators, who are mostly female, if their husbands might be interested, and this strategy yielded several candidates. The final list of names



were submitted in

late July and the Basic Formation for new EMHCs was held as scheduled last August 19.



Left, Fr. Bong Tupino blesses the newly-commissioned EMHCs. Above, the new extraordinary ministers pose with Fr. Bong Tupino. Below, together with current EMHCs.



Nine New Lectors-Commentators for 2018

The **Lectors and Commentators Ministry** (LeCom) had their own commissioning two weeks earlier, last August 13 during the 10:30 am mass and last August 16, during the 7 am mass. Seven new lectors-commentators were commissioned by **Fr. Bong Tupino** at the August 13 Sunday mass while the last two were commissioned by **Fr. Serge Maniba** at the August 16 Wednesday morning mass. The nine new lectors included: Leilani Reyes; Mercenita Matsuda; Tessa Mangahas; Margarita Fabella; Jocas Eightria de Leon; Consuelo Diño; Ma Angelique Rualo (all August 13); Ma. Christina Bernardo; and Rossana Kawpeng (both August 16).

an abundant harvest of volunteers', said LeCom ministry head Mel Novales. Mel's prayers had been answered with the nine new lectors.

The Lectors and Commentators will have their 2017 renewal seminar, a requirement for getting their 2018 'renewals', on September 9, 16 and 23 (CTK LeCom date is formally September 23). The Extraordinary Ministers of the Holy Eucharist will have their renewal seminars on October 7, 14 and 21. Greeters and Collectors will have their own renewal date on November 4. The very last requirement for 2018 renewal,



Above, posing with Fr. Bong and Peter and Leila Banico last August 13 are new LeComs Leilani Reyes; Mercenita Matsuda; Tessa Mangahas; Margarita Fabella; Jocas Eightria de Leon; Consuelo Diño; Ma Angelique Rualo. Below, last August 16, Christina Bernardo; and Rossana Kawpeng



The Lectors & Commentators Ministry, led by Mel Novales, also had its own recruitment drive since June, given that some of the members were retiring in 2017 and others who had taken leave had not yet expressed a desire to return this year. The need is especially felt for the 6 pm daily masses since most of the retirees serve at that slot. I'm hoping for

after the renewal seminar at the Diocese head office, is the commissioning at the CTK main church, dates to be advised.

New Prayers After Daily Masses Effective June 15

The CTK Parish has instituted new prayers after the daily masses, effective June 15.

After Monday masses, the commentator will lead the 'Prayer to St. Joseph'; after Tuesday masses, prayers include 'Oratio Imperata for Deliverance From Calamities', followed by 'Prayer to San Lorenzo Ruiz'; after Wednesday masses, parishioners pray the 'Novena to Our Mother of Perpetual Help'; after Thursday masses, the congregation prays the 'Oratio Imperata for Peace' followed by the 'Prayer to San Pedro Calungsod'; after Friday masses, it's the



Novena to the Sacred Heart of Jesus'; after Saturday masses, we pray the 'Prayer for Vocations' except where it's the first Saturday of the month, when it's the 'Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary'.

Mondays' Anointing of the Sick by Fr. Serge Maniba

Fr. Serge Maniba and Vocation ministry head and EMHC senior minister Louie Laudico, with EMHC ministers Robert Locsin and Louie Reyes, teamed up to visit three sick patients and give the sacrament of **Anointing of the Sick** last August 28, a Monday.

Anointing of the Sick effectively removes and forgives the sick person of all his sins. It also strengthens the soul of the sick person against all sin and temptations aside from the healing action that it does for the person. Fr. Serge also heard confessions. The practice will continue over the next several Mondays.



LeCom General Assembly

The **Lectors and Commentators Ministry** held its **Quarterly General Assembly** last Jul 19. Fr. Serge Maniba, resident guest priest of Christ the King Parish spoke at the General Assembly, on the topic, 'Service and Commitment'.

The next General Assembly for Lectors and Commentators has been scheduled for October 14, a Saturday.

FAMILY & LIFE MINISTRY

Family & Life Ministry Launches 'Simbang Pamilya'

CTK's **Family and Life Ministry**, headed by **Regie and Joanne Polancos**, recently launched the 'Simbang Pamilya', a family evangelization initiative to get parish families to sign up for taking part in the liturgy, either by 1) reading the intentions in the Prayers of the Faithful, or 2) offering of the bread and wine. Family heads are encouraged to choose the mass slot, choose one of the two assignments, and contact Joel and Annavi Tamor or visit the parish office for confirmation of assignment and time slot.

Fr. Ramon Bautista SJ on God's Love

Last **June 17**, Saturday, starting at 10 am, the Formation Ministry, led by Joey Galvez, mounted **Part 3 of the 19th Annotation Retreat**, which was the expressed thrust and focus of the ministry for 2017.

The 19th Annotation Retreat, especially in its more practical form for non-clergy career professionals, The Spiritual Exercises in Daily Life, forces people caught in the treadmill of career, family, relationships, advancement, and life to take a step back, pray, reflect, and discern what are the truly important things and to recognize that, as God is the source of everything, we should be grateful and dedicate our lives to his service.

The first installment was held Last March 18. The second had been scheduled last May 6 – but insufficient marketing and a conflict with the 2nd General Assembly for Lectors and Commentators resulted in not enough participants so the session was cancelled. Part 3 of the Spiritual Exercises in Daily Life, entitled '**God's Love**', was led by **Rev. Ramon Maria Luza Bautista, SJ**.



Fr. Mon quoted St. Bernard of Clairvaux: 'Love seeks no cause, no reason beyond itself. It seeks no fruit beyond itself. It is its own fruit. It is its own enjoyment. I love because I love. I love so that I may all the more love.'

He cited Adolf Hitler, Hugh Hefner, and Floyd Mayweather as infamous examples of the antithesis of the loving, caring, selfless, generous and grateful individual that we should all aspire to be. Fr. Mon asserted that sincere gratitude for God's love and gifts can lead to humility, realization of our uniqueness, generosity,



Saturday, June 17 from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon at the Divine Mercy Chapel. Everyone is invited.



trust, and finally, surrender to God's will. He brought up the story of Lizzie Velasquez, the girl afflicted with a rare disease that made her look like a skeleton with skin, and who has become an inspiration to people everywhere with her optimism and loving attitude. When asked if she could change anything in her life, she answered – 'no, because everything I have gone through in my life had been part of the learning experience for which I will always be grateful.'

He repeated St. Ignatius de Loyola's prayer for generosity: **Dearest Lord, teach me to be generous. Teach me to serve you as you deserve; to give and not to count the cost; to fight and not to heed the wounds; to toil and not to seek for rest; to labor and not to ask for reward save that of knowing that I do your will.**

He then gave examples of the persons we should aspire to, including George Muñoz, the so-called Angel of Queens. George is a regular bus driver who cooks food in the morning then after getting off at work makes the rounds of the homeless of Queens every night with the food he and his family cooked in the morning.

Fr. Mon took a little time to take a dig at Filipino Christianity. Quoting Fr. Horacio dela Costa, he said, 'The problem with Filipino Catholicism is that it is a given. It is a social fact. It is not really a personal commitment.'

He concluded by positing that God manifests his love for us as:

- ▶ the God of Abundance and Generosity
- ▶ the God of Commitment and Faithfulness
- ▶ the God of Vulnerability
- ▶ the God of Celebration

Sr. Edith Ontiveros on Opening to God in Prayer

The fourth in the series of the **19th Annotation Retreat** was conducted last August 19 by **Sister Edith Ontiveros**, from 10 am to 12 nn, who spoke on 'Opening to God in Prayer'. The retreat series has been sponsored by the Formation Ministry, led by Joey Galvez.



ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Fr. Mon entered the Society of Jesus in 1977. He holds a doctorate in Spirituality from the University of London and has had many years of experience in formation in San Jose Seminary inside the Ateneo de Manila campus, St. John Vianney Seminary in Cagayan de Oro City, as the Novice Master of the novices for over twelve years at the Sacred Heart Novitiate, and currently the Assistant Tertian Master for the international tertian program of the Assistancy. He is also much sought here and abroad for his gift in giving talks on spirituality, spiritual direction, and retreat-giving. Fr. Mon has written several books on Ignatian Spirituality, Ignatian discernment, and prayer, including 'Schooled By the Spirit' which received the Catholic Mass Media Award for Best Book in Spirituality.

CTK Youth Leaders' Outing-Pilgrimage to Holy Land Subic

The CTK Youth Ministry held its **Youth leaders outing-pilgrimage to Holy Land Subic** last May 27.



Led by Youth Ministry heads **Louie and Lei Abando**, Youth coordinator **Althea Geronilla**, Youth core members Teenie de Leon and Mikey Malixi, and accompanied by no less than **Fr. Bong Tupino**, the 25 youth accompanied by a handful of other adult supervisors and counselors left CTK at 6:45AM, arriving at Subic at 10:00AM.

The first order of the day was to pray before the Pilgrims' Prayer wall where everyone wrote down their own personal petitions, then placing these



petition papers between the cracks in the wall. Similar to what pilgrims to the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem do, the CTK youth pilgrims raised their petitions to express the prayers in their hearts which hopefully would be interceded on their behalf by the saints and holy men and women in Heaven.

This was followed by meditating at the Apparition of Fatima area, before the group picture taking.

The group then walked the way of the Lord by going through the Way of the Cross around the Sanctuary. Under the scorching heat, the youth pilgrims reflected before the different Stations the suffering, death, and resurrection of Christ. 'It was a great way for us to understand the life of Christ during His Passion,' explained Althea.

Afterwards, the pilgrims took a quick lunch break to gather their thoughts and to rest. But shortly after, they all gathered in the Chapel of Jesus and Mary

at Cana. Maribi Garcia, the President & CEO (and CTK Parishioner) of the Holy Land Subic Foundation shared with them the journey she experienced, with its challenges and struggles that were faced in building the Holy Land Subic site in the Philippines.

They then celebrated the Eucharist presided by CTK parish priest Fr. Bong Tupino, joined by another group from Quezon City. Afterwards, some of our



Youth Ministry core members led the praying of the Rosary while reflecting on the Joyful Mysteries.

Looking back on the day's events, Althea said, 'The day was filled with love and light, reflecting on the beauty of God's plan. For us, who may not be able to go all the way to the Holy Land in Jerusalem, we journeyed with grateful hearts in this Sanctuary and left going home with so



much gratitude in our hearts that came filled with prayers to be lifted up.'

The 37 tired, weary but spiritually-satisfied pilgrims left Subic at 4 pm and arrived back in CTK at 6:30 pm.

Two months later, last August 2, another pilgrimage to Holy Land Subic took place, this one led by Bishop Raul Martirez. The tour bus left CTK at 9 am, proceeding first to an early lunch place. Then the pilgrims stopped over at the Chapel of Cana to visit the Cenacle. Snacks were served before the 4 pm guided tour of Holy Land Subic. At 5:30, Bishop Raul said a special mass, followed at 6:30 pm with a short half-hour candle-lit rosary procession with the image of Our Lady of Fatima. Dinner was served at 7 pm and by 8 pm, the pilgrims were on their way back to CTK.

CTK Youth Join OLHP Vicariate Summer Sports League

The Christ the King Youth volleyball and basketball teams won their respective championships for the **OLHP Vicariate Summer League** last May 20. The teams were represented not just by Libis community youth but by village residents as well. Overall, CTK copped 2nd place overall in the summer league.



Above, Althea Geronilla with victorious CTK youth basketball team; below, with first-placer volleyball team



BEC Workshop for CTK's Village Coordinators

The 'CTK Village Coordinators seminar-workshop on Basic Ecclesial Communities' took place at Antipolo's St. Michael's Retreat House last August 12, Saturday. It started with the 6 am mass at CTK, then departure via carpool to Sumulong Memorial Circle, Antipolo at 6:45 am. Upon arrival at 7:30 at the retreat house, breakfast was served, followed by the first session at 8:30 am. The second session came at 10:30 am after the morning break. After lunch, the third session followed at 1:30 pm and the concluding wrap up-synthesis came at 3:30 pm.

All sessions were facilitated by Joey Clemente, Executive Director of the Socio-Pastoral Institute, or SPI, and guest speaker at the March 11 Stewardship talk at Christ the King Parish Greenmeadows, where Clemente had talked on 'Using Stewardship as Building Blocks for BEC'. Everyone got back to CTK safe and sound before 6 pm.

Attending, aside from **Fr. Bong Tupino** and Joey Clemente, were: Bert Santos, PPC lay coordinator and 'animator designate' for village coordinators; Benjie and Wins Mirasol and Ben and Linda Famador of Stewardship; Linda Guanzon and Vangie Yam of Corinthian Gardens; Dulce Barreto and Eileen de Leon of Greenmeadows 1; Anne del Rosario and Irene Robles of Acropolis; Paul and Dinah Uy of Corinthian Hills;

Baby Banal of St. Ignatius; and Tiny Perfecto, BEC in-charge.



White Plains, St. Ignatius, Enclave, Ivory Court, La Maison, Arcadia, and Greenmeadows 3 were not represented at the workshop.

Tiny Perfecto, BEC ministry head, said, 'The workshop objective was to deepen the understanding behind the hows and whys of organizing the CTK villages into Basic Ecclesial Communities. The focused group sessions drew both positive and negative reactions and facilitator Joey Clemente mentioned by seminar end that what the participants learned should be seen as mere guides to open the mind, body and spirit into 'learning by doing.'

La Maison Townhomes Joins CTK's BEC Communities

La Maison Townhomes has just joined the Christ the King PPC group of villages and townhomes. La Maison sits at the corner of Katipunan Avenue and Boni Serrano, facing St. Ignatius Village on the other side of Katipunan Avenue. It formally belongs to the Barangay St. Ignatius.



Formally launching the inclusion of La Maison was the street mass at 4 pm last July 22, the first mass ever inside and for the La Maison residents. Fr. Bong Tupino celebrated the street mass. Present were the La Maison residents together with St. Ignatius village stalwarts Baby Banal, Lulay dela Cruz, Tiny Perfecto, Art Sumbillo, and other SIV supporters. Also present were Bert and Marie Anne Santos as Lead Couple of the Village Coordinators.

A village coordinator, Cerrie Paterno, was identified and will henceforth be included in PPC meetings.

BEC Workshop for Libis BEC Leaders

BEC Libis leaders led by **Jo Piyaw** and **Ching Botero** and Greeters & Collectors Ministry led by **Jeanette Cagurangan** did an overnight BEC seminar-workshop at the Carmelites' Missionary House in Tagaytay City last July 28 and 29, facilitated by Fr. Bong Tupino and Joey Clemente, Executive Director of the Socio-Pastoral Institute, or SPI.

Joey Clemente had been guest speaker at the March 11 Stewardship talk at

Christ the King Parish Greenmeadows, where Clemente had talked on 'Using Stewardship as Building Blocks for BEC'.



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Three Cheers for CTK's Bible Quiz Team

bested all the other vicariate Bible Quiz champions and runners-up.

It will be recalled that our team of Peter, Trix and Sheryl won the vicariate level Bible Quiz last May 6, garnering first place in Our Lady of Perpetual Help Vicariate (which has seven parishes) quiz contest.

The trio represented the OLHP Vicariate, together with 2nd placer Transfiguration of Our Lord Parish, at the Cubao Diocese level bible quiz competition.



Improvements to Libis Elem Feeding Center Inaugurated

The **CTK Ladies of Charity**, organizers of the feeding program at **Libis Elementary School**, recently inaugurated the renovated feeding area and covered walkway to the feeding center. The project was undertaken to prevent children from getting wet during rainy days on their way to the feeding venue.



Last June 30, **Fr. Bong Tupino** officiated the blessing in the presence of **QC Vice Mayor Joy Belmonte**, **Councilor Gian Sotto** who sponsored the renovation, **Chelma Cabatic**, LES principal, and the **Ladies of Charity** ladies. A short program followed, with **Councilor Sotto** talking about the project and the **LES** mime kids performing.



CTK Welcomes Its High School and College Scholars for School Year 2017-2018



But after **LOC** partnered with the **CTK Parish Pastoral Council** and its **Social Service and Development Ministry** during the administration of **Monsignor Dan Sta. Maria**, the number of scholars increased to 100, with 50 being

At the same time that the **Parish Pastoral Council** was hosting **Bishop Honesto Ongtioco** during his **Episcopal Pastoral Visitation** last **June 10**, **Fr. Bong Tupino**, together with **OLHP Vicar Forane Fr. Arnel Recinto**, welcomed the **CTK scholars for schoolyear 2017-2018** in **St. Matthew Room**. These consisted of 130 high school and 10 college students who had been vetted by the **Ladies of Charity**, the mandated organization that is the primary delivery vehicle for **CTK** scholarships.



The 10 **CTK college scholars** are in **UP**, **PUP**, **UE** and other colleges.

The **LOC** organizers gave out the children's monthly stipends and gave a comprehensive catechism test. As a requirement, the children applying must maintain an average grade of 85% every grading period.



The scholarship program was started by **LOC** on its own in 1986, with 10 scholars.



sponsored by **CTK** and 50 by the **Ladies of Charity**. At the current time, **CTK's Social Service and Development Ministry** under **Mila Bangco** is funding the scholarship project 100% but still supervised by the **Ladies of Charity**.

The **LOC Scholarship Committee** is headed by **Dolor Enriquez** and vice head is **Malu Cataldi** (in photo). Pictures courtesy of **Nars Malatuba**.

CTK Recognizes 24 Graduates of TESDA Housekeeping Course

July 3 saw the recognition rites for 24 graduates of the **CTK Housekeeping Training Course**, organized by the Ladies of Charity, Christ the King parish unit, in partnership with the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, or, TESDA.



With the blessing of Fr. Bong Tupino, LOC launched its Housekeeping livelihood course last April 4 which would last till June 29. Applicants came mostly from Barangay Masagana with smaller numbers from Barangays San Roque and Tagumpay.



Fr. Bong graced the occasion and gave the invocation and inspirational talk.

This was followed by the opening remarks of Fe Pery, LOC-CTK president. Then the graduates were presented and given their certificates of

course completion, duly signed by TESDA. Three outstanding trainees were given merit awards. These included: Jherly Tadeo as Most Outstanding Trainee; Marbella Lozano for Best in Make Up Room; and Johanna Adiarte for Best in Butler Servicing.

Breaking up the seriousness of the event, the graduates presented a special number after which Diana Gozum, LOC VP gave the closing remarks. Emcee of the recognition program was Teri Floro, chair of the LOC Livelihood Committee. She was assisted by Beth Monedero, with advisers Tonette Arizabal and Deng Cordero Tan.

As with the previous livelihood course, this Housekeeping course was scheduled Tuesdays to Fridays, 8 am to 12 nn. And as usual, LOC asked TESDA for trainer assistance. If the past is an indicator, most of the 24 graduates will find jobs, some of them leaving for abroad, since TESDA certification is valid for work abroad requirements.



First Friday Mass with the Lingap Center Lolas courtesy of the CTK Ladies of Charity

The **Ladies of Charity-CTK Chapter**, through its **Lingap Center**, regularly takes care of some 15 to 20 lolas, or super-senior Libis community members, mostly indigent.

These 'lolas' are brought from Libis to CTK every Mondays, Wednesdays and Friday mornings for physical, spiritual and emotional support. After the morning mass with the lolas, the Ladies of Charity would conduct Bible studies, followed by fellowship afterwards. For their physical well-being, the Ladies of Charity engage a doctor to do check-ups, take blood tests, and dispense free medicines.

LOC volunteers take turns with the fellowship responsibilities.



CTK Hosts Quarterly General Meeting of Our Lady Of Perpetual Help Vicariate

CTK hosted the **OLPH vicariate general meeting** last July 10. As with the last vicariate meeting, also held at CTK, PPC representatives from the various parishes in the Our Lady of Perpetual Help Vicariate to which CTK belongs gathered for the quarterly assembly at the Parish Social Hall at the second floor of the Parish Formation Center.

discussing their ministry's issues and concerns.

The PPC acknowledged the work of Wins Mirasol in preparing name tags and center table stands, and Eileen de Leon, Irene Robles, Maan del Rosario, and Joyce Tañedo for assisting at the registration table.



Fr. Bong Tupino welcomes the various parish PPC officers and ministry heads to the vicariate meeting



Top, Christ the King Parish Greenmeadows. Above, San Roque-Bagumbayan. Below, Our Lady of Miraculous Medal.



Top, PPC officers of the different parishes. Above, Family & Life ministry heads. Below, BEC heads.

Attending for CTK were: PPC lead coordinator Bert and Marie Anne Santos, PPC assistant coordinator Henry & Joyce Tañedo, PPC secretary couple David and Fely Ong, Worship Ministry's Peter and Leila Banico, Catechetical Ministry's Sheryl Coronel, Family and Life Ministry's Joanne Polancos, Vocation Ministry's Louie Laudico and Anna Lagman, Stewardship's Benjie and Wins Mirasol, and Ben and Linda Famador, Public Affairs Ministry's Jing Alampay, Mustard Seed Ministry's Sonny and Mina Mejia, Greeters & Collectors' Jeanette



Above, Nativity of Our Lord. Below, John Paul II-Eastwood.



Above, Stewardship heads of the parishes. Below, Vocation ministry heads. Bottom, Youth ministry representatives.

Cagurangan, BEC's Tiny Perfecto, LSS' Bobby and Marge San Juan, CWL's Kim Cua, Youth Ministry coordinator Althea Geronilla, EMHC's Robert Locsin, Knights of Columbus' Rudy Tecson, Acropolis coordinators Maan del Rosario and Irene Robles, Greenmeadows 1 coordinator Eileen de Leon, and St. Ignatius coordinator Baby Banal. The event began at 7 pm.



Above, Transfiguration of Our Lord. Below, Our Lady of Perpetual Help.



Near the end of the program, the participants were then asked to reorganize by ministries represented and were able to spend valuable time



Vicariate Media & Vocation Ministries Meet

Bing and **Elise del Rosario** represented **CTK's Media Ministry** in the first-ever meeting of the Media & Communications Ministry at the vicariate level.

The meeting was requested by **Rev. Fr. Steve Zabala**, the Diocesan Media Ministry head, and was held last August 31 at the Transfiguration of the Lord Parish on 18th Avenue, Murphy, Cubao, hosted by parish priest Fr. Jojo Monis.



Fr. Steve Zabala welcomes the media ministry representatives of the different parishes.

Fr. Herbie Santos, Parochial Vicar of Sta. Rita Parish and head of the Diocese website team, was also present.

Parishes represented, apart from Christ the King Parish, were: Nativity of Our Lord, Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, San Roque Parish and the Transfiguration of Our Lord Parish.

The CTK Parish started the state of the Media Ministry reports, with Bing del Rosario reporting on the following projects and activities:

- ▶ **Website:** under development July-August 2016; up since September 2016; updated weekly with parish announcements, every two weeks with upcoming events, every three weeks with photos and recent news, and quarterly review of reference information.
- ▶ **Newsletter:** The Herald is published quarterly, without fail, since Fr. Bong started at CTK, with Dolly Borlongan as editor. Since the second quarter 2016, Bing and Elise del Rosario too over, with five issues published to-date.
- ▶ **Facebook:** page operated by Sheryl Coronel while the Youth Ministry and the PREX Youth operate their own Facebook page, under Althea Geronilla. Some of the other CTK service groups also operate their separate FB pages but are usually 'private'.
- ▶ **LED displays:** research done, proposals requested and submitted, PPC officers have discussed costing alternatives with Fr. Bong.
- ▶ **Support for 9 am Sundays CAC:** media ministry provide pictures, website info and news that the Coffee After Church hosts use as talking points with visitors

Bing enumerated the strengths of CTK's media group - parish priest is supportive; PPC members provide

photos and text and inform the editors of news leads, call attention to outdated info; parish staff make the newsletter available in the masses; village coordinators and orgs-movements make sure their events are publicized; very good website visitor numbers; free newsletter printing (2000 copies per).

He then went through the issues and challenges - currently operating with very lean team - only del Rosario couple on website and newsletter and only Sheryl Coronel and Althea Geronilla on the FB pages; so far unable to put up Fr. Bong and guest speaker podcasts despite intention; need more regular & frequent update of website content; turnover in PPC assistant position has made it difficult to delegate newsletter distribution, news follow-ups, picture taking, etc.; unable to mount focus groups yet to identify next round of design changes to newsletter and website formats.

The Nativity of our Lord Parish reported that their Media Ministry is two years old, with six active members that includes photographers and the operators of the PowerPoint for their masses. They see the need for training of members in graphic design and photography.

With the **Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Parish**, creation of the Media Ministry is still being discussed, with membership on an ad-hoc basis, and is for now being led by the PPC Auditor. Activities are concentrated on maximizing the use of Facebook. The challenge is to find full time members and to have one of the screens for projection repaired.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish media ministry head reported that he was assigned the role the day before the meeting. They have an off-and-on newsletter called Magnificat and they show powerpoint slides during the masses. The Ministry used to have six active members but now it has none.

San Roque Parish, on the other hand, tasked the Worship coordinator to establish the Media Ministry. It has now four members - three college students and one high schooler - concentrating on their Facebook page which feature their activities and events. Since most of the members are students, Sunday is the only time they can meet and devote to the activities. They also lack the necessary equipment - cameras, printers, laptops.

The Transfiguration of Our Lord Parish media ministry is made up of 25

members and consists of scholars of the parish in the Grade 11-12 levels. Their activities include maintaining the bulletin board and Facebook page, and publishing their Sinag newsletter. They also do occasional live-streaming of major events, mainly to serve their parishioners who are out of the country. Their challenges include the availability of their school-going members for activities, the need for equipment, and most importantly, recruitment to counteract turnover of members.

St. John Paul II Parish was not represented.

Fr. Herbie showed the Vicariate plan for the Media Ministry by starting on why the Media Ministry was created. He then discussed the proposed structure for the Media Ministry at every Parish, and explained the recommended flow of information from the parish to the diocese and vice versa. He also explained the Diocese website at



Fr. Herbie Santos goes through the media org structure and flow of communications

www.cubaodiocese.ph The Media ministry representatives were given the homework to spread the word about this website and create their own websites. They were also asked to begin to formalize their own Media & Communications Ministries.



On the same day, but earlier in the morning, the **Vicariate Vocation Ministry** meeting was also held, at 9 am at the Nativity of the Lord Parish. The diocesan Vocation Ministry head is Rev. Fr. Fortunate Dumlaog and the meeting host was Fr. Ronald Macale, parish priest of Nativity of the Lord parish. CTK was represented by **Vocation Ministry co-head Anna Lagman**.

CTK's Fr. James Ferry Celebrates 92nd Birthday and 61st Anniversary in the Priesthood

Fr. James Ferry, CTK's regular 7:30 am Sunday mass presider for over a decade, celebrated his 92nd birthday last June 7.

He officiated the 7:30 am mass last June 11 and then joined the loyal parishioners for coffee and snack at the CAC tent after the mass. Fr. Bong Tupino prepared a birthday cake for the birthday celebrant.

The American priest who arrived in the Philippines with Gen. Douglas MacArthur celebrated his golden jubilee in 2006, an



event that was highlighted in a Philippine Star article of June 9, 2006. On that date, Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales presided over the Mass in honor of Maryknoll Fr. James Jay Thomas Timothy Patrick Paul Ferry at the Shrine of Jesus, located at the Macapagal Boulevard in Pasay City.

Fr. Jim, as he is fondly called, has spent 50 years in the Philippines doing mostly pastoral and seminary work. In recognition of his valuable contribution to the Church, the late Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin even wanted to nominate him as a bishop, but Fr. Jim declined. For him, 'to be a priest and a missionary priest is fulfillment enough.' On Feb. 23, 2002, Pope John Paul II conferred on him the Medal Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice.

Fr. Ferry was born on June 7, 1925 in New York. Before starting his priestly life, he first served at the US Navy during World War II as a corpsman, that is, a surgical nurse, before he entered Maryknoll in 1946. When asked about

his sea voyage with Gen. MacArthur, he would often say, 'No, it was Gen. MacArthur who came with me. He boarded my ship.'

He had to leave the Philippines for a few years, but he returned in 1956 after he was ordained a priest of the Maryknoll Congregation. He was first assigned in Paete, Laguna but was later transferred to Mindanao where he spent 30 years in Tagum, Lupon, Baganga, Bato-Bato and Davao City. 'Those had been wonderful years of mission work,' Fr. Ferry said. It was during this time that he learned to speak fluent Cebuano.

For a time he was the regional superior for Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers in the Philippines. He also taught at the Regional Major Seminary (REMASE) in Davao and helped train many priests and bishops. In 1989, he was re-assigned to Manila and in March 1996, Cardinal Sin appointed him Episcopal Vicar for Religious in the Archdiocese of Manila. In December 2003, Archbishop Rosales re-appointed him to the same office.

As Episcopal Vicar for Religious Men and Women in Manila, he used to teach Sacraments, Liturgy and Homiletics at San Carlos Theologate, Holy Apostles Senior Seminary and Maryhill School of Theology.

Aside from Christ the King Parish Greenmeadows, Fr. Perry also says masses and hears confessions at Greenbelt Chapel in Makati City. He also gives recollections and retreats.

When asked back in 2006 about his health, he answered, 'I can't complain. I have a full day's work and aside from a few aches here and there, God has indeed blessed me.'



Fr. Ronald Plomillo Celebrates 22nd Sacerdotal Anniversary

Fr. Ronald Plomillo, Rector of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Seminary (Marbel Diocese in Southern Mindanao) and a regular guest priest of Christ the King Parish Greenmeadows, celebrated his 22nd anniversary in the priesthood last June 1 in a simple morning mass ceremony at the Divine Mercy Chapel, with Fr. Bong Tupino, Bishop Raul Martirez, Fr. Serge Maniba, and Msgr. Antonio Mortillero as co-celebrants.



The parishioners and well-wishers were then treated to a sumptuous breakfast at the St. Matthew & St. Mark Rooms.



Fr. Ronald serving his flock



Sacred Heart of Jesus Recollection by AP's Baby Santos-Mendigo

CTK hosted a **recollection – Understanding the Desires of the Sacred Heart of Jesus** – last June 22, Thursday, after the evening mass held to a full crowd at the Divine Mercy Chapel. The occasion was the vigil of the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart. The speaker was Ms. **Andrea ‘Baby’ Santos-Mendigo**. The talk was sponsored by CTK Apostleship of Prayer under the leadership of Wanda Reyes and approved by Fr. Bong Tupino. Ms. Mendigo began with the the revelations of Margaret Mary, often called the ‘last grand revelation’ to her confessor Fr. Claude de la Colombiere, a young Jesuit. The revelation focused on offenses to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and Jesus asking for reparation through prayer. Mendigo therefore suggested the following reflection:



What have I done in my life that have contributed to the offenses committed against the Sacred Heart of Jesus, especially in the Most Blessed Sacrament, and the Immaculate Heart of Mary? If I were Margaret Mary today, how would I react to Jesus asking for acts of reparation?

She made a plea to go to Communion first thing every morning. Why? First, the Eucharist becomes so much more meaningful because Holy Mass begins in our hearts the moment we wake up. And, our individual prayer becomes a community prayer because Holy Mass unites our prayer to the prayer of the whole Church. Because we unite ourselves to the Mass in the morning, the Holy Mass continues into our everyday activities, so that we live the Eucharist.

She further argued that the morning offering is the first act of faith of the day. The morning offering makes the whole day into prayer. This becomes the apostolic dimension of prayer. The morning offering can then continue through the day and ends with the Evening Examen.

This self-examination impels us to seek the Sacrament of Reconciliation, not so much for the sins of the past but for the grace to meet the challenges of tomorrow.



Another message from the speaker was - we don't just pray for missionaries but we ourselves can be missionaries in the context of our own daily lives. We can all be missionaries of prayer. That is, we can all be involved in all activities associated with following the will of God and spreading the message of Christ. This she argued was a better definition of ‘missionary’ than the traditional definition of ‘going to another country or culture.

The priest disciples of Colombiere and Gautrelet strongly suggested that people who prayed around the world should pray for one single intention each month so that the Holy Trinity could hear the prayer most clearly. From France, this prayer movement spread throughout the world, which started the road to the Apostleship of Prayer. Henry Ramiere, a protegee of Fr. Gautrelet, brought the prayer programme to Rome for the Pope's blessing. Pope Leo 13th supported the program in the strongest terms: ‘No one knows better than the Pope what the world needs its millions to be praying for. We will pray for specific intentions each month, then I want to draw up that list’.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Ms. Mendigo is currently the National VP for Formation of the National Council of Apostleship of Prayer. She give talks all over the Philippines advocating devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Ms. Mendigo had been involved with CTK ever since Msgr. Mora's term – as former head of education, bulletin editor, PPC secretary, and lector (on leave). She's the current head of the Diocesan Formation Ministry, a volunteer catechist at Camp Karingal, and also the author of the Marian book – ‘The Story of the Woman’. Baby Mendigo holds a doctorate in Biochemistry from the University of Utah and worked in San Francisco for 10 years. She now devotes herself full time to church activities – and also happens to be the younger sister of our Parish Pastoral Council head coordinator Bert Santos.

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus Novena Masses

Novena masses were held from June 14 to 22 in honor of the **Most Sacred Heart of Jesus**. The Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus was celebrated the next day, June 23. During the nine-day novena, the novena prayers were prayed after the post-communion prayer in all masses. The novena prayer consisted of a Daily Prayer, the Special Prayer for That Day, and the Closing Prayer. And last June 23, parishioners prayed the Personal and Family Consecration Prayer to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.



The 6 pm mass on the first Novena day, June 14, was sponsored by CTK's Parish Pastoral Council. The novena masses were preceded by praying the rosary and the Divine Mercy chaplet at 5:20 pm and offering these for peace in the country especially in light of the Marawi tragedy and for all those who died – civilians, soldiers, and police.

Succeeding Novena days were assigned to different groups: June 15 to Corinthian Gardens, Greenwich, & Arcadia; June 16 to Greenmeadows 1 & 3; June 17 to Acropolis; June 18 to Enclave & Ivory Court; June 19 to Libis; June 20 to Corinthian Hills; June 21 to St. Ignatius; and June 22 to White Plains. The June 23 Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus was sponsored by the Apostleship of Prayer.



Interview-Visit by Xavier High School

The Chairperson of the Christian Life Education (CLE) Department of Xavier School, Ronald Demegillo, and the Xavier High School principal, Aimee Apolinario, co-requested for an interview with Fr. Bong Tupino by Xavier students about the parish and parish life.

Interview questions included:

- ▶ How is the parish organized? Who are the key people and their roles?
- ▶ How involved are the young people in parish activities? How many participate in the Holy Eucharist?
- ▶ What activities are appreciated and enjoyed by the parish youth? In what areas do they need help? What are the reasons for lack of involvement?
- ▶ What parish programs address the youth? How do you encourage participation?
- ▶ What messages do you want to convey to the young people?



Fr. Bong asked **Parish Pastoral Council Lay Coordinator Bert Santos** to take his place. The interview was held last Sunday, July 16 at 10 am. Also present was Althea Geronilla, Youth Ministry Coordinator, who gave a Powerpoint presentation about the various church youth activities that the Xavier students could be involved in.

Fathers' Day at Christ the King

Fathers' Day was celebrated at Christ the King Parish Church during the weekend of June 17-18. **Fr. Fred Cristian Narvasa** was the presider at the 6 pm anticipated mass. Just before the mass ended, Fr. Fred, as did the other presiders in the other weekend masses, requested all fathers to come forward for the special blessings. Fr. Fred was ordained just last March 25, 2017 and was promptly assigned as Parochial Vicar of Our Lady of Pentecost Parish.



CTK PPC Officers Join in Bp. Ongtioco's 19th Episcopal Anniversary

Diocese of Cubao Bishop Honesto Ongtioco celebrated his **19th Episcopal Anniversary**, i.e., 19 years as bishop, last June 17.

PPC officers from all over the diocese were invited to attend the special mass and to the reception that followed.

Henry and Joyce Tañedo and David and Fely Ong attended for Christ the King Parish Greenmeadows, together with parish priest Fr. Bong Tupino.

To recall, the Diocese of Cubao was created on June 28, 2003 by virtue of Pope John Paul II's Papal Bull Quo Satius Provideretur. On August 28, 2003, the new Diocese of Cubao was canonically erected and the first Bishop of Cubao, Most Rev. Honesto F. Ongtioco, formerly Bishop of Balanga, Bataan, was installed in the presence of the Apostolic Nuncio Antonio Franco, Manila Archbishop Jaime L. Cardinal Sin and numerous bishops gracing the occasion.

The Parish of the Immaculate Conception along 39 Lantana Street, Barangay Immaculate Conception, Cubao, Quezon City was liturgically proclaimed the cathedral or seat of the diocese, with Reverend Monsignor Daniel P. Sta. Maria as its first Cathedral Rector and first Vicar-General.

Also in picture is Dan Viray from the St. John Paul II Parish of Eastwood.



Freshmen SJS Seminaris Meet CTK 'Josefinos'

First-year seminarians from the **San Jose Seminary** in the **Ateneo de Manila University Loyola** campus visited the CTK parish – Greenmeadows Avenue last Tuesday, June 27. They were welcomed by 'Josefinos **Fr. Jose 'Bong' Tupino III** (1993) and CTK parish priest; **Monsignor Antonio Mortillero** (1963); CTK guest priest **Fr. Sergio 'Serge' Maniba** (1995); and **Bert Santos**, PPC head coordinator (HS 1963).



Each year, the freshmen group of the seminary, as part of their orientation, is required to visit parishes whose parish priests are 'Josefinos'. This year's incoming batch is composed of 13 seminarians, accepted out of a total applicant pool of 140.



For the information of the readers, there are three seminaries in Metro Manila – San Jose Seminary run by the Jesuits, UST Central Seminary run by the Dominicans, and Guadalupe Minor-San Carlos Major-Holy Apostles Senior Seminaries under the diocesan clergy. Elsewhere in Luzon, there are also seminaries in Imus, San Pablo, and Malolos.



CTK's 14th Life in the Spirit Seminar

Life in the Spirit Seminar Weekend



The **CTK Life in the Spirit Prayer Community** successfully held its **14th Parish Life in the Spirit Seminar**, with **Fr. Mario Bije** as Spiritual Director, for two consecutive days of August 12 and 13. Attendees

also attended the pre-LSS session held on July 17 at 7 pm, and before that, they had to attend one of several orientations held on all July Mondays at 7 pm.



Bobby and Margie San Juan, who head the LSS Prayer Community and Healing Ministry, organized the event.

This LSS had the aim of deepening one's personal relationship with God and make us be aware of the presence of the Holy Spirit in our life and receive his gifts.

The seminar had a record 45 participants. Bobby San Juan led the 'praise and worship' segments for all Mondays - July 24, July 31, and August 7, that was followed by the 'pre-LSS shepherding'.

Organizers Margie and Bobby San Juan expressed their thanks to Bishop Raul Martirez; Fr. Bong Tupino; Msgr. Tony Mortillero for officiating an adult baptism and ten confirmations just prior to the LSS; Fr. Serge Maniba for hearing the confessions of those baptized and confirmed; Elsbeth Llama for conducting the catechism class; to the PPC for the financial support; to the parish staff for their admin support; and to the LSS members which included Mila Bangco, Vinchu Lapid, Mila del Fonso, Jess dela Fuente, Rocky and Nandy de Jesus, Tess Saulog, Irma Guison, Fe Pery, Edda Pena, Priscilla Pacheco, Fe Flores, Billie and Pepe Pilar, and Zeny Palisoc.

Celebrating the Feast of the Assumption with Fr. Manoling Francisco

The **Diwanihan Kristiyano Prayer Group** sponsored the August 15 holy mass on the feast of the Assumption of Our Blessed Mother, at the Divine Mercy Chapel. The 8 pm mass was officiated by **Fr. Manoling Francisco SJ** who then gave a short talk on the Assumption.

To recall, CTK celebrated Triduum masses in honor of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary last August 12, 13 and 14, with the Vigil Mass held on August 14, 6 pm. The Catholic world celebrated the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary on August 15.

Fr. Manoling first defined 'dogma' as a revealed truth, and for Catholics, a required belief. One such was on



November 1, 1950 when Pope Pius XII, exercising papal infallibility, declared in *Munificentissimus Deus* that it is a dogma of the Church that 'the Immaculate Mother of God, the ever Virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory'. The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary is therefore a required belief.

Fr. Manoling then went on to explain the duality of the human being as postulated by the Greeks, where an immortal soul was inside a mortal physical vessel, the human body. To make it easier to understand, instead of the 'soul', Fr. Manoling likens the soul to the person inside each of us. We may be a short, squat, big eyed chubby baby at 3 years old, we may be a tall gangling awkward pimply teenager at 13, we may be a more self-assured athletic well-toned young man at 23, then a slightly paunchy eyeglass-wearing slightly-balding family man at 33, then an even heavier, fully bald, slightly stooping middle aged man at 43. Yet it's still the same person. It's

that person, the 'I', which Fr. Manoling likens to the soul.

He also explained that on the Last Day, each soul will be reunited with God, with the glorified body, and with the rest of humanity. Which means we will recognize one another - and here Fr. Manoling segued into Eric Clapton's



haunting lyrics: 'Would you know my name if I saw you in heaven? Would it be the same if I saw you in heaven?' which was written after he lost his four year old son in a freak fall from the 53rd floor of the unit of his mother in a high-rise residential building. The answer to Eric Clapton's question is a definite 'yes', Fr. Manoling emphasized.

He then went to the main point of his talk - that Mary is the icon of man's ultimate destiny. And in Mary's Assumption, God has also offered to man eternal life. That on the Last Day, we will have eternal communion with God, with humanity, and with all creation. Fr. Manoling ended with the prayer -

The Lord is my light and my salvation

I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness in the land of the living.

Hope in Him, hold firm and take heart.

Hope in the Lord.

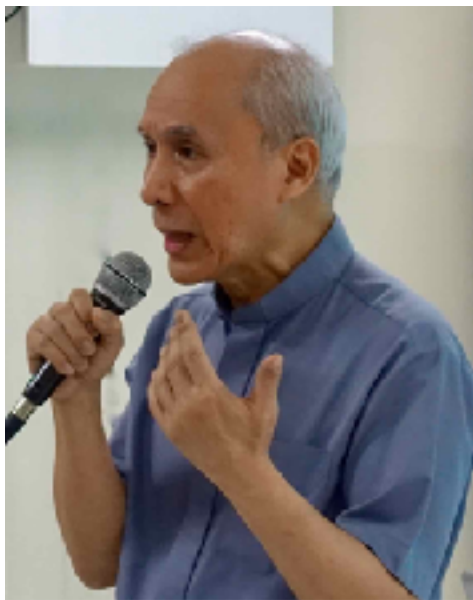


Mon and Loung Cuarterero leading the Diwanihan Kristiyano prayer group meeting

Fr. Raffy Suarez on Fatima Messages

Fr. Raffy Suarez gave a mid-afternoon talk on 'Messages of Fatima' last Wednesday, June 14. The talk was organized by the Legion of Mary. Despite the short lead time, the room was full of legionnaires, family members and friends plus several representatives from the Parish Pastoral Council and lectors-commentators.

Fr. Raffy talked through the Fatima and Sr. Lucia apparitions timeline: The three secrets are revealed to the children on July 13, 1917. On October 13, Our Lady reveals herself as the Lady of the Rosary, also as the Lady of Mount Carmel with the Scapular, then as our Lady of Sorrows. In 1918, World War I ends; then in 1922, Pope Pius XI was elected. On December 10, 1925, the apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary with the Child Jesus asks Lucia for five First Saturdays devotion. Sr. Lucia told her superior and confessor but no action was taken. As a result, on February 15, 1926, the apparition of the Child Jesus appears to her to ask if she had revealed to the world what his Mother had asked.



Fr. Raffy focused part of the talk on Russia and the requested 'consecration of Russia to the Immaculate Heart', which is at the heart of the second Fatima secret. Without such consecration, Sr. Lucia recalled Our Lady saying that Russia will 'spread its errors throughout the world, fomenting wars and persecution of the church.' True enough, what the Blessed Virgin Mary warned about began to unfold. First, in April 1929, Stalin takes over from Lenin and he, through the Communist Party, initiates a 5-year Stalinist purge. A month later, in May 1929, Stalin modifies

the Russian constitution and declares religious propaganda a crime vs. the state; religious leaders and their families lose their civil rights such as ration cards, free medical insurance, apartments, and children's free education; children are encouraged to renounce their religion if they want to live; Sunday worship is abolished; and finally, all churches are demolished. In November 1929, 13 million 'undesirables' are deported to Siberia where 3.5 million quickly starve to death, mostly women and children.

By 1931, despite realizing and understanding the satanic nature of Russian communism, the Holy See, through Pope Pius XI, ignores Lucia's appeal. He never wanted to hear any talk of Fatima, recalled Cardinal Confalonieri, the pope's secretary. Pope Pius XI supposedly argued, 'Since I am his vicar on earth, if He had something He wished me to know, He would have told me directly.' As a result, in September 1931, Our Lady declared that a worse war - meaning, World War II - will begin under his pontificate. By June 1939, Sr. Lucia said, 'God, displeased, will lift the arm of His mercy and allow the world to be devastated, which will be more horrible than we have ever seen.' World War II begins immediately after.

In October 1942, Pope Pius XII, the successor, consecrates the Church and the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Within three days, the Allies are victorious, their first ever, at the Battle of El Alamein, the first in a string of military successes that culminate in final victory. In July 1952, 35 years after Fatima, Pope Pius XII finally consecrated Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. By October 1952, Stalin outlines an offensive to transform Europe and military preparations commence. But - Stalin unexpectedly dies of cerebral hemorrhage in March 1953, within eight months of Pius XII's consecration of Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Fr. Raffy included a postscript - the message from Our Lady to stigmatist Sr. Elena Aiello, which said: Spread the devotion to my Immaculate Heart in order that many souls may be conquered by My love and that many sinners may return to My Maternal Heart. Do not fear, for I will accompany with My Maternal protection My faithful ones and all those who accept My urgent warnings; and they - especially by the recitation of My Rosary - will be saved.

Fr. Raymond's 25th Sacerdotal Anniversary

Fr. Raymond Joseph L. Arre, one of CTK's regular guest priests, celebrated his 25th Sacerdotal Anniversary, or priesthood silver jubilee, last July 3 at the Immaculate Conception Cathedral. Fr. Raymond is also the Episcopal Vicar For Catholic Schools, Superintendent of the Diocese of Cubao Educational System, and School Director of the Immaculate Conception Cathedral School.



In his address to the congregation at the end of the mass, he thanked his fellow Cubao Diocese priests - which included Msgr. Antonio Mortillero and Fr. Serge Maniba representing CTK - for their friendship and support. He recalled how he was ordained by Jaime Cardinal L. Sin DD on July 3, 1992 and what the cardinal advised him - 'reflect on the cold marble floor that you prostrate yourself on; there will be occasions when your parishioners will also seem cold and distant; but never forget that where there is cold, there is warmth as well.' He also read aloud a congratulatory letter from Archbishop Soc Villegas with whom he worked at the EDSA Shrine, or Mary, Queen of Peace Parish.

The sacerdotal mass celebration, attended by most of the priests of the diocese, was followed by a reception and program at the Immaculate Conception School covered gym. There were two testimonials delivered, by parishioners from the two parishes he previously headed - Church of the Holy Sacrifice (better known as the UP Diliman chapel) and Resurrection of the Lord Parish in Del Monte, QC. The gatherers were treated to audio-visual presentations that showed the clergy side of the celebrant as well as the human side - as family member, as traveler, as adventurer, and as a biker.



Fr. Raymond with members of his family

CTK Formally Closes Flores de Mayo Activities

CTK wrapped up the month of May with the formal closing of the **Parish Flores de Mayo** last May 31, a Wednesday, which also happened to be the Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

As had been done for the last 30 days, it began with the praying of the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy, then praying of the rosary, the flower offering by attendees, and finally the blessing of images of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This was then followed by the regular 6 pm mass, all at the main church.



Jo Piyaw, Ching Botero, Fr. Serge Maniba, and Alma Yeh

pray the rosary, the meaning of the rosary prayers, and the stories behind the Mysteries. The Libis children, from ages 9 to 14, 'graduated' from their May catechism class last May 30.

The graduation event started with a mass at 2:30 pm at the Divine Mercy Chapel, presided over by **Fr. Serge Maniba**, with Catechetical Ministry co-head **Alma Yeh** taking on



May 31 also marked the recognition ceremony for the over-a-hundred Libis children who had come daily since May 1 for the catechism classes where Alma Yeh, Sheryl Coronel, and the over-a-dozen volunteers taught them how to



the commentator role. The hundred-plus children were organized by Jo Piyaw, Ching Botero and the Libis Youth coordinators. This was followed by the formal 'graduation' of the children and serving of snacks.



Rudy Ibañez' Book Launch: A Touch of Heaven

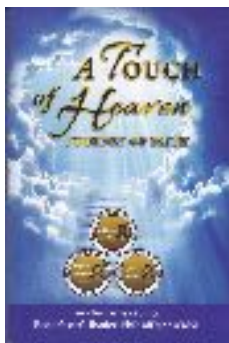
With the support of Christ the King Parish and **Fr. Bong Tupino**, author and CTK regular **Rudy Ibañez** held a book launch of his most recent work, **'A Touch of Heaven: A Journey of Faith'**, last Wednesday May 24 just before the end of the 6 pm mass.



Fr. Bong introduced Rudy, a former Extraordinary Minister of the Holy Eucharist, current member of the Knights of Columbus, and author of seven other books (three of them winning the CMMA Cardinal Sin Book Award,

in 2008, 2011, and 2013) then called him to give a short talk about the book. Rudy informed the congregation that the book was a result of his near-death experience during surgery in early 2015. He also introduced his 'co-author', his nephew Diego Dumul.

The big surprise was when Rudy announced that he was giving everyone in the congregation a free copy of the book. And he and



nephew Diego gallantly sat in the front pew to autograph the book copies for all those who requested - which was nearly everyone.

Fr. Bong wrote the book's 'Message', where he said, 'Reading through the book, I felt as if I was a fellow pilgrim walking through Rudy's life story and witnessing the loving presence of God as



Rudy Ibañez with nephew Diego Yumul lead book signing

it unfolded in every significant event and person he encountered in his life. I take this chance to express how blessed our parish community is to have him as a fellow pilgrim, giving us inspiration and hope.'

Rudy writes about the 'urgent need to describe what I experienced in the 12 hours I was on the operating table, where I sensed Jesus' pervasive presence, drawing me close to a blinding light.' He looks for an answer to the question, 'Why did Kuya Hesus bring me back?' And by the end of the book, the answer become clear to the author - 'Kuya Hesus has given me a second chance with a mission to help spread his love.' With this book, Rudy hopes to start or re-ignite the reader's vibrancy of faith.

Welcoming New PPC Assistant Marj Ruga

The Parish Pastoral Council of Christ the King Parish - Greenmeadows recently welcomed its new Administrative Assistant, **Ms. Marjorie 'Marj' Ruga**. Marj officially came on board on August 1.



The new Administrative Assistant is 22 years old and hails from Antipolo, Rizal. She is knowledgeable in the use of Microsoft Office applications such as Word, Excel, and Powerpoint, a major requisite for the job.

Prior to joining CTK, Marj had worked in Unilab for more than a year as an office staff. Before that, she was with Infostream Corp for a year as a 'televerifier'. She also had on-the-job training stints at Ford Motors, the Diocese of Cubao, and Mediacard Philippines.

Marj has a Diploma in Information & Communication Management Technology from the Polytechnic University of the Philippines where she studied from 2011 to 2014.

Marj was first interviewed by PPC secretary Fely Ong and then had a lengthy session last August 31 with treasurer Elise del Rosario on the detailed expectations for the role.

From the Editors:

The Herald is the quarterly newsletter publication of the Christ the King Parish. It is published free, and has been since 1995, through the kindness of former PPC Worship Ministry head Mila San Juan and her printing company The House Printers.

We have a very crowded front page as you'll notice, featuring the Lady of Peñafrancia, the Diocese Bible Encounter 2017, the Episcopal Pastoral Visitation, and the launch of the Ministry for Seniors, which reflects the diversity of parish news over the past three months.

Since The Herald comes out only quarterly, parishioners are enjoined to check out the parish web site - christthekingparish.ph - or our Facebook page - [ctkpgreenmeadows](https://www.facebook.com/ctkpgreenmeadows) - for recent parish news since most of the news articles contained in The Herald first see light of day at the website or at our Facebook page, sometimes weeks earlier.

We thank our contributors for this issue. These include: **Tiny Perfecto** on the BEC workshop for village coordinators; **Wins Mirasol** for the Vicariate meeting, Stewardship anniversary, Seven Habits, Peter Howard, and Marawi photos; **Eileen de Leon** on the various LOC activities; **Estrelle Lopez** for the text and photos on Sunrise Ministry launch; **Henry and Joyce Tañedo** for the Peñafrancia photos, **Bert Santos** for the photo and info on the Xavier High School visit and the Josefino visit; **Fely Ong** for all the Coffee After Church photos; **Leila Banico** for the Bible Quiz photos and LeCom commissioning text and photos; **Albert Cuadrante** for the EMHC commissioning text and photos; **Althea Geronilla** for the youth pilgrimage text and photos and sports league photos; **Louie Laudico** for the Anointing of the Sick write-up and pictures; and **Nars Malatuba** for the LOC scholars photos.

Bing and Elise del Rosario
Media In-charge