



THE HERALD

CHRIST THE KING PARISH • GREENMEADOWS

**40TH
ANNIVERSARY
ISSUE**

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FATHER'S HEART TODAY



A Parish for Others:
Remembering. Celebrating. Believing

Fr. Steve Zabala — *Parish Priest*

I AM STILL ON A HIGH. I am still in awe. I have just finished my longest fiesta celebration with a parish in almost twenty-four years of ministry.

From September 1 to November 30, we marked Christ the King Parish's 40th anniversary with activities that came in rapid succession.

Most of us grew up celebrating colorful Filipino fiestas. The gaily colored banderitas, the loud blasts of the drum and lyre band, the gyrating, percussive Ati-Atihan—all are cultural elements that draw us into the festive mood.

Looking back, I now realize that CTK had a different mold in marking its fiesta. In fact, when you think about it, all the activities that happened within the ninety-one days of CTK's 40th remind me of three things that are very akin to the celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

WE REMEMBER

Remembering the least, last, and lost was one of the first activities in our celebration. September was also our fourteenth anniversary as a Stewardship Parish. For five weekends, we looked back at how the parish has reached out to those who have less in life through a series of vignettes. But beyond that, we put our remembering into action. We welcomed

the Kariton ni Kiko in our parish, praying and interacting with the poor. We made them realize that they are part of this "parish for others."

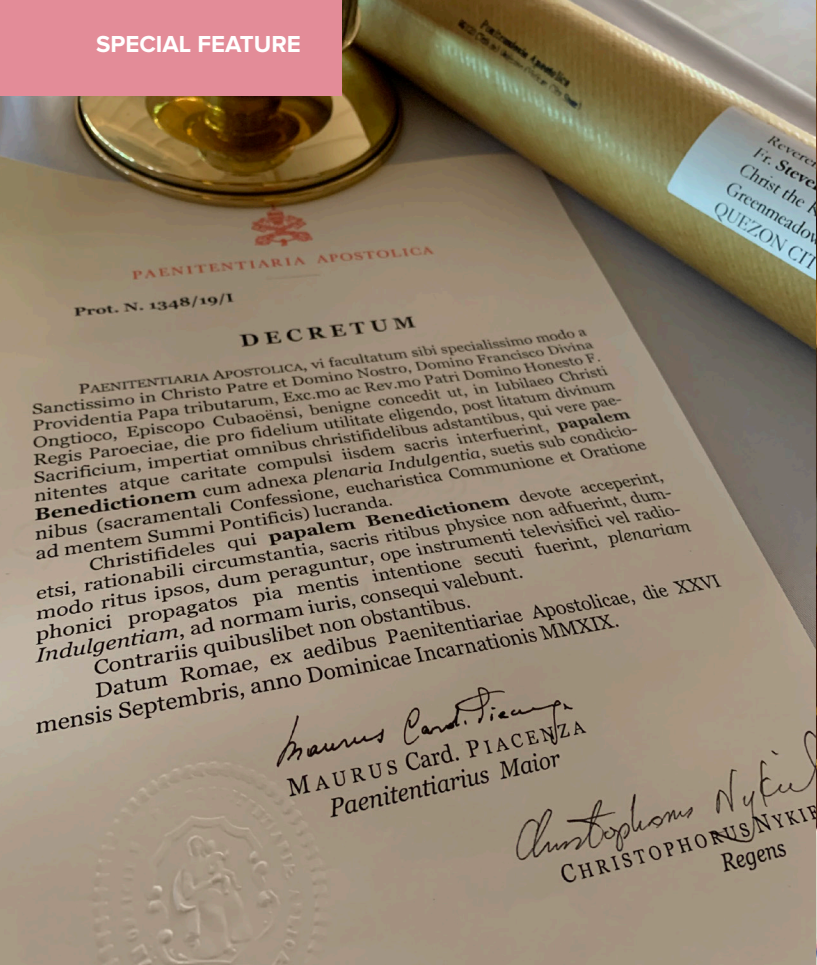
In a special way, we also remembered those who started us off in this faith journey—Fr. Tony Lanuevo, Msgr. Jaime Mora, Bishop Antonio Tobias, Bishop Honesto Ongtioco, Msgr. Dan Sta. Maria, Fr. Bong Tupino, even Bishop Raul Martinez. This was the reason why we thought it best to invite clergy who had a special bond with CTK in our Novena Masses. The Clergy Homecoming was also a poignant experience because priests that were part of the fabric of CTK's faith experience came and bonded with our young altar servers.

We also remembered the growth of community relationships through snapshots of our past. The Images of Faith photo exhibit was painstakingly curated to allow the living pioneers to reminisce and to give the young a sense of parish history.

We had a meaningful recollection of our church dedication when the pioneers and the young relived the lighting of dedication candles done on October 30, 1988. For us it meant hope and the continuity of our values as a community,

Continued on page 22

Photo credit to Arani Jodelle Jamandis, Cebu Media



A Papal Blessing, Plenary Indulgence for CTK Parish

by Fr. Steve Zabala

CHRIST THE KING PARISH GREENMEADOWS got a special anniversary gift on September 26 on the occasion of its 40th fiesta when Pope Francis bestowed a papal blessing and granted plenary indulgence to pilgrims visiting its church.

PAPAL BLESSING

The papal blessing honors this important milestone in the life of the parish. It is bestowed on its parishioners and pious visitors, grateful and cognizant of the goodness of the generous God, the Giver of all blessings.

PLENARY INDULGENCE

Pilgrims to CTK church from October 1 to December 31, 2019 will receive a plenary indulgence. "An indulgence is a remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven, which is the faithful Christian who is duly disposed gains under certain prescribed conditions through the action of the Church which, as the minister of redemption, dispenses and applies with authority the treasury of the satisfactions of Christ and the saints." (CCC, 1471)

CONDITIONS

A plenary indulgence is gained only once a day. One must be in a state of grace and must fulfill the following conditions:



- Avail of the Sacrament of Reconciliation;
- Attend the Holy Eucharist;
- Pray for the Pope's intentions (recite one Our Father, one Hail Mary, and one Glory Be);
- Say the Prayer to Christ the King;
- Perform a work of charity.

OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

On October 13, Bishop Honesto Ongtioco, with concelebrating priests, Bishop Raul Martirez, Fr. Steven Zabala, Fr. Ron Roberto, Fr. Herbie Santos, and Fr. Henry Ferreras, led the Mass wherein this special gift was announced to the community. Father Herbie, a resident and former parish leader of CTK who now heads the Cubao Diocese Social Communications Ministry and pastors the Parish of the Lord of Divine Mercy, read the Vatican document.

This is a time of amazing grace for the parish.



Bing del Rosario, Elise del Rosario, Maan del Rosario, Bet Montecillo, Fr. Steve Zabala, Pedro Banico and Leila Banico keep Cardinal Tagle company before his talk.

Christ the King in Our Times

CTK's 40th Parish Fiesta Recollection

by Bet E. Montecillo

"The evangelical presence of a parish community reflects Christ as King in our times."

Thus were the opening words of Luis Antonio Cardinal Tagle's recollection last November 11, 2019. Christ the King Parish was very fortunate to have the archbishop of Manila for a few hours despite his hectic schedule on the occasion of its 40th anniversary.

Cardinal Tagle asked, "Do we really focus on the person of Christ as King?" The prelate traced Jesus' both human and divine right to the kingship. His human lineage sprung from David, the shepherd boy, who was anointed king by God Himself. As fully human, Jesus was the Son of Man who hung on the cross, and in utter emotional and physical pain cried out, "Father, why have you abandoned me?"

Jesus' divine kingship came together in the "I Am" discourse in the Gospel of John. "I Am the Good Shepherd." "I Am the Light of the World." "I Am the Bread of Life." These are all attributed to Christ as King. And all these divine and human nature eventually blended together at His crucifixion, whereupon He was declared "King of the Jews" and who would be known in generations to come as King of all heaven and earth, begotten of the Father.

As we are called to be a parish for others,

the cardinal posed a challenging question: What legacy do we leave our youth of today as we look up to the crucified Christ as the King in our times? Statistics show that fifty percent of today's population in Manila are twenty-three years old and below. When Cardinal Chito asked those twenty-three and under to raise their hands, only a handful were present in the fully packed church. That was a very telling moment.

Cardinal Chito also shared about his "conversion" experience when it came to noisy children in church. He used to get distracted with the din of crying babies during Mass until he celebrated the Eucharist in a church in Europe. Instead of wailing toddlers, all he heard were the relentless coughing of elderly Mass goers.

This moved us to reflect if we, the older ones, can honestly say that our generation has been responsible enough to mirror Christ to the young in the way we conduct ourselves as Christians. Do we inspire them to come to church, to worship, to listen, and to be informed? It is most gratifying to see whole families come to Sunday Mass even with babies and toddlers in their terrible twos.

We pray that the faith of young people may continue to mature in years to come. For didn't Christ say, "Let the little children to come to me... for it is to such as these that the Kingdom of God belongs" (Luke 18:16)?



Christ loved their noises, their laughter, their tears—for these were all wrapped in innocence.

Children are equipped with a good sense of remembering. They will remember their "church trips" where they learned to do the sign of the cross, how to kneel, how to sing sacred songs, and the feeling of being blessed. And when they do, we can say that we've been faithful in handing down the faith.

As CTK moves beyond its 40 years, I hope that more young people will be moved to be part of the Church, and that the Church may continue to reach out to them more.



Fr. Steve blesses the images of CTK and Mama Mary

Church Dedication Anniversary

Remembering More Than an Edifice

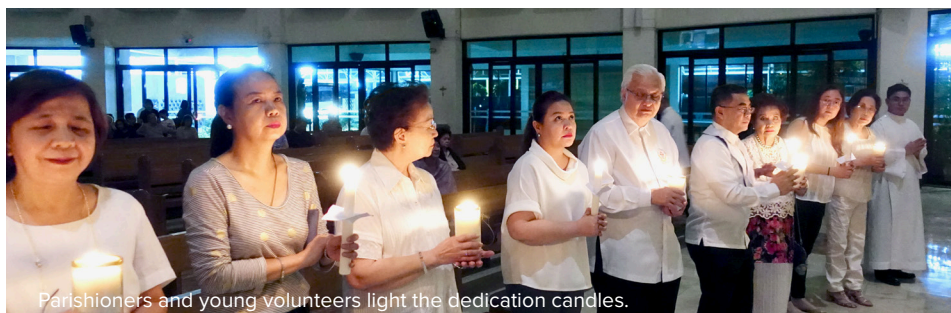
by Leila Banico

ON OCTOBER 30, 1988, eight years after its ground breaking, His Eminence Jaime Cardinal Sin (+) blessed the parish church of Christ the King.

Last October 30, on the year that the parish celebrated its 40th anniversary, the community looked back and remembered the meaning of this significant event.

The celebration began in the dimly lit church with members of the Mother Butler Mission Guild (MBMG) putting the altar mantle and covering the altar. A procession of pioneers and youth representatives of the community followed as they walked side by side lighting candles on the twelve columns of the church. The symbolism was impactful. It was a tribute of sorts to those who were present when the parish edifice was just being constructed and when ministries were just being born, and now they were passing the torch to the young who will hopefully continue the work of the Lord in CTK. Another highlight in the Mass was when Father Steve Zabala blessed the entire community, the way it is done during the Easter Vigil.

The rituals struck home and touched the parishioners who came to observe the occasion.



Parishioners and young volunteers light the dedication candles.

“For me, it is truly an experience of a lifetime and it makes me give more of my time and treasure for our parish. We live through the historical milestones of our lifetime.”

Poying Mauricio, MBMG

“If only the walls and the twelve columns of CTK could talk, they would tell many stories of how our church was built through the sacrifices and love of parishioners and efforts of past parish priests. I realize I’m a vital part of the church, not just simply an anonymous worshiper in the back pew. My experience that night made me love my church more.”

Lulay de la Cruz, St. Ignatius Village

“The first time I touched the altar table, I felt so blessed.”

Cecile Antonio, MBMG

“It was my first time to attend such an event. It made me feel like I was back thirty-one years ago, like I am part of the history of CTK. Father Steve’s full explanation during his homily made me appreciate the whole experience more.”

Bianca Cojuangco, MBMG

Defining Moments in Our Parish Life

by Tessa Mangahas

THIS YEAR'S NOVENA MASSES in honor of Christ the King had CTK's defining moments and character as its theme. Presiders were clergy that have or had ties to the parish and were part of the fabric of its faith journey. Here are some of the important takeaways from the homilies of these priests who played special roles in CTK's history.



NOVENA MASSES

Day 1. Nov 15. White Plains

Celebrating with gratitude to God the defining moments of CTK's 40 years

Why is White Plains important to CTK's faith history? It was the first center of worship, the first parish church, which is why the annual procession of CTK's fiesta starts there. We remember. We cherish the moments. We move forward. When we remember our defining moments, do not forget the Lord, Christ the King, who was always good to the community for the past years and beyond.

Fr. Steve Zabala

Day 2. Nov 16. Barangay Libis

Defining CTK's Qualities as a Community

How loving are our thoughts, words, actions? As we prepare to celebrate the feast of Christ the King, we should ponder how we, as a community, have responded to His love through all these years.

Bishop Raul Martinez

Day 3. Nov 17. Enclave and Ivory Court

Stages of Church Construction

Our 40th fiesta has several events to build community. Even Zumba shows that we can play together as we pray together. We are one community. We are the Body of Christ. The glorious beauty of our church edifice will fade but our true joy will be our life-changing relationship with the Lord.

Fr. Steve Zabala

Day 4. Nov 18. Corinthian Gardens, Greenwich and Arcadia

Home with an Embracing Community

May we continue to be an embracing community. May we encourage participation by involving parishioners and churchgoers in

the work of the parish. We are home here in CTK.

Fr. Steve Zabala

Day 5. Nov 19. Greenmeadows 1 and 3

Reaching Out to the Poor/Gawad Kalinga Village

The Gawad Kalinga housing project has the parameters of social service in the diocese. It had a transformative element. It paved the way for other housing projects in the diocese.

Msgr. Dan Sta. Maria

Day 6. Nov 20. Eton, Robinsons Galleria, Crowne Plaza, St. Pedro Poveda College

Formation programs for an Informed and Formed Faith

Formation has an important role in the parish. You are formed in the love of the Father. We have been formed by our faith to love the Lord and to be loving like Him. The Lord is always schooling us in the ways of stewardship. How is our formation affecting us?

Fr. Bong Tupino

Day 7. Nov 21. Acropolis

Discipleship and Shepherding with a Mission

The prayer of parents here was just like Mary's parents: "Lord, my child is yours, do with him/her what you will." At an early age, we are leading our children to become disciples of God. The Blessed Virgin Mary was first a disciple of Jesus even before she was the Mother of Jesus.

Bp. Antonio Tobias, DD

Day 8. Nov 22. St. Ignatius Village and La Maison

Stewardship: Thankful Giving

Today we celebrate stewardship in this parish. Yes, we offer our time, talent, and treasure. But, at the end of the day, what

we have is God's generosity. He has blessed this community for forty years. Stewardship is acknowledging God's presence and being grateful for his goodness. God is blessing us with His blessings, gracing us with His graces and loving us with His love.

Fr. Steve Zabala

Day 9. Nov 23. Acropolis

Imparting a Legacy of Being a "Parish for Others" to the Young

The 40th anniversary celebration comes with a challenge, though. It challenges especially the young to carry on and pass the faith that was handed down to us by the pioneers of this community. This faith legacy needs to be passed on so that it will continue giving light to and touching the lives of others.

Fr. Ricky Montañez

CTK@40Fiesta Mass. Solemnity of Christ the Universal King

November 24, 2019.

Presider: Bishop Honesto Ongtioco, DD

He reconciled heaven and earth, not through the power of the sword, but through the blood of the cross. The Gospel talks of the crucifixion, of a crucified King, not one of pomp and grandeur. This is the kind of king that Jesus is. His kingdom is of love, self-sacrifice and compassion.

CTK. A parish for others. Forty years. The symbol for 40 is ruby, a dark red gem that stands for constancy, fidelity, sincerity, faithfulness. You have carried out your mission as a parish for others for 40 years with much fidelity, crossing borders. Thank you, Christ the King Parish, for your fidelity.



Congratulations to the Electrical Service graduates!

LOC Livelihood Training Yields Graduates

by Buh Malonzo

THE LADIES OF CHARITY (LOC) has always been at the forefront of social service activities and reaching out to the poor through the parish's 40-year existence. In celebration of the anniversary, LOC conducted two livelihood training courses from July to October 2019. Seventeen trainees from Barangay Libis graduated for the Electrical, CCTV and Alarm System Training Course on September 27 at the Quezon City Hall. They were not only provided with technical knowledge and skills but had also been nourished spiritually through basic Catechism conducted by LOC members. They learned how to pray the rosary and how to do the sacrament of confession. The attendees were truly grateful for these "extras" that they received apart from technical training.

The beneficiaries eagerly learned their lessons as they looked forward to immediate employment. LOC members gave recognition to the graduates on October 1. Fr. Steve Zabala and Libis barangay captain Leny Leticia P. Gilvano delivered their inspirational talk while two emcees shared some thoughts and tips on employment. The attendees consisting of mostly young trainees proudly showed their talent through a dance presentation with Father Steve joining in. The audience screamed in delight! The officers of the Parish Pastoral Council were also in attendance. With God's grace, some of these new graduates are now employed in Bulacan.

With the support of Barangay Bagumbayan, another twelve trainees graduated a ten-day training course on hair science last October 25. They are ready to be independent practitioners or to be employed by salons in nearby communities. Thanks to LOC for being instruments to empower deserving individuals and give them a chance to work in dignity.



A harvest of Home Service graduates



Libis participants engage in CCTV training

A Visit to Young Detainees

by Bing del Rosario

TWICE A YEAR, CTK's Social Services and Development Ministry, working through Buklod ng Panginoon, pays a visit to the youth detainees of the Molave Youth Home (MYH). MYH was established in 1973 as a rehabilitation center for seventeen-and-below minors facing cases filed in Quezon City courts and currently houses some four hundred children and teenage detainees.

It can be frustrating, maybe even enraging, to see so many of these detainees suffering for their misdemeanor at such a young age. But the short visits also bring hope that they will be released soon, rehabilitated so that they will stay away from trouble.

The group shared snacks with the detainees as well as some token gifts, such as toiletries or T-shirts. The program normally includes song and dance numbers from both the minors as well as CTK visitors. The October 10 visit this year was included as part of the 40th anniversary celebration and, as such, the Parish Pastoral Council granted the special request of the MYH warden for three electric hair trimmers for the boys, who comprise two-thirds of their population.

The CTK delegation consisted of six members of the Buklod ng Panginoon, led by its president Cita Pabillo, and officers Tiny Perfecto, Agnes dela Cruz, and Charit Barredo, plus two parish pastoral officers, Bing del Rosario and Maan del Rosario.

Welcoming the CTK representatives was Lilian Baccay, the center head of the QC Social Services and Development Department's Rehabilitation Division. Around 250 of the four hundred youth were present, a third of them girls. They all looked like your neighbor's kids next door, not your street toughs.

After the welcome remarks on both sides, a group of boys and girls did a relevant rap song-and-dance number. The teenagers then presented each of the members of the delegation with handmade gifts. In turn, Cita and Agnes turned over the hair trimmers. Bing also asked what else the detainees might like as a Christmas present, and in unison, they all shouted, "Karaoke!" Bing and Maan met with the chief of the rehabilitation division, Marisol Casabuena, and they promised to get a karaoke system for the center, hopefully in time for Christmas.

As the CTK group was leaving, one male detainee had just been released and was picked up by his mother. The young man smiled at the guard by the exit to say goodbye as he walked out of the rehabilitation facility. Lightheartedly, the guard said, "Huwag ka nang babalik."

It was a sincere remark that the young man would hopefully heed.



Parishioners display gifts from Molave youth



Molave youth



CTK parishioners give hair and body trimmers for the boys



CTK Brings Happiness to the Elderly of Luwalhati

by Louie Laudico

CTK brings happiness to Luwalhati's elderly

CTK COMMUNITY particularly those comprising Buklod ng Panginoon and the Sunrise Ministry brought joy to about three hundred elderly people in the Boystown Marikina compound of Luwalhati ng Maynila.

There was a whole lot of singing, dancing, and gift-giving that perked the elderly. Cita Pabillo and Trixie de Lena of Buklod ng Panginoon belted it out with the “Tom Jones” of Luwalhati. Bon Intengan of the Sunrise Ministry also made a lady very happy when he danced with her. The lady had earlier approached Bon and asked him for a dance. He was also very entertaining as a master laughter yoga instructor.

The beneficiaries exulted even more with the gift of a fifty-inch smart TV and an ABS-CBN TV Plus box, which was given through the stewardship fund of Christ the King. One of the beneficiaries said that it was an answered prayer to replace the old, worn-out TV they had, which was damaged by a typhoon last year.

Fr. Henry Ferreras celebrated the Mass on behalf of Fr. Steve Zabala.

Many thanks for the donations of different individuals such as:

1. Jesus Elizabeth Fernando Foundation for three hundred blankets, loot bags with two kilos of rice each, five sachets of coffee, five cans of sardines, five packs of noodles, and biscuits care of Eileen de Leon of the Basic Ecclesial Communities;
2. Buklod ng Panginoon for the sack of detergent, nine jugs of Clorox, two gallons of coffee, cupcakes, and biscuits;
3. Wanda Reyes, Fe Reyes, Evelyn Sombillo, and Rose Famanilla for the donation of clothes’
4. Cita Pabillo’s daughter for the donation of cookies;
5. Aileen Joaquin Rodas for the donation of Rebisco cookies through the Sunrise Ministry;
6. Christ the King Parish Greenmeadows for the fifty-inch TCL smart TV and TV Plus black box.



Kuya Bon dances with a gracious lady



Buklod ng Panginoon Ladies sing their hearts out



Kumpilang Bayan Making Disciples

by Sheryl Coronel

CHRIST THE KING PARISH'S 40th anniversary has moved us all to reflect on our mission to bring Christ to the poor, who in these times of spiritual aridity, take on another meaning: the poor are also those who long for Christ and the joy of actively living our Catholic faith. Work, studies, and the distractions of worldly entertainment often relegate one's relationship with God to an hour or two on Sundays. To many, praying and attending Mass have become meaningless rituals instead of communion with God.

Conscious of this need for a faith revival, the Catechetical Ministry adopted the theme "Making Disciples" for this year's Kumpilang Bayan, in line with the Great Commission Jesus entrusted to all believers. To our joy, the Lord overwhelmingly blessed us with a rich harvest: 139 confirmands including seventy from Inocencio Integrated School, twenty from Bannister Academy, and thirty-nine parishioners.

The catechetical preparation's goal was to help hearts remember that Christianity is, ultimately, the story of God's love for His children. Ministry heads Alma Yeh and Sheryl Coronel, invited priests to give the reflection on each of the topics: Salvation History and Baptism (Fr. Jojo Zerrudo); Eucharist, Food for Eternal Life (Fr. Ricky Montanez); Confirmation and Discipleship (Fr. Serge Maniba); and Spiritual Preparation (Fr. Louie Punzalan).

Husband and wife teams, Peter and Leila Banico, and Lito and Christianne Pasquin, facilitated the Confirmation seminars of parents and godparents and encouraged them in their mission to form their children to be true bearers of Christ.

Confirmation day on November 16 was both solemn and joyful: confirmands in pristine dresses and polos; parents and godparents

beaming in anticipation; selfless volunteers ushering the throng to their seats; and the choir singing songs of love and service. It was the culmination of all our preparation and a call to these families to be active servants of the Lord.

Confirmation rites were officiated by Bishop Honesto Ongtioco and concelebrated by CTK parish priest, Fr. Steve Zabala. Bishop Ongtioco reminded parents that children learn the faith primarily in the home. To the newly confirmed, he said, "The Year of the Youth reminds us that you have a mission. It is not enough to go to church and say your prayers. You have to go out." He added, "We don't live for ourselves. We live for God... You have a duty to share your faith with other young people. You are empowered by the Spirit... Use these to share and spread the faith."



No Ordinary Bread

by Mina Mejia

“TEACHER, how did the body of Jesus fit in there?” asked one of our student-communicants during our tour around the church as we pointed to the tabernacle housing the consecrated hosts. “Is it big inside? Is His statue big?”

These were some of the very innocent, yet profound questions that candidates for First Holy Communion had on their minds before their “big day” with Jesus.

For the very first time, in celebration of our 40th year as a parish, the rites of First Holy Communion were held in the main church. Our parish priest, Fr. Steve Zabala, was the main presider.

It was very moving to see these children in white attire, eager and also nervous as they waited to receive Jesus in the Eucharist. Father Steve invited all thirty-one children during the homily to join him and sit on the steps of the altar. There, he animatedly role-played a story that taught children to recognize Christ in the face of other people.

These children had previously attended six formation sessions. Their parents attended a recollection given by Fr. Godwin Tatlonghari, director of San Carlos Seminary pre-college department.

Adults often think that we have much to share with children like these and that we

have the wisdom and knowledge to teach children who know little about the faith. Yet, Jesus encourages us to be childlike in our faith. He tells us to remain heedful of His guidance and dependent on His grace. So how do we help these kids keep their childlike faith as well as rekindle our own? We can learn so much from children—from their innocent questions, eager hearts, and yearning to receive Jesus.

So, after the last session, I asked my precocious student, “Now do you know how the body of Jesus fit in the tabernacle?” He replied with a smile, “Yes, teacher. It is because what’s inside is the bread, and it is no ordinary bread. It is the body of Jesus.”

Such wisdom from the mouth of



babes! May that child always remember this revelation every time he receives communion. And with the help of their parents, with God’s grace, and through His church, all thirty-one children will continue to grow in their love for the Eucharist.





Altar servers and CTK clergy

CTK Clergy Homecoming: **Faith. Fathers. Forty.**

by Grace Borja

IT WAS AN AFTERNOON when the young honored the priests close to CTK's heart. On November 23, the Altar Servers feted the clergy who were part of the fabric of CTK's formation and story. These priests came for fun, bonding, and sharing of experiences that would hopefully inspire the young altar servers to consider a priestly vocation.

Among the priests who came were Fr. Jojo Gatdula, Fr. Ricky Montañez, Fr. Serge Maniba, Fr. Arnel Recinto, Fr. Peter Coching, Fr. Norman Kagaoan, Fr. Elvin Carupo, Fr. Alan de Guzman, Fr. Jimmy Matthew, Fr. Dennis Caganta, Fr. Blaise Garcia, CTK's former parish priests Fr. Bong Tupino and Msgr. Dan Sta. Maria, and current parish priest Fr. Steve Zabala.

Some priests were asked to sing a song and reveal what part of the lyrics struck a chord that reminded them of their priestly ministry.

The altar servers treated the priests to a medley of Christmas songs, to which the priests gladly sang along. Father Steve picked "Batang-Bata Ka Pa" by the Apo Hiking Society. He said the line, "Pagkat musmos ka lamang, at malaman nang maaga ang wasto sa kamalian," reminded him of the parenting he received that rewarded good and frowned on the bad things that he did. Hence, when he expressed his desire to enter the priesthood at an early age, his parents full supported his dream.

One priest reminisced on how he was always inspired to read the Bible as a young boy. Father Ricky shared how he allows himself to listen to God even if he doesn't

understand everything that's happening in his life. Father Arnel, for his part, revealed how he struggled between choosing the military and the priestly vocation.

Father Peter indulged the crowd with his wonderful rendition of The Beatles' "In My Life" and said that the line "there are places I remember" reminds him of how CTK parish will always be part of his fondest memories.

"I liked the Clergy Homecoming as I got up close and personal with our priests. I learned more about them, their experiences and thoughts as priests," shared ten-year-old Gian Borja, who has been an altar server at CTK parish for a year now.

In the end, the activity was like shooting two birds with one stone. Not only was it a homecoming for the clergy who have served the CTK Parish in the past years, but it was also an inspirational talk for the young altar servers to continue serving the Church with joyful hearts.



Fr. Blaise Garcia (left) and Fr. Jojo Gatdula beam with gratitude



Gifts for the clergy



Food anyone?



Bishop Ness, Fr. Steve with "Christ the King-Kring"



All in the frame FAMILY & LIFE MINISTRY



I love CAC—and Bishop Ness and Fr. Steve!



Pachinko



Fr. Steve does the Rubiks challenge with Lei and Louie Abando



Free rosaries!

A Fair to Remember

by Fely Ong

IT HAD BEEN GONE FOR A FEW MONTHS, but when it came back even for a day, it was obvious how it was sorely missed.

Coffee After Church (CAC) was an activity previously held after Sunday morning Masses as a way to get parishioners to get to know each other. In a tent in front of the church, drinks and snacks would be served to Mass goers. As part of CTK's 40th Fiesta, the CAC made a comeback with a fair—this time with all ministries participating. The Parish Pastoral Council is composed of twenty-two various ministries and organizations, and while all are actively involved evangelizing, animating, and serving the community in their individual ways, it is seldom that all come together in a single event.

This is why the CAC Ministries Fair hit it off splendidly on Fiesta Day, November 24. We wanted the CAC to create awareness of what the parish pastoral groups are offering to engage more parishioners to join. The carrot? A whole day of fun, fellowship,

food, and sharing of faith experiences!

After each of the five Sunday Masses on Fiesta Day, the Coffee After Church Fair opened its doors and warmly welcomed Mass goers with free food and beverages, games and prizes, freebies and tokens, and lively interaction between ministry volunteers and curious parishioners. As they were led into the Parish Social Hall, they were immediately taken in by the colorful tarpaulin signs that spoke of the various ministries' concerns and objectives. Some were so attractive, such as the Catechetical, Mustard Seed, and Formation tarpaulins, that they even won special prizes.

Every ministry and organization was represented. Booths offered games and tokens that were relevant to the ministry. Churchgoers were enjoined to actively participate in booths with fun activities like the Pachinco, Steps to Virtue, Bible quizzes, family picture frame, displays of Mass kit, Venetian carnival masks and many more.

The use of the LED screen donated by Pinky and Ambet Antonio projected various video clips from ministries as well as the MTVs of the new parish hymn. A lot of parishioners signed up to join various ministries that will hopefully translate to more active volunteers.

And how the food and drinks flowed. Special thanks to donors of French Baker pastries, donuts from Dunkin Donuts and Mister Donut, hotdogs, corndogs, fish balls, popcorn, water and juices from Asia Brewery, and free-flowing brewed coffee.

But even more enjoyable than the food and fun was the fellowship. Even the Bishop of Cubao, Most Rev. Honesto F. Ongtioco, D.D., could not pry himself away from the booths and tried most of the games. It was a welcome break of fun after the liturgical highs of the 5 P.M. Pontifical Mass.

Coffee After Church Ministry Fair... till the next time.



The prayer experience at Mary's Garden



Fr. Steve and Juan Sajid Imao with CTK parishioners Irene Robles and Mara Manahan



Irene Robles offers prayers and a candle.

Mary's Garden: Where Lighting a Candle Is an Experience of Prayer

by Tessa Mangahas

ONE OF THE EARLY HIGHLIGHTS of the three-month fiesta celebration was the launching of Mary's Garden, a candle area located behind the perpetual adoration chapel, on the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Father Steve Zabala said that the original plan was simply to find a better candle stand for people to light their votive candles. The old one was small and was situated unobtrusively outside the main church. He believed that an improved candle area would also help promote the devotion to Mary.

So a bigger candle stand made of stainless steel was made. But Father Steve still found it too regular-looking with its staircase-like design. He believed that the lighting of candles should go beyond the interaction of wax and steel. He was convinced that lighting of candles should be an experience of prayer.

That was when Father Steve thought of having a garden for the candle area. Gardens always radiate tranquility that leads people to contemplation and prayer. He found the back of the adoration chapel as an ideal location.

Several designs were submitted, including one with enclosed walls. Father Steve envisioned something airy and open to maximize the garden feel. A lot of thought was also put in the design of the candle holders. He chose one that was attached to the wall, arranged

beautifully in perfect geometry. Mary's image was chosen because of the many Marian devotees in the parish. He said that her maternal presence in the garden will be reassuring to those who come to pray and offer their intentions. The image of the Immaculate Conception was chosen because she is the patroness of the Cubao diocese.

He said that multi-awarded sculptor Juan Sajid Imao was top-of-mind when it came to choosing the artist. Father Steve had worked with Imao before when the former undertook the building project of the church of Our Lady of Pentecost in Loyola Heights. Father Steve was confident that Sajid would be able to design a beautiful Mama Mary sculpture. And he did! Steel was the chosen medium so that it would last despite being exposed to the elements. A resin model, however, was installed during the launching since the real sculpture had yet to be finished.

Today, CTK churchgoers automatically gravitate to Mary's Garden each time they come to Mass. And why not? This is a place where they can light a candle and breathe a prayer to their Mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary.

CTK Home Visits: Big on Unity in Small Christian Communities

by Eileen de Leon

SEPTEMBER 8 was a very meaningful day for CTK. On the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Father Steve and the Basic Ecclesial Communities (BEC) launched the CTK Home Visits in coordination with the Legion of Mary (LOM). This would promote the devotion to Christ the King in tandem with the propagation of the devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Since its launch, the image of Christ the King has visited more than a hundred families. Two statues make the rounds of homes for each village, staying for two weeks at a time. Forty families visited monthly for three months resulted to 120 families opening their homes to Christ the King and His Blessed Mother Mary!

I joined Greenmeadows Village coordinators and Legion of Mary representatives when they transferred the images. We started with the Dee family and off we went to the next family bringing freshly baked brownies. We were surprised to see Dulce Barretto opening the gates for us. We said the welcome prayers and soon it was 'kwento' time with Dulce proudly showing us photos of her grandchildren on her iPad. We proceeded to the Ong family to transfer another image to the Supetran family. Their Christmas tree was already up, with her daughter Beth helping to decorate. It surely added a festive glow to the house as we prayed.

All these happened in less than an hour, thanks to the very efficient LOM reps Mila, Precy, Carol, Linda, and Susan. They had just come from the 7 A.M. Mass and embarked immediately on the image transfers, without even a proper breakfast. I immediately texted Tessa Mangahas of the Social Communication ministry to share photos and narratives.

It was touching to note that these ladies were praying with fervor every single time during the transfers. I could feel their dedication and sincerity. And I am sure the same scenario were duplicated in the other villages. I am told that most families are very excited to welcome Christ the King and



Mama Mary in their homes. I am certain that we can cover five hundred homes in ten villages within a year. That's five hundred families praying the devotion to Christ the King. BEC definitely shows that the bond goes beyond prayers and rituals—it extends to sharing stories of grandchildren, enjoying the Christmas décor, and freshly baked brownies. It's all about community. The prayers have started the bond, and I am confident that we will achieve our goal of being one family, one church, one parish!

St. Ignatius Village coordinator Lulay dela Cruz said it well. "Personally, I have gained a lot as a member of a small Christian community. We share our feelings and hopes, we learn to work with different kinds of people, we live in peaceful coexistence despite having different backgrounds. I feel it is the Christian community where the real presence of the Risen Christ is felt and expressed in the light of love.... We are all one in the Body of Christ. It is a unity, a lived reality in the small Christian community."



Run, Walk, Move for Christ the King

by Paul Famador

CTK Zumba: And they all moved in unison for Christ the King!!

PERSISTENCE PAYS. Prayer works wonders. These are the lessons I learned during the recently concluded “Run, Walk, Move for Christ the King” Fun Run held on November 16. Two weeks prior, the success of the event looked bleak with a low registration turnout. But prayers and hard work saved the day. About five hundred persons from ministries, organizations, and random churchgoers showed up for the early Saturday morning activity to either run or walk for 2.5 or five kilometers. Others just went for the Zumba and festivities.

Vince Garcia of Wetshop Events gave the race briefing to the participants. Wetshop also provided volunteer marshalls and race collaterals for free. Emcee Louie Padrinao energized and pumped up the participants. Fitness First Eastwood trainers and Fely Ong led the warm-up and Zumba session.

Then they were off! The security team headed by Eric Imperio from Saint Ignatius made sure that all participants were safe. An ambulance and medics were on standby. Dr. Raymund Lazo of Saint Ignatius and a lay minister was the emergency doctor on duty. We also had MMDA support through the kindness of Barangay Ugong Norte led by Captain Yasi Jorge.

Top finishers received prizes from All Home, Fitness First, Bounty Fresh, Santo Pio Citronella Andas Mosquito Repellent, Clara Olé, and Dermcare. There were also special prizes for the oldest (89 years old) and youngest runners (two years old), the biggest organization (Christian Family Movement), and the biggest family to participate (Cruz family with twelve members). Every finisher received a loot bag with Fitness First Eastwood passes, food products from Clara Olé, Asia Brewery, and Robinsons Supermarket, and a bag tag from CTK’s Stewardship Committee. Recovery snacks of arroz caldo and hardboiled egg were served after participants crossed the finish line. All net proceeds from the CTK Fun Run and Walk will go to Casa de Silencio, a housing project for retired priests of the Cubao diocese.

“The swaying, back and forth, to the right and to the left in unison during the Zumba session, shows how the community can be united beyond worship or liturgical activities. That is because CTK community prays together and plays together,” reflected Father Steve with a bit of humor. Till the next fun run and walk, let’s all continue to run, walk, move, and most of all praise Christ the King!



Fun Run Organizers (l-r) Fely Ong, Elise del Rosario, Bing del Rosario, Fr. Steve Zabala, Paul Famador and Louie Padrinao are all smiles after a successful event.



Fr. Steve and Fely Ong pose with the winners of the 5K run.



Participants get their fill of recovery food arroz caldo and hardboiled eggs after the race.



Louie Laudico, Elise del Rosario, Teenie de Leon, Fred del Rosario, Msgr. Tony Mortillero, Linda Famador, Fr. Steve Zabala, Louie Abando cut the ribbon to open exhibit



Fr. Bong Tupino poses by his photo

Images of Faith: Behind the Scenes of a Photo Exhibit

by Fred del Rosario

NOT MANY POUNCED ON THE IDEA

AT FIRST. Perhaps, the Parish Pastoral officers (PPO) knew it would be daunting to mount a photo exhibit showing forty years of parish history. But being current president of the Camera Club of the Philippines, I had to make a pitch. Fortunately, Father Steve gave his thumbs-up.

Photos came from different sources—Building the Kingdom coffee table book, parishioners’ and ministry photos, CTK’s FB posts, Bing del Rosario and myself. The target: forty photos that will give a glimpse of forty years of CTK.

We started with five hundred photos but not all of them were of good image quality. But pixelated or not, the images told a moment of CTK’s story. I was frustrated at first by the photos being too “class picture-ish.” But I realized that these actually capture togetherness, the faith experience, and the sense of community. Hence, the final criteria for selection: photos should tell a story, have visual impact and good composition, and of acceptable digital quality, meaning high resolution. We decided to divide the photos into five groups depicting the Church, the Priests, the Community, the Faith, and the Youth. From the portfolio, the final forty were chosen.

But another passion posed a challenge. A day before the exhibit launch was another major fiesta undertaking—the concert, Christ in Our Hearts. In between singing, recording, rehearsing, my wife, Anne, and I fixed photos and easels and sticking tape onto the back of forty sintra boards.

But God always sends his angels when you need them most. The morning after the concert, Bing, Anne, Dodo, our handyman Ronnie, and I were on our hands and knees doing some last-minute carpentry work to mount the photos. Finally, at 5 P.M., the CTK Image of Faith Photo Exhibit was successfully launched, the ribbon cut, the collection opened to the community. Now that’s another snapshot of community we will forever keep in our hearts.



Fr. Steve, Bobby Castillo and Angelique Lazo-Mayuga sing "Christ in Our Hearts" with the CTK Grand Choir

The Story of a Song and a Parish Concert

by Tessa Mangahas

I WAS OUTVOTED.

During the initial planning for the parish's 40th anniversary, some bright boy thought of staging a concert. I had humongous misgivings knowing the toil and major coordination it would entail. Some shared my anxieties. But eventually, the majority felt excited by the project. And Father Steve approved.

Then, the "command" to write the parish song from the parish priest. Good soldier and law-abiding citizen that I am, I obeyed. Surprisingly, the lyrics flowed seamlessly in less than a day. Blame that on several parish meetings and focused group discussions. The pulse and soul of the parish were palpable and could not be ignored. It was simply a matter of putting it into words. I shared the lyrics to some friends in the industry—Moy Ortiz of The Company, Ryan Cayabyab, and Angelique Lazo-Mayuga. Since there were no violent reactions, I mustered the confidence to submit the lyrics to Father Steve two days after his command.

Then, the melody. I have tunes running in my head, but I do not read notes. I was told that some parish musical guru that I'd never met was requested to put the music to the lyrics. Dodong Sanchez did that in just a few days. Music and lyrics to tell a forty-year-old story were done in less than a week. Amazing. It was as if the parish was thirsting to tell its story in song. Thus, CTK's official hymn "Christ in Our Hearts" was born.

Then bright boy #2 thought of launching the song in the concert. Yikes. My heart skipped a beat. More work beckoned. Worship Ministry's Leila Banico confirmed

that more of CTK's finest choirs were interested. Everything seemed to be moving in one direction in a frenzied pace.

And so for about seven weeks, the parish's best choir groups—the Cathedral Choir/John Van Steen Choir, CTK's Youth Choir, Tinig Zone 5, Hangad Music Ministry, Novo Concertante, and Servi Domini, together with The Singing Priests practiced on their own. Some members from these groups came together to form a CTK grand choir but was able to practice for only two nights. Musical director Dr. Arwin Tan had to work his magic on those two nights. Concert director Nico Faustino, thrashed out production details with Leila Banico and her CTK team. Servi Domini's Dodong Sanchez, Nonong Sampang, Fred del Rosario, Bobby Castillo, Dr. Arwin Tan, Angelique Lazo-Mayuga, Father Steve and members of the six choirs recorded "Christ in Our Hearts" at the Jesuit Communications Foundation. Anne del Rosario and I cheered them from the sidelines. The fiesta committee heads Bing and Elise del Rosario gave their all-out support.

On November 8, God put it all together. Despite the challenges of being able to practice as an "almost-complete" grand choir only two hours before show time and the usual technical glitches, the show was a resounding success. The congregation's thunderous applause was proof of this, thanks to all of CTK's musical guru.

Continued on page 20



CTK Hymn Group



Cathedral/John Van Steen Choir



CTK Youth Choir



Tinig Zone 5 Choir



The Singing Priests - Fr. Ricky Montañez, Fr. Joel Jason, Fr. Steve Zabala, Fr. Choi Garcia, Fr. Jojo Gatdula



All together now! CTK parishioners and GK residents sing the parish hymn



Msgr. Dan and Fr. Steve celebrate the Eucharist

CTK Gawad Kalinga Marks 10th Anniversary

by Benjie Mirasol

“Transformation is a process, and as life happens, there are tons of ups and downs. It’s a journey of discovery—there are moments on mountaintops and moments in deep valleys of despair.”
(Rick Warren)

Last November 30, CTK officers and a few other PPC heads led by Fr. Steve Zabala and former parish priest Msgr. Dan Sta. Maria visited the CTK Gawad Kalinga Village (CTKGK) in Novaliches to celebrate the tenth anniversary of its establishment.

The day commenced with a Mass officiated by the two parish priests with Monsignor Dan delivering the homily about Gospel version of Luke on bringing glad tidings to the poor. He mentioned how a parish act of generosity brought to life this Gospel message to the event being celebrated that day.

After the Mass was a session of journeying to the past, way before the project concept of building homes was ever considered. It was a time when the community of Sitio 1 was in their deep valleys of despair. It was, after all, the typical story of a cluster of informal settlers in a perplexity of poverty, despondency, and survival. The worries about the day’s meal, where next to get water for washing, the

lack of electricity and clean bathrooms were day-to-day concerns. Imagine the kind of mindset this breeds in fostering greed, desperation, and low self-esteem among those forced to deal with these on a daily basis. Imagine the lure of drugs to help escape this feeling of hopelessness.

The CTKGK community has since moved on and continues to be a work in progress. Their journey is inspiring for those who care to hear their stories.

There’s the story of an initial investment of P10,000 that grew to P400,000 in a small community store. There’s also the story of Juliet Mendoza with six sons who have all graduated with honors from top universities—one taking a masters degree in Belgium. There’s the story of Ronnel Paz who joined the Madrigal Singers to tour abroad.

There are many other students who have excelled all because they were allowed to be live in a safe, nurturing community where day-to-day survival is no longer an issue.

Now they are a grateful community for the blessing they have been given. And it is this sense of gratitude that drives them to be the best transformed version of themselves.



The beeline for candy and other treats begins



GK moms render a dance number



The classic trip to Jerusalem

Parish Youth Day

by **Teenie de Leon**

THIS YEAR'S YOUTH FIESTA kick-off was extra special as it coincided with the culmination of the Year of the Youth. Thus, the title represented the gathering of all youth orgs in the parish: CTK Days with The Lord, CTK Knights, PReX Youth, and the Young Catholic Professionals. As envisioned, the event was similar to a fair. Each youth org had a table with games, exhibits, and other interactive activities. These encouraged the youth participants to join their orgs. Fr. Steve Zabala also played with the young parishioners. They enjoyed taking pictures, playing board games, and accomplishing challenges with the parish priest. Father Steve might look intimidating with his height and seniority, but spending leisure time with him proved otherwise. The youth definitely felt the parish was a welcoming and accepting community.

This was reflected in the Freedom Wall. Two questions were posted: What do you love about Christ The King Parish? And what will you do to make CTK a Parish for Others? Among the many positive and inspiring answers, one wrote, "I love CTK because it brings people together through the Lord!" Another wrote, "I love CTK because it is open to everyone who wants to be a part of it." Yet another said, "I love the community that supports and accepts you for who you are."

Of course, any youth event would not be complete without games. The icebreaker and getting-to-know-you activities took away the awkwardness among the young. And to

inspire the next generation of parishioners, speakers were invited. Kritzia Santos of YCP encouraged all to pray to God always, and love and serve His people. With His grace, you can overcome your weakness and do what scares you. Older parishioners, Bet Montecillo, Bing Del Rosario, and Fely Ong shared their own experiences in serving the parish.

As a response, the youth ministry heads declare:

We, the youth of Christ the King Parish Greenmeadows, hereby accept the forty years' worth of legacy established by our pioneer parishioners. Through the values of compassion and service, we commit ourselves to continue to be faithful and trustworthy stewards. We accept the challenge of being leaders in our community, formed in the Word and the Eucharist, to give witness to God's love and evangelize.

We hope to let the legacy of those who made the parish what it is today, live on. We dream to continue making CTK parish 'a parish for others' in the many years to come. Aside from nurturing the community within, we also aspire for greater practice of charity; to include more marginalized people, to help the poor and disadvantaged, and to strengthen the faith among our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Truly, Christ is Our King and He reigns forever in our hearts.



Continued from page 17



Novo Concertante



Hangad Music Ministry



Servi Domini

I had initially planned to write a book to celebrate my thirty years of ministry. I am, after all a writer, not a lyricist albeit a music lover, but mostly rock. My only claim to musical fame was a recital as a ten-year old at St. Scholastica's College's music hall playing on a grand piano, the classic "Old McDonald had a farm."

But again, God had other plans. He is after all, Christ the King.

So, for the first time in my thirty-year ministry, I am glad I was outvoted that evening in July.

His ways are mysterious indeed.

Now looking back, I realize I was outvoted by the most important "One Vote" of the universe.

Congratulations CTK for a successful *Christ in Our Hearts* concert!

A Feast Fit for the King

by Bing del Rosario

TRUE TO TRADITION AND BEING FILIPINO, the Fiesta Thanksgiving Dinner was one exceedingly happy affair.

CTK parish held its fiesta dinner on November 23, the eve of the Solemnity of Christ the King. Doing away with the tedious and time-consuming registration lines, the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) gave out tickets to ministries and organizations early so that everyone would have more time to enjoy the affair.

In his opening prayer, Fr. Steve Zabala thanked parish supporters—his fellow priests, PPC, lectors and commentators, greeters and collectors, extraordinary ministers of holy communion (EMHC), altar servers, choirs, village coordinators, barangay and homeowners' associations officers, the parish staff, and everyone present for their work and dedication during the past year.

As people entered, their attention was quickly captured by the images and videos of CTK@40 activities being projected on the giant LED screen, its use donated for the occasion by Abet and Pinky Antonio. Another eye-catching sight were the banderitas and the colorful and creatively designed tarpaulins of the twenty-five various ministries that were hung all across the parish social hall. Of course, the spread by Chef Jessie Sincioco was impeccably delicious as usual.

The emcee, Bing del Rosario, who headed the Fiesta Committee 2019 with his wife, Elise, then recounted the activities pertaining to the fiesta that had started since September 1. Bing also filled in the guests on the poignant yet lively Clergy Homecoming that had taken place two hours earlier.

The musical numbers followed. The CTK Youth performed a well-applauded dance number. Then came the Fitness First Zumba instructor who lead a short line dance, which was the signal for



Mustard Seed and Youth Ministries render a dance number. Mustard Seed also won one of awards for most creative tarpaulin.

more female participants to come forward and move to the groove. Soon, there were several groups—the Ladies of Charity, Buklod ng Panginoon, parish staff, Mustard Seed and Youth—scattered around the room dancing to their hearts' content!

Father Steve, Fr. Ricky Montañez and Fr. Jojo Gatdula then went around to choose the top three tarpaulin posters based on creativity, layout, messaging, and wow factor. After an extensive huddle, Father Steve announced the winners: Mustard Seed Ministry, Formation Ministry, and the overall best, Catechetical Ministry.

Other musical numbers proved that CTK volunteers got talent! Members of Servi Domini including PPO Secretary Fred del Rosario and EMHC Assistant Coordinator Manny de Leon sang, as well as Father Ricky who also enthralled the audience with his vocal prowess. And for the finale, Father Steve (despite a throat infection) led the singing of CTK's hymn, "Christ in Our Hearts." As guests streamed out of the venue, Father Steve and some dance-a-holics capped the night with more Zumba dancing!

It was a happy fiesta fit for celebrating Christ as our King!



Kariton ni Kiko Goes to CTK

by Bing del Rosario

All together for Kariton ni Kiko

KARITON NI KIKO (KnK) is a Cubao Diocese initiative to symbolize its concrete effort to support social programs, especially those that relate to “buhay,” representing the human person’s fundamental right to life, and “bahay,” representing the person’s basic need of shelter. “Kiko” refers to the two inspirations—Pope Francis and Saint Francis of Assisi, both advocates of going to the periphery, living with the poor, and smelling like the sheep. For forty-seven weeks, the pushcart moved from parish to parish, a week at a time, within the Cubao Diocese. It was pushed by no less than the parish priests themselves during the early hours of Saturdays.

Last September 7, CTK’s Fr. Steve Zabala, Fr. Larry Garces of San Roque Parish (where the Kariton ni Kiko had just come from), and Fr. Robert Reyes, parish priest of San Isidro Labrador Parish and originator of the Kariton idea, pushed it from the Jollibee restaurant at the corner of Greenmeadows Avenue and C5. After a welcome Mass, Father Steve wheeled the Kariton to the Parish Formation Center where the Legion of Mary had set up for

their 2000 Hail Marys.

At 5 A.M. on September 9, Saturday, Father Steve and the CTK entourage pushed KnK to the Barangay Libis community center despite a downpour. Mass followed where the barangay captain and her kagawads attended. The kariton stayed there until September 12, when it was moved to St. Ignatius Village chapel, and the next day, to White Plains Chapel. On September 14, Father Steve helped push the Kariton all the way to Our Lady of Miraculous Medal Parish in Project 4 for its next stop, together with parish priest Fr. Nelson Orqueta and Fr. Robert Reyes.

Among the touching moments in the KnK visit was the interaction of Father Steve and CTK parish pastoral council members with the “reformists” at Libis and the villagers-kasambahay activities. The inspiring stories of hope and rehabilitation and the pre-Christmas sharing of the kasambahays and the villages showed that God’s love is inclusive and for all.



With a little help from the CTK community



Fr. Steve and CTK push Kariton ni Kiko to Libis community

Continued from page 1

as the light of the Christ was passed on from the forerunners to the young.

WE CELEBRATE

We celebrated a bountiful harvest of confirmands and communicants in our Kumpilang Bayan and First Communion. The Vatican also gave CTK a special papal blessing and plenary indulgence for all faithful that visit CTK church until December 31.

But what was touching is the way the community celebrated beyond the sacramentals. We bonded as a community. I was impressed by the turnout at the Fun Run and the nonstop throng of people in the Coffee After Church Ministry Fair. These events showed that beyond rituals and prayers, there is a sense of fun, fellowship, and community that weaves us all together.

We also discovered that our fellowship can be translated into song. We launched our very own parish hymn, "Christ in Our Hearts" in November. Hearing the entire congregation sing the verses and refrain with gusto is a veritable goosebump moment. Why? Because in one voice, you were all singing your story.

WE BELIEVE

We launched several things that would seal our bond as a parish and strengthen our Catholic faith. In the Home Visits of the CTK

Image, smaller communities are joined in prayer to Christ the King and the Blessed Virgin Mary. To mark Mary's Nativity, we opened Mary's Garden that will promote the devotion to the Blessed Mother. No less than Manila archbishop, Cardinal Chito Tagle, led our 40th anniversary recollection to show us how we can find Christ the King amidst the din of our present lives.

But what is utterly inspiring is that this community clearly believes its character as a "parish for others." We see this in the sparkle in the eyes of people the parishioners visited and helped—the persons deprived of liberty, the *lolas* of Lingap, the sick, the poor, the unschooled, the residents of Gawad Kalinga Zabarte, the newly empowered individuals that were taught livelihood opportunities, and of course, the youth.

So why do I feel that I am still on a high even after the three-month celebration?

This is because the celebration has not ended. In my heart, I know that Christ the King community will continue its mission to be a "parish for others" in the years to come.

We continue to remember.

We continue to celebrate.

We continue to believe, way beyond our 40 years.

Happy 40th Fiesta to all!

Thank You

CTK 40
A PARISH FOR OTHERS

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DEPOT

2019 Advent & Christmas

Schedule of Activities

Advent Season

- Nov 30 | First Sunday of Advent**
Blessing of Advent Wreath and Lighting of the First Advent Candle
6PM/7:30PM, Main Church
- Dec 1 | First Sunday of Advent**
Regular Sunday Mass Schedule
Lighting of the First Advent Candle
- Dec 7 | Parish Advent Recollection**
10AM, Divine Mercy Chapel
Facilitator: Fr. Emmanuel L. Cruz
- Dec 7 & 8 | Second Sunday of Advent**
Regular Sunday Mass Schedule
Lighting of the Second Advent Candle
- Dec 9 | Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**
Masses at 6AM/7AM/12NN/6PM/7:30PM, Main Church
- Dec 14 & 15 | Third Sunday of Advent**
Regular Sunday Mass Schedule
Lighting of the Third Advent Candle
- Dec 15-23 | Evening Simbang Gabi**
8:00PM, Main Church
- Dec 21&22 | Fourth Sunday of Advent**
Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle

Christmas Season

- Dec 24 | Vigil Mass for Christmas**
Blessing of the Belen
Veneration of the Image of Baby Jesus
Masses at 6PM/8PM/10PM,
Main Church
- Dec 25 | Christmas Day**
Regular Sunday Mass Schedule
No 6AM mass
Veneration of the Image of Baby Jesus
- Dec 28 | Feast of the Holy Innocents, Martyrs**
Regular Saturday Mass Schedule
- Dec 29 | Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph**
Regular Sunday Mass Schedule
- Dec 31 | Vigil Mass for New Year & Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**
Masses at 7PM and 9PM,
Main Church
- Jan 1 | Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, New Year's Day**
Regular Sunday Mass Schedule
No 6AM mass
- Jan 4&5 | Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord**
Regular Sunday Mass Schedule
- Jan 11&12 | Feast of the Lord's Baptism**
Regular Daily Mass Schedule
End of Christmas Season

Evening Simbang Gabi
Dec 15-23, 8PM, Main Church

Morning Simbang Gabi
Dec 16-24, 5AM, Main Church

No 6AM mass on Dec 16-25 & Jan 1

Jan 2, 2020
Resumption of Regular Daily Mass
Schedule