



THE HERALD

CHRIST THE KING PARISH • GREENMEADOWS

FATHER'S HEART TODAY



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THE S.U.R.G.E. OF 2020

Fr. Steven Zabala — Parish Priest

It has been a year like no other. Same time, last year, our parish was riding high on the crest of a just-concluded 40th parish fiesta. We had also launched our Casa Setenta and were excitedly counting down to achieve astounding donation targets. Life was pretty much structured, our goals defined, our plans down pat.

But that all changed when the pandemic struck. More than nine months into the multi-level quarantine triggered by the crisis, and in the middle of a traditionally festive Christmas season, we're caught up in different kinds of "surges" in our lives. While some fear the surge of infection especially during this season, I am blessed to witness the relentless surge of the CTK parish community.

The community is continually experiencing the *surge of spirituality*.

The crisis has brought us to our knees. Despite government restrictions, faith has flourished in the community. Even with physical distancing, age limitations, health declarations, face masks and shields, we continue to fervently pray together. I witnessed how wave after wave of residents knelt on hard concrete as I raised the Blessed Sacrament during our village blessings. I was there during one virtual praying of the Rosary when Zoom limits were breached because of the number of participants. Even Fr. Arvie Bello and Fr. Bong Tupino

were able to join. We continue to celebrate our sacraments even if we have to modify some practices, such as we did during our Kumpilang Bayan. My heart is full when I see more people join our Masses not only in the main church, but also online. I am told that our Facebook Mass attendance has grown by leaps and bounds. This proves that our spirituality is a journey, unimpeded even by the pandemic. We continue to pray and have faith. The need to connect to God is greater now more than ever.

In this parish, I also felt the intense *surge of urgency*.

During the first days of Oplan Covid, which we launched in March just after the lockdown, I was overwhelmed by the sense of urgency shown by this community. I would send an appeal on behalf of Libis community or frontliners late at night, and would be overwhelmed by the response when I wake up the next day. Oftentimes, the response would exceed the original request. People here know that timing is just as crucial as helping. Lives are on the line. The pandemic has made us realize the fragility of life. There is simply no time to waste.

Then again, day after day, I see this unraveling, the *surge of responsiveness*.

Staying connected when movement is restricted

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has become doubly challenging. Our online Masses were set up under lockdown with a team that had no previous broadcast background. Catechetical and other formation talks were painstakingly organized virtually. The youth has conducted a slew of online meetups. Even our Pre-Cana has continued via Zoom. No choir allowed? No problem! Father Ricky, Father Jojo, and I will gladly sing for you! Not to be outdone in having fun, our parish fiesta switched to jovial mode via Kumustahan and Christ in Our Hearts Concert-Rewind. From the parish staff to ministries, everyone just spontaneously stepped up to the plate.

A parish for others, we keep experiencing the *surge of goodness*. Even with Casa Setenta paused, someone donates a hefty amount. Even if the effects of this crisis have wreaked havoc on parish finances, Oplan Covid and Greenmeadows outreach efforts have raked in millions in cash and kind for the needy and those at the frontlines. Here, the term *ayuda* means more than just a doleout. It is synonymous to a commitment to care. Even with the inconvenience of observing health protocols, the community is patient, mindful that little sacrifices can save lives. Even with slashed pay, the parish staff serves with diligence and *malasakit*. Goodness manifests in many forms and faces, and I see this every single day.

And finally, we are constantly comforted by the *surge of encouragement*. Many have lost loved ones. Many have lost livelihood. Many feel alone, desperate. We are confronted by the reality of our mortality like never before. But we strive to be always here for one another. In one of the talks organized by our Public Affairs Ministry, we are reminded of the need to be sensitive to another person's struggles. We listen to each other's silent

scream for help and try to bring solace. Even Bishop Raul Martirez has reached out to send his comforting messages to the community.

Spirituality. Urgency. Responsiveness. Goodness. Encouragement. S.U.R.G.E.

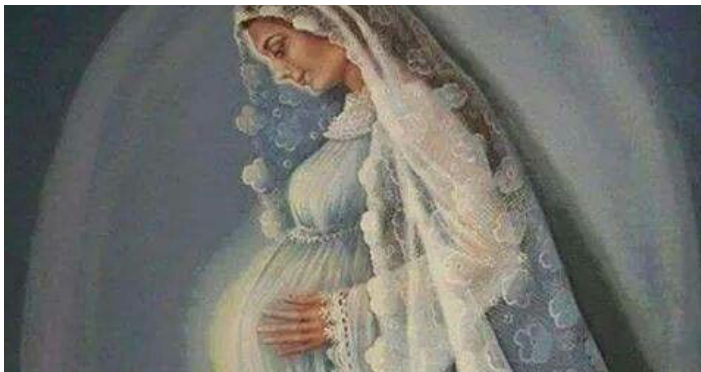
This pandemic is beyond our comprehension. It has all the more emphasized that we are not in control, but that God is. And rather than break our spirit, we embrace surge after surge that this pandemic brings. We ask God to use our hands, our minds, our bodies, and our hearts—our entire being to help the world get through this crisis. We are a stewardship parish after all. This pandemic may impact us, but it will not define us. Instead, we will allow our community's surge to make us better people and better Christians.

I feel blessed to be part of this community's S.U.R.G.E. As we face the New Year, we derive inspiration and hope from the words of the prophet Jeremiah:

“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you.”

A blessed Christmas and a safe New Year to all!

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NATIVITY, NOT CAPTIVITY

By Angelica Vilorio

This December, we will be nine months in captivity—as the country locked down in March to prevent the spread of the virus given the COVID-19 pandemic. If you think about it, it's like accompanying Mary and Joseph through Mary's nine months of pregnancy till the birth of Jesus this Christmas.

With all the negative developments, disease, death, and calamities in the year 2020, we might find ourselves asking. “*Tuloy pa ba ang Pasko?*”

This year is a time to rethink and reimagine our Christmas celebrations and traditions. If one reflects about it, you will remember that the first Christmas was not an easy one. A woman experiencing labor pains, about to give birth, finds no room at the inn. A manger, surrounded, by animals, is not the ideal place

to give birth to a child. No, the first Christmas was not a pretty sight. Amidst the darkness and difficulty, God sets His plan for the salvation of all in motion—powered by His great love for us.

On this Stewardship Sunday, pray and reflect on the following points:

1. A pregnant woman like Mary goes through many physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual changes. What changes have you noticed in yourself over the past nine months?
2. How can you bring light, hope, and love to those who may be suffering this Christmas season?
3. How can you bring forth Jesus this Christmas? What will you give birth to this December? What will your thoughts and actions in the past nine months lead to this Christmas?

Let us say a prayer for those who are suffering this Christmas season—for those who are sick, for those who have lost loved ones, for those affected by recent calamities, for those who have lost their means of livelihood. Let us find a way to reach out to and assist them so that they can feel the coming of Christ through us. Let us do an act of charity for someone in need. We may share our time, talent, and treasure to uplift someone's spirit.

Let us celebrate Christmas meaningfully.

Christmas is about the love, joy, and hope that no darkness or difficulty can ever dim.

Let us look to Emmanuel—God is with us.

May the peace and light that Christ brings be with us and our families this Christmas and always.

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PARISH YOUTH DAY GOES ONLINE

By Teenie De Leon

The Youth Ministry had planned to change the platform of the annual Parish Youth Day since June. Though it was the first time to be online, the members of the core team accepted the challenge. There was neither food catering nor nice decors. Everything was virtual—from the registration, ice breaker, prayers and worship, inspirational talk, small group sharing, and games.

To break the awkwardness in meeting new people, Ryle Relloso prepared a few questions for the participants. He stated his name, organizations he belonged to in CTK, reason for coming back to the YM, *ulam* for tonight, and his favorite song. Several people followed his lead and openly shared a few things about themselves.

Music and prayer go well together in any youth activity so Mikee Malixi led the intentions dedicated for key groups highly affected by the pandemic: students, teachers, young professionals, families, and health care workers, and other frontliners. Church and worship songs were intertwined with the beautifully written prayers that touched the hearts of all.

The guest speaker was Carmela Maniego, a young employee with a few online businesses and designs

commissioned invitations. She talked about her story, entitled “Only By Grace.” She shared that her life was brought about by the grace of God, and she feels compelled to give back all the talents and skills she has to bring glory to God. She inspired the youth to keep the faith, even when hard times are always there. She encouraged them to find their “why,” and to remind themselves of those reasons when they push on with life.

Carmela also gave guide questions for the small group sharing afterwards. The participants broke out in groups of four to five in order to have more time for interaction. They shared their answers to the questions and, in turn, learned from the beliefs and experiences of others.

Of course, no youth day would be complete without some fun and games. There were two rounds: a team quiz and an individual game. The same breakout groups worked together to answer trivia on the Church, the Bible, and current events. Participants became more competitive when they played solo in Bring Me with a Twist.

The afternoon proved that a three-hour program online was possible with the youth. It turned out to be a fun, engaging, and insightful Parish Youth Day, after all. •



2020 SCHEDULE OF MASSES



ADVENT SEASON



Nov 28 | 29

First Sunday of Advent

28 Nov: 6pm Blessing of the Advent Wreath
29 Nov: 7 AM | 10 AM | 5 PM
Online seat reservation only
Prayer for the Lighting of the 1st Advent Candle in all Masses

Dec 5 | 6

Second Sunday of Advent

5 Dec: 6 PM
6 Dec: 7 AM | 10 AM | 5 PM
Online seat reservation only
Prayer for the Lighting of the 2nd Advent Candle in all masses

Dec 8

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

7 AM | 12 NN | 6 PM
First come, first served

Dec 12 | 13

Third Sunday of Advent | Gaudete Sunday

12 Dec: 6 PM
13 Dec: 7 AM | 10 AM | 5 PM
Online seat reservation only
Prayer for the Lighting of the 3rd Advent Candle in all masses

Dec 15-23

Evening Simbang Gabi, 6pm

Mon to Fri: First come, first served
19 Dec | Sat: Online seat reservation only
20 Dec | Sun: Online seat reservation only
no 5 PM mass on Dec 20

Dec 16-24

Morning Simbang Gabi, 5 AM

Mon to Sat: First come, first served
20 Dec | Sun: Online seat reservation only

Dec 19 | 20

Fourth Sunday of Advent

19 Dec: *6 PM
20 Dec: *5 AM | 7 AM | 10 AM | *6 PM
*Simbang Gabi Masses
Prayer for the Lighting of the 4th Advent Candle in all Masses

Dec 24

5 AM * | 7 AM

*Simbang Gabi masses
First come, first served



CHRISTMAS SEASON

Dec 24

Vigil Mass of the Nativity of the Lord

Christmas Eve
5 PM | 7 PM
Online seat reservation only
Blessing of the Belen in all Masses, no 6 PM mass

Dec 25

Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord

Christmas Day
7 AM | 10 AM | 5 PM
Online seat reservation only, no 6 PM Mass

Dec 26 | 27

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus

26 Dec: 6 PM
27 Dec: 7 AM | 10 AM | 5 PM
Online seat reservation only

Dec 31

7 AM | First come, first served

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
New Year's Eve
6 PM | Online seat reservation only

Jan 1

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

New Year's Day
7 AM | 10 AM | 5 PM
Online seat reservation only no 6pm mass

Jan 2 | 3

Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

2 Jan: 6 PM
3 Jan: 7 AM | 10 AM | 5 PM
Online seat reservation only

Jan 9 | 10

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

9 Jan: 6 PM
10 Jan: 7 AM | 10 AM | 5 PM
Online seat reservation only
End of Christmas Season

All weekday Masses at 7 am and 6 PM are continued on days not mentioned in the above schedule.

All Masses are public and live-streamed via CTK Facebook @CTKPGreenmeadows.

Public Mass health protocols:

- Maximum seating capacity of 196 per Mass;
- Allowed age range of 18 to 65 years old only.

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A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM **BISHOP RAUL MARTINEZ**

Our English word *advent* comes from the Latin word *adventus*, which means “coming.” And so when we celebrate Advent, naturally the question is, “What is coming?” Or, “Who is coming?” Our reply to that is very simple. As we know, “What is coming” is Christmas. Do we realize what Christmas really means? Who is coming? Our reply is, Jesus the Messiah. But again a deeper question we ask ourselves is, who is Jesus to me? Who is He to each and every one of us?

There is a corresponding attitude to the word *coming*. And that is waiting, expecting. If we are therefore waiting for a celebration, who are we waiting for? And this is the important thing. Are we prepared to celebrate Christmas? Christmas is not just Santa Claus, the Christmas tree, and Christmas décors. It is the commemoration of the coming of Jesus, the Son of God, born as a baby of the Virgin Mary in Bethlehem in order to redeem us. So let's reflect on our relationship to Him.

There is a beautiful tradition among the Irish people. When Advent comes, they always have a candle by their windows. It is as if they are sending a message to Mary and Joseph: “Come, there is room for you in this house.” There is a parallel to this among Filipinos. It is our *parol*. But how many Filipinos who hang a *parol* in their homes really understand what it means? How many of them realize that their *parol* is sending a message to Joseph and Mary? “Joseph and Mary, please come in. There is a room here where Jesus may be born.”

So as we prepare to celebrate this season of Advent, waiting for and expecting our Lord, let us now ask Him:

God our loving Father, look down with love and mercy upon your children as we bless You, we praise You, and thank You for all the graces and blessings that You have showered upon us. Continue to abide with us that we may prepare duly for the coming of our Lord and Savior.

Merry Christmas, my dear sisters and brothers. I love you all! •





Presiders of CTK Novena Masses, Nov. 13-21

Top, L-R: Fr. Steven Zabala, Fr. Larry Garces, Fr. Aytay Opiniano
 Middle, L-R: Msgr. Dan Sta. Maria, Fr. Ricky Montañez, Fr. Herbie Santos
 Bottom, L-R: Fr. Raymond Arre, Fr. Ron Roberto, Fr. Jose Tupino III

WHISPERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

By Leila Banico

When the pandemic struck during the Lenten season, we struggled on how to cope with our worship activities. But slowly, things got settled. Ideas just came flashing and truly, it is the voice of the Holy Spirit, guiding us all the way.

Our 41st CTK Fiesta Celebration is truly memorable, the grandeur illumined by its essence & simplicity.

Like the usual, Novena Masses were held. The overall Fiesta theme is CTK 41: Count on CTK, with the 9C's as sub-theme for each day: Community, Consolation, Collaboration, Continuity, Charity, Connectivity, Cooperation, Clergy, Christ.

The guest priests who graced our Novena Masses, from November 13 to 21 were: Fr. Larry Garces, Fr. Aytay Opiniano, Msgr. Dan Sta. Maria, Fr. Herbie Santos, Fr. Raymond Arre, Fr. Ron Roberto, Fr. Jose Tupino III with Father Steve Zabala, and Father Ricky Montañez taking the first and fifth Novena days.

The various villages took part as community Mass sponsor, minus the usual offertory procession, and our lay liturgical ministers, LeComs and EMHC, were dutifully present to assist the presiders.

It was the first time CTK Novena Masses being live-streamed via CTK Facebook with our "tech-skilled"



sacristans Noel, John, Jay, and Eugene managing the production side and our CTK clergy, Father Steve, Father Ricky, and Father Jojo, as our choir in all our Masses.

On our Feast Day, November 22, our beloved bishop of the Diocese of Cubao, Bp. Nes Ongtioco, presided the 10 AM Mass, hyping up further everyone's enthusiasm.

Our Fiesta celebration culminated with the Holy Hour at 4 PM, presided by Father Steve with the support from the Apostleship of Prayer, followed by the 5 PM Fiesta Mass with Father Steve and Father Ricky,

gathering the biggest public Mass attendance since we opened to public worship.

As we entered our new liturgical calendar with the Advent Season, we remain attentive to the whispers of the Holy Spirit to lead us to what we are eagerly waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus.

No event will be missed in our worship calendar as we celebrate in the church and online our morning and evening Simbang Gabi, Masses on eve of Christmas, Christmas day, New Year's Eve and New Year's day! •



Fiesta Mass

SIMBANG GABI MASSES

EVENING SIMBANG GABI, 6 PM, MAIN CHURCH

Dec 15 / Fr. James Gascon
Sponsor: Acropolis

Dec 16 / Fr. Ricky Montañez
Sponsor: Arcadia

Dec 17 / Fr. Herbie Santos
Sponsor: Corinthian Gardens / Greenwich

Dec 18 / Fr. Ricky Montañez
Sponsor: Corinthian Hills

Dec 19 / Fr. Jojo Gatdula
Sponsor: Enclave / Ivory Court /
St. Pedro Poveda College

Dec 20 / Fr. Steven Zabala
Sponsor: Greenmeadows

Dec 21 / Fr. Jojo Gatdula
Sponsor: Libis

Dec 22 / Fr. Ricky Montañez
Sponsor: St. Ignatius Village

Dec 23 / Fr. Steven Zabala
Sponsor: White Plains

MORNING SIMBANG GABI, 5 AM, MAIN CHURCH

Dec 16 / Fr. Steve Zabala
Sponsor: LoC / Catechetical / Stewardship

Dec 17 / Fr. Jojo Gatdula
Sponsor: CWI / KoC / LeCom

Dec 18 / Fr. Herbie Santos
Sponsor: LoM / BnP / Urban Poor

Dec 19 / Fr. James Gascon
Sponsor: MBMG / Formation / Public Affairs

Dec 20 / Fr. Jojo Gatdula
Sponsor: DKPG / EMHC / Mustard Seed

Dec 21 / Fr. Ricky Montañez
Sponsor: AP / ANF / Music

Dec 22 / Fr. Steven Zabala
Sponsor: CFC / FLM / SoCom

Dec 23 / Bp. Nes Ongtioco
Sponsor: LSS / Sunrise / Vocation

Dec 24 / Fr. Ricky Montañez
Sponsor: CFM / YCP / Youth

All masses are also live-streamed via CTK Facebook

WHO IS COUNTING ON WHOM?

A reflection by Fely Ong on Bishop Pablo David's recollection

- 1. God is not found in the most beautiful carvings of wood and stones or artifacts.** Bishop Pablo "Ambo" David shared the story of a Spanish man who wanted to buy an image of Christ Jesus from a store selling religious items. He asked the store owner for the most unique, beautiful, and realistic image of Christ among the precious stones and antique wooden items. What struck me was the response of the owner: the real and authentic Christ can only be found among the ordinary people in the street, the children playing in the alleys, families living in the elevated expressways, the beggars, the sick, the downtrodden, the hungry, and the unemployed wondering aimlessly in the peripheries.
- 2. To be a true Christian is to love and be merciful even to the unlovable sinners and criminals.** No one is inherently born bad. It's the circumstances of their existence and the social environment that turn them to be such.
- 3. The crucifix doesn't symbolize suffering.** It primarily symbolizes love—love that is willing to suffer for others. Love has two dimensions.
The horizontal line reminds us about love for others (our relationship with humankind), and the vertical line reminds us of our love for God (our relationship with our Lord). •



CHRIST THE KING: COUNTING ON US IN THIS TIME OF PANDEMIC

By Bet Montecillo

At our fiesta recollection facilitated by Bishop Pablo “Ambo” David last November 14 his insights led me towards a deeper meaning of the kingship of Jesus Christ. Inasmuch as my understanding of Christ as King is more than the popular image of Christ who is crowned and with a scepter, Bishop Ambo added to my perceptions by moving my focus more towards the Crucified Christ upon whose cross is expressed a deeper concept of unconditional love... love of God (vertical stance of the cross) and neighbor as oneself (horizontal stance).

The Jesus haters named him with a plate of wood whereupon was written, “INRI”—Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews. We know now that the kingdom He spoke of is the kingdom in the here and now, a kingdom where selflessness reigns, where the image of the strong is radically stripped to that of a servant. The parables of Jesus are replete with this servanthood. As He preached, He turned upside down the people’s perception of a leader.

His words, which he constantly turned into action gave a different meaning to salvation. Jesus, from His early ministry believed in inclusivity. We all belong to the Father. His encompassing prayer which He taught His disciples resounded to what Bishop Ambo perceives as Jesus’ “vision and mission” and taught them (and us) “to live on earth in such a way that

people can say heaven has indeed begun already.”

Yes, we all seek and long for Christ to be King of our hearts and of our lives. At times, we get despondent for He seems so far.

Bishop Ambo shared a most touching poem by Dolores Mistral, a Nobel Prize winner for literature. Here is the last segment of the poetry aptly translated in Filipino: *“Ang imahen ni Kristo ay huwag hanapin sa mga museo. Hindi mo siya matatagpuan sa mga estatwa, sa mga altar at templo. Hindi sa prusisyon masusunan and mga yapak ng Nazareno. Huwag mo siyang hanapin sa kahoy o sa bronse, sa bato o sa eskayola. Mas mabuting hanapin mo siya sa mga dukha—sila and mga imahen niyang laman at dugo.”*

This is not a call for a paradigm shift. This clearly calls for us all to continue our pursuits of charity during this pandemic crisis.. and beyond.

•



Christ the King, Counting on Us Amid the Pandemic Crisis

Fiesta Recollection

Bp. Virgilio Pablo “Ambo” David
Diocese of Kalookan



November 14, 2020 | 7:00pm
Live-streamed via CTK FB



ACROPOLIS GREENS SUBDIVISION: VILLAGE BLESSING

By May Nitorredo

Despite the lapse of nine months since March, otherwise considered as the start of the covid 19 pandemic, many Filipinos are still hesitant to go out of their houses, even to go to public places like the church where they definitely can find solace or comfort against all the negative narratives in the news about COVID-19.

As far as we know, the faithful desire to hear Mass live again but are petrified because of the several outbreaks of COVID that continue to be reported not only nationwide, but worldwide. Is there any doubt that COVID cases are starting to go up again?

So when we heard of the plans of Fr. Steve Zabala, parish priest of Christ the King Church (CTK), to bring to the people and the various subdivisions under the aegis of CTK the Blessed Sacrament, we felt ambivalent about it.

We were ecstatic because bringing the Blessed Sacrament to the people is something extraordinary. Only something like the pandemic can make it into a possibility. More importantly, the faithful, most especially those who have stayed put in their houses, would get to experience such moment of grace and blessing.

Apprehensive because it would be the first time and it was difficult to imagine how the people would react. Will they brave it and decide to wake up early and stay under the morning sun in order to witness the ceremony? Also, it has been reputed, albeit unofficial, that in Acropolis, unlike in other subdivisions where Roman Catholics outnumber non-Catholics, the ratio is said to be 50-50 (Roman Catholic vs. non-Catholic).

So one month before the appointed Saturday, November 21, we applied for and fortunately obtained the approval of both the Acropolis Homeowner's Association and Barangay Bagumbayan to hold the Village Blessing. During the two-week period prior to November 21, messages on Viber and posts on Facebook were sent, as well as letters distributed to all houses. It was simply impossible to predict the outcome,

what will happen, how the residents will react.

What transpired during the procession of the Blessed Sacrament was a beautiful sight to behold. The turnout was a delight to see. Families, drivers, and kasambahays came out to welcome the Blessed Sacrament and Father Steve. Even non-Catholics, whether out of curiosity or otherwise, ventured out and waved their handkerchiefs as well. Some knelt and prayed as the Blessed Sacrament passed them by and there was visible joy on faces that awaited outside their homes. The people were a picture of humility, smiling and happy at the sight of the Blessed Sacrament.

For sure it was also a humbling and arduous task for Father Steve to bring the Blessed Sacrament to bless the homes and the residents. We venture to say that the Lord's presence in the Blessed Sacrament was much needed by the people, most especially during this pandemic, if only for the opportunity for adoration and thanksgiving it offered everyone.

We would like to thank Father Steve for his patience and sense of duty. But more importantly, we marvel at his forbearing attitude, uncomplaining as he carried on with his task under the heat of the morning sun.

Not surprisingly, we got requests that blessing the village with the Blessed Sacrament should be held more often or, at the very least, once a year. *Donec iterum* (till next time then)!

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VILLAGE BLESSINGS WITH THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

“The amazing thing about God is that He meets us where we are, even in the midst of our daily activities.”

Fely Ong (*Greenmeadows*)

“It was most touching to witness our parishioners honor, love, adore and welcome the Blessed Sacrament with glee, as we knelt on the street.”

Fe Flores (*Arcadia*)

“Thank you, CTK, and Father Steve for the blessing of Arcadia homes and residents. Father Steve most graciously made two rounds of blessings and the residents were very grateful. It was such a comforting feeling to be blessed.”

Sandra Abad Santos (*Corinthian Gardens*)

“Weather was forecast to be rainy, but save for a little drizzle, the blessing and exposition of the Blessed Sacrament went very smoothly. Thanks to the prayer warriors! Our residents came out and patiently waited for Father Steve as the Blessed Sacrament passed by their homes. Procession took about three hours and everyone had the opportunity to pray and revere God’s Holy Presence! Thank you, Father Steve! We miss the Blessed Sacrament so much! It was no small feat to raise the monstrance for so long. We are thankful that we have a parish priest with strong muscles.”



Lulay dela Cruz (*St. Ignatius Village*)

“It was a holy day in our village. Joy and excitement was at every corner of the blessing as the Blessed Sacrament was raised by Fr. Steve. Along the route, we witnessed people of faith fervently praying to Christ the King. The places where He passes, He blesses. I will extol thee, my God and King!”

Melanie Aquino (*White Plains*)

“Typhoon Ulysses forced a reschedule of the Blessed Sacrament’s visit to our place. But when the day finally came, the sun was shining brightly, the air made pure by the passing storm. White handkerchiefs were ready to be waved, white banderitas shared, and treasured Christ the King banners were hung out or held high. Barangay chairman Butz Tenchavez drove the pickup bearing Father Steve and the Blessed Sacrament as the CTK hymn “Christ in Our Hearts” played in the background. White Plains parishioners were one in praying, thankful and hoping that the village would be blessed again soon.”





KUMPILANG BAYAN AMIDST THE PANDEMIC

By Sheryl Coronel

Confirmands 1

The year 2020, in many ways, has been a year of sadness and uncertainty. People's lives were suddenly disrupted by COVID-19. Globally, the news has been bleak. However, we who have faith in Jesus, know that everything works for good for those who love the Lord. Our faith, hope, and charity are strengthened in the midst of the crisis and we are consoled by the ever steadfast presence of the Church.

Not to be deterred in the Church's mission to make disciples, the Catechetical Ministry had its annual Kumpilang Bayan on November 14 with 36 confirmands consisting of 27 teens (mostly CTK parish scholars) and nine adults. Each confirmand was accompanied by one parent and one sponsor totaling a crowd of over a hundred attendees. The confirmands received catechetical preparation via Zoom in four sessions beginning on October 24. The confirmands learned about salvation history, the mission of the Church, grace and sacraments, the Eucharist, Confirmation, and spiritual preparation through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Likewise, parents and sponsors received instruction on their responsibilities in the continuous formation of their children in the Catholic faith.

The confirmands who were below the IATF age limit obtained special quarantine passes from their barangays to attend the Confirmation rites.

The adult confirmands included two civilly wed couples, Benigno and Charlene Bartolome and Nilo and Roxanne Luces, who sought the sacrament in preparation for their church wedding.

One of the young confirmands, Jvette Faith dela Cruz, also received her First Communion.

CTK parish priest and vicar general of the Diocese of Cubao, Fr. Steven Zabala, who was deputized by Bishop Honesto Ongtioco, presided over the rites. During his homily, Father Steve explained that Confirmation strengthened baptismal grace and enabled those who received the Holy Spirit to be more faithful in carrying out their baptismal promises. He cited as examples, Mary who, by the Holy Spirit, gave her fiat to God's plan for her; Jesus who began His public ministry upon receiving the Holy Spirit; and the disciples who became emboldened to preach the Gospel when they

received the Holy Spirit during the Pentecost. Father Steve said that as with the Pentecost when the Church was born into the world, Confirmation launches Christians into the world to live their Christian faith more actively. Father Steve reminded the confirmands that Confirmation meant they were now ready to take responsibility for their Christian mission—to be courageous and to stand firm in their faith. •

Using cotton swabs, Father Steve anointed the confirmands on the forehead with chrism oil.

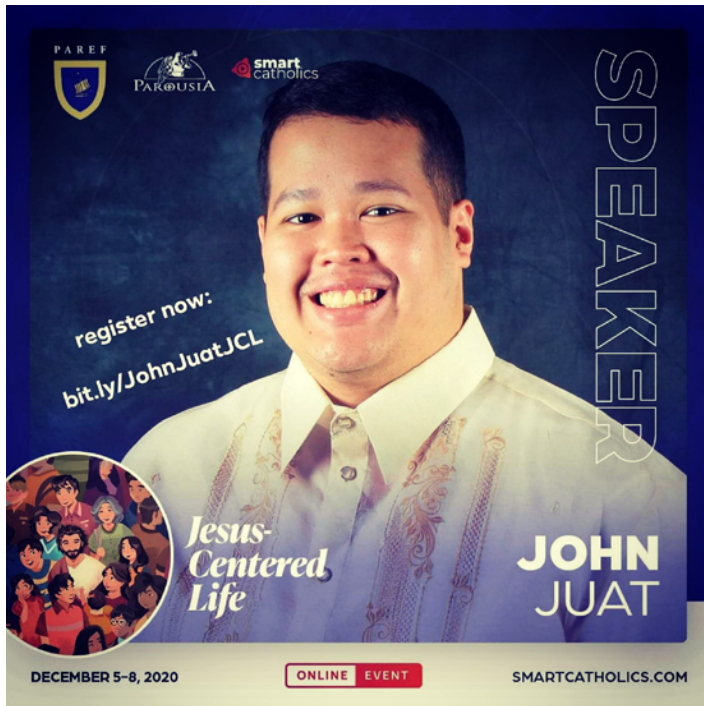




The Catechetical Ministry tandem of Sheryl Coronel and Alma Yeh successfully spearheaded the Kumpilang Bayan despite the challenges brought on by the pandemic.



Confirmands ready to take on their mission in the Church.



JESUS-CENTERED: AN INTERNATIONAL FAMILY CONFERENCE

CTK's very own John Juat was one of the speakers in "Jesus-Centered: An International Family Conference" held on December 5 to 8, 2020. The prestigious roster of speakers included Jason Evert, Dr. Tom Lickona, Msgr. Jacques Philippe, Deacon Harold, Steve Ray, Madeleine Carrington, Dr. Bernardo Villegas, Frank Padilla, Dr. Jesus Estanislao, Bp. Soc Villegas, Fr. Cayo Estrada, Aldy and Joy Katigbak, Manolo and Marie Escueta, and 60 plus other wonderful Catholic speakers from all over the world. John said the conference aimed to help the world attain peace, fulfillment, and a happy life. It was also a good preparation for the forthcoming celebration of the 500th Anniversary of Christianity in the Philippines.



LIFE IN THE SPIRIT MINISTRY

Healing Masses from pre-pandemic times till recently... facilitated by Fr. Manny Flores, Fr. Arnie Boemhe, and Fr. Steve Zabala.



DIOCESE OF CUBAO ADVENT RECOLLECTION

The Diocese of Cubao held its Online Advent Recollection on December 5 from 8 AM to 12noon. Titled "Santatlo ng Cubao: Nagsusulong sa Pakikipag-isa, Misyon at Pagbabalik-Loob tungo sa ika-500 taon ng Kristiyanismo sa Pilipinas," it was led by Bishop Honesto Ongtioco with resource speakers Fr. Domie de Guzman, SSP, and Ilsa Reyes. The recollection was live-streamed on the Facebook accounts of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Cubao, Diocese of Cubao Lay Formation Ministry, and Cubao Diocese parishes. Vicar General and CTK parish priest Fr. Steve Zabala and Social Communications Ministry Head Fr. Herbie Santos also joined the event.

JOY CUADRANTE LAUNCHES THE EXORCIST FILES,

CTK LeCom member Joy Cuadrante has launched the book *The Exorcist Files*. The book gives firsthand, behind-the-scenes accounts of Christ's victory over the devil straight from the frontliners, the exorcists, in this on-going spiritual battle. In the book, Joy writes about her interviews with several exorcists in the Philippines, their most interesting cases, and the learnings they derived from battling the evil one. The book was edited by Fr. Jose Francisco Syquia, chief exorcist of the Archdiocese of Manila, and printed by Saint Paul's Philippines. It is available at Saint Paul's Bookstores and the Archdiocese of Manila Office of Exorcism at P175.00. Bishop Marvyn Maceda, DD of San Jose de Antique gives a short review of *The Exorcist Files*.

"For the flock who yearns for protection and liberation from the forces of the evil one, the stories in this book can serve as a confirmation of the victory already won by Christ over Satan and his cohorts thereby giving clarity, direction and purpose, to our lives.

For a nation preparing to celebrate next year the 500th anniversary of evangelization, this book is a welcome source of material for catechesis in our continuing journey towards renewal and purification of faith."

ABOUT THE BOOK
 The Exorcist Files gives us firsthand behind-the-scenes accounts of Christ's victory over the Devil straight from the frontliners, the Exorcists, in this ongoing spiritual battle. Fortunately, this is a war where we already know the ending—Jesus wins! This book will remind us which side we want to be on.



NEW EMHCS INSTALLED

Despite the pandemic, the EMHCs were able to successfully add six new members. The addition of our new members was very timely as we needed to increase our non-senior members who are able to serve given the current age restrictions of the IATF during the general community quarantine. Our six new kuyas were commissioned by our Fr. Steve, last November 15 during the 10:00 AM Mass.

New EMHCs shown in photo are (L-R) Mar Apuhin, Beng Pangan, Miko Moraleda, Dindo Tagonan, Conrad Alampay, and Ruel Maranan.

LECTORS AND COMMENTATORS MINISTRY COMMISSIONING DAY

The Lectors and Commentators Ministry held its commissioning on December 6. Thirty attended the rite at the Main Church while more were commissioned during the live-streamed mass. The ministry has about 150 active members.



CTK'S SILENT HEROES

By Tessa Mangahas

Day in and day out, security guard Giovane Villan, Pableo Lamanilao, Olimpio Secang, and OIC JR Juampit would patiently check every visitor's temperature at CTK and make sure that face masks and face shields are worn. Some guests have raised voices at them and fingers wagged in their faces by those who insist on breaking health protocols. But they have remained humble yet firm, unfazed yet courteous during these unpleasant encounters.

From Tuesday to Sunday, parish office staff continue to accommodate visitors when quarantine was eased and office work resumed. Because of health reasons, air-conditioning is off and the workplace may be stifling at times. And guests can also be demanding in their transactions. Yet, Marj Ruga, Tonette Adelaida, Bella Consulta, Eula Victorio, and Esmer Magalong exercise maximum tolerance and just do their work diligently.

At least twice daily, since March, the production tandems of Noel Miro and Eugene Catungal, or John Dequina and Jay Gascon would man the live-streaming of Masses. Never mind if the OBS and other technical details were foreign at first. Never mind if their camera work was shaky they were spooked by technical glitches at first. They listened intently to Father Steve's production tutorials and learned the basics in record time. These days, they are constantly experimenting and perfecting their shots and angles to give online Mass goers a truly spiritual experience albeit virtual.

Robert Figueras, armed with his disinfecting equipment would sanitize the entire church after each liturgical service with the energy and precision of an Avenger. Sometimes his work would be delayed by a lingering churchgoer. Cion Orallo and Imelda Mira would be at the "back of house," busy taking care of the personal needs of priests and staff, nourishing the clergy as the priests feed the souls of the faithful.

They are just some of CTK's quiet heroes.

Quarantine restrictions due to COVID-19 have impacted church finances all over the world. CTK is no exception. Even if the parish continues to rake in huge donations for health workers and other impoverished communities, it was also bearing the brunt of limited resources and the additional costs of keeping Mass goers



Robert Figueras disinfects the church after each Mass.



Noel Miro and Eugene Catungal quickly learned the ropes of live-streaming CTK online Masses.



Security personnel JR, Pableo, Olimpio and Giovane make sure that Mass goers are safe as they worship.



Parish staff Marj, Tonette, Bella, Eula, and Esmer are always ready to assist visitors on inquiries about Masses, wakes, weddings, baptisms, and function room rentals.

and staff safe from the deadly virus. Some parish staff had to be on rotating shifts to manage resources. Personnel had to take on extra duties due to the changing nature of worship amid the new normal. They've been separated from their families for extended periods to keep the workplace and their own homes safe. They've missed special occasions due to the call of duty. But they've managed to find little joys and simple pleasures in their situations. Even if they are aware of the health risks of interacting with visitors, they express confidence that parish management is doing all it can to keep them from danger. They also try to understand the strain that the Mass goes or the visitors are going through as they cope with the quarantine. And at the end of each work day in the pandemic, they retire to their quarters simply happy to be alive, to be together, and to be of service to their family and to God in their own small ways.

The next time you run into one of CTK's silent heroes, there are about 22 of them around, give them a warm smile and a kind word. That would certainly make their sacrifice worthwhile.

*Note:
Some photos taken before pandemic*



Imelda and Cion take care of "back of the house" work such as feeding the household.



Jay and John are getting adept at live-streaming apart from sacristan duties.



Fr. Steve Zaballa

PPC HOLDS FIRST ONLINE CHRISTMAS PARTY VIA ZOOM ON DECEMBER 5



PPC Members



CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE: WOMEN WHO RESPOND

By Alma Yeh

How does one pool an almost 90 percent senior membership to meet in order to respond to the needs of those most affected by this pandemic? From day one, it had been a challenge to get each of their suggestions. Most of them don't even have Zoom, much less know how to use it. But this did not stop the members of the Catholic Women's League (CWL) from doing what we do best—respond to a need. With old-school technology—using the landline, calling each other on the cell phone, text messaging, and Zoom meeting for those who have millennials at home to help, the unit was able to decide that our brothers and sisters in prison would most benefit from what we can offer, especially during the period of lockdown.

At the start of the ECQ, we got in touch with Quezon City Female Dormitory in Camp Karingal. They requested for canned goods and noodles. With limited logistics, we were able to send them boxes of sardines. When rules were a relaxed a little, the unit again sent them 700 packs of sanitary napkins, 800 bars of bath soap and a variety of vegetables consisting of string beans, eggplants, and green chili harvested fresh from a farm of Baby Banal's friend.

Then God blessed us more through the Parish Pastoral Council. With the funds allocated for CWL, the unit was not only able to reach out to QCFeD but also to Quezon City Jail for Men.

PPC Head Joyce Tanedo donated 1000 hygiene



Sanitary napkins, soaps, and fresh vegetables delivered in QCFeD during the lockdown.

AP REACHES OUT TO PDLs

By Wanda Reyes

In this time of pandemic, for safety protocols, the members of the Apostleship of Prayer were not able to sponsor a Mass during the National Correctional Consciousness Week (NACOCO) at Quezon City Female Dorm in Camp Karingal.

But the PDLs (persons deprived of liberty) reached out and solicited anything that would make their weeklong celebration on October 25 to 31 a significant one. Their theme was “Seguridad Ay Paigtingin, Manatiling Ligas sa Covid -19”.

Eight hundred packs of vitamin C were donated by generous members and packed by non-senior AP member and non-AP volunteers.

Bureau of Jail Management and Penology staff of QCFeD picked up the vitamins and were distributed to the PDLs during the celebration. •



For Quezon City Female Dormitory: Donations of hygiene kits, sacks of rice, and assorted noodles were turned over to Insp. Laguda (middle) of BJMP with Alma Yeh (second from right) and Father Steve (rightmost) witnessing the turnover.

Quezon City Jail PDLs receiving their hygiene kits.

kits for the PDLs (person deprived of liberty) of the female dorm in Camp Karingal. This donation inspired us to also donate hygiene kits for the Quezon City Male Jail. Through referrals, we were able to purchase contents for the hygiene kits at discounted prices. Special thanks to Mai Supetran of ACS Manufacturing Corporation, Fred Nartates of Gentle Supreme Philippines, and Joyce Tanedo for Sales Team Marketing.



Three thousand hygiene kits were packed and distributed to the PDLs of Quezon City Male Jail. Each kit contains Wings laundry detergent powder, Shield Bath Soap, two Close Up twin packs and three Sunsilk Shampoo triple sachet. These were packed in the parish with the help of Ivy and Jefe Yeh, kasambahays Lizel and Susan, and parish janitors Bentong and Ricky.

Ivy and Jefe Yeh helped in repacking the hygiene kits with Yaya Lizel and Yaya Susan.

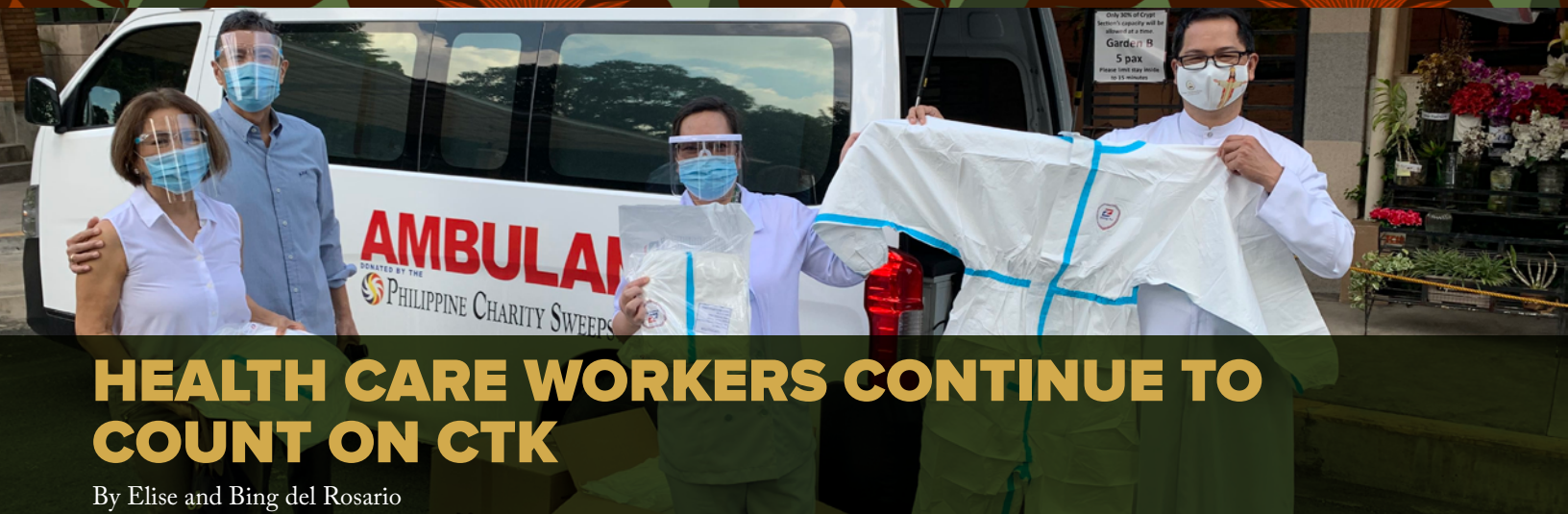
All donations were picked up from the parish by the Bureau of Jail Management personnel. Our parish priest, Fr. Steven Zabala together with CWL Unit

Officers Alma Yeh and Kim Cua, were present during the turnover.

-



Fr. Steve with CWL Officers Alma Yeh and Kim Cua turned over 3000 hygiene kits to BJMP Personnel JO1 Joven Poguillo.



HEALTH CARE WORKERS CONTINUE TO COUNT ON CTK

By Elise and Bing del Rosario

As the COVID war stretches way beyond what many expected, other calamities of typhoons, flooding, and landslides kept CTK parishioners on their toes in helping out the victims. Even then, CTK did not forget the plight of the health care workers who were plodding on in the fight against COVID-19. In its most recent outreach activities, CTK turned over 100 pieces of hazmat medical-grade PPE to Quirino Memorial Medical Center, eight pieces of automatic temperature scanner and alcohol dispenser to the emergency triage of the Lung Center of the Philippines, and P14,000 worth of grocery items plus three boxes of three-in-one coffee to the East Avenue Medical Center Employees Association for distribution to its members.

The beneficiaries showed their thanks as they greeted CTK on the occasion of our 41st fiesta. No less than Dr. Eugenio Jose F. Ramos, president and CEO of The Medical City sent in his video greetings:

I am very happy that apparently the COVID crisis has stabilized and has gone down. But in behalf of the Medical City, I would like to really say thank you to the Christ the King Parish for the help that you actually provided us at the time when we really needed it most, when we have problems with the shelter of our workers, when there was in difficulty in transportation and the safety of our nurses and our staff. You came to our rescue, and we really appreciate that.... Congratulations on your 41st anniversary. Most of us are actually parishioners, in a sense that we go there for our spiritual needs. I am personally very close to one of yours, Bishop Raul Martirez, who has been coming here to Medical City for his health needs, and for our spiritual needs as well.... May we continue to work together even after the crisis because there are so many other areas where we can work together.

Aside from providing shelter for the frontline workers, CTK also helped those displaced by the pandemic. Of this, Dr. Jesusa Catabui, OIC of the UP Health Service had this to say:

Sa nagan po ng buong UP Diliman Community, ako po ay nagpapasalamat sa mga kumot, unan, at foam mattresses na inyong ipinamabagi para sa agarang pagtatayo ng isang community isolation unit sa loob ng campus. Ito po ay ang Silungang Molave na siyang nagsilbing pansamantalang kanlungan ng mga nagpositibong mga estudyante, kawani, pati nga ng mga residente ng barangay UP Campus at karatig lugar. May mga pagkakataon po kasi na sa halip na sila ay tulongan ay pinagbabantaan na po sila na paalisin sa kanilang mga boarding houses. Kaya po sa mga taga Christ the King Parish, kami po ay lubos na nagpapasalamat at malugod na bumabati sa inyong 41st

anniversary. According to the Good Book, Christ said, 'Whatsoever you do to the least of my brothers, you do unto me.' Be assured then that the King of Kings and Lord of the Lords himself will be the one to bless you in return."

In the meantime, the head nurse of the emergency triage complex of the Lung Center of the Philippines, Sherwin Aquino, sent a video showing all the donations that CTK had given them, along with this note:

The Lung Center of the Philippines' emergency triage complex greatly appreciated the donations and help of our sponsors during this pandemic. As we watched the great pandemic... it's easy to feel helpless. (But) no matter who you are or what your situation is, you can make a difference. Today, we would like to thank Christ the King Parish Green Meadows Oplan Covid for the gifts of shirts and towels, mattress and pillows, cases and blankets, six units of two-way radios and 50 Monoblock chairs. Because with these, we were able to accomplish our goals and continue to join the fight to (halt) this coronavirus. Congratulations on your 41st Fiesta, Christ the King Parish! Kami'y bumabati at nagpapasalamat sa mga tulong na naibatid ninyo para sa amin.

Fiesta greetings were also received from Quirino Memorial Medical Center, with a video from Dr. Tricia Bautista, Head of Public Health Unit, who had this to say:

We wish to send our warmest and wholehearted greetings as we join you in celebrating your 41st Christ the King Feast Day. On this special day, we come together in prayer and thanksgiving for the many blessings that we have received, particularly the generosity you have extended to our hospital staff, especially our frontliners. Rev. Fr. Steve Zabala and the entire CTK community, taos puso po kaming nagpapasalamat at kami'y inyong naaalala sa mga panahong ito. May Christ, our King, continue to use you and your parish to touch more lives and bring Jesus to our lives.

From the East Avenue Medical Center OIC and Medical Center Chief, Alfonso G. Nuñez III, the following words of thanks were captured on video:

On behalf of the East Avenue Medical Center, happy anniversary.... Because of all your efforts for all your donations and your big heart. Kami po ay nakinabang sa limang hepa filter air purifiers, 100

packed meals for 50 days , 300 mattresses, pillows and blankets, and chips, choco drinks, and various toiletries (like) shampoo, towels, and toothbrush *Nakinabang din po kami sa Operasyon Libreng Gupit. Napakalaking bagay po ito sa amin. Nakapagbigay ito ng kagaanan sa bigat na kanilang dinadala sa kanilang pakikibaka sa COVID-19. Di naming alam kung paano namin maibabalik sa inyo ang kabutihan na ipinakita ninyo sa amin. Lalo sana kayong maging matatag bilang isang parish. My prayer for you is that you get more blessings and continue to be a blessing to others. Happy anniversary and more power to you, Fr. Steve Zabala and Ms. Elise del Rosario.*

Indeed, CTK has not forgotten our health care workers and they, in turn, are still full of gratitude for what the parish has done for them.



GREENMEADOWS OUTREACH FOR SSDM CUBAO RELIEF EFFORTS

By Fely Ong

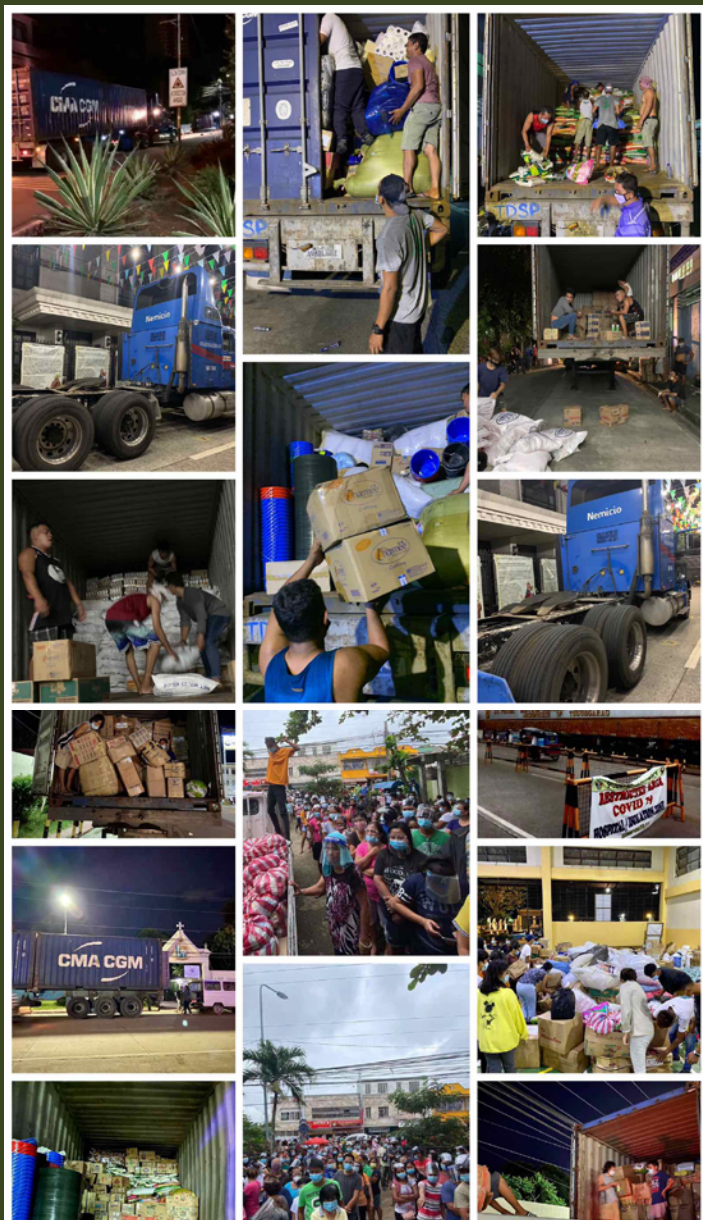
Greenmeadows outreach for SSDM Cubao relief efforts.

Summary of goods donation:

1. Water filters - P122,400
2. 10 cartons Unique toothpaste, 10 cartons Shield bath soaps, 10 cartons pride bars, 1,080 toothbrushes - P55,782
3. Kopiko - P6,000
Noodles - P10,000
4. 2,500kg powder detergents - P65,000

Total - P259,182 in kind

To date, our check donation amounted to P650,000 plus goods amounting to P259,182.





TO OUR MOTHER'S EMBRACE WE GO FOR PROTECTION

October 2020 Rosary Month via Zoom

By Maan del Rosario

As a child instinctively clutches on to her mother at the first sense of danger, so too did the world turn to Mary at the news of the pandemic. Our parish did no less.

Immediately after the quarantine was implemented, the Legion of Mary organized a sign up system using Viber to continue the 2000 Hail Mary devotion. The first was held on April. Anyone may sign up for a 30-minute time slot during which he/she or a group pledges to pray 100 Hail Marys for a particular intention. Some would opt to pray on their own, others as a group via Zoom. After their turn, they sign in to the Viber group to signify completion of their turn.

Many families took to a more fervent daily praying of the rosary to implore the intercession of our Lady for protection. Pre-pandemic, during October, the month of the Rosary, the different communities of the parish would gather for their respective nightly community rosary. This year, the entire CTK community gathered as one, although virtually. Through the collaboration of the Legion of Mary, the worship ministry and the BEC ministry, and the effective promotion by village coordinators, the October Rosary via Zoom was organized.

The devotees gathered every afternoon at 5 PM daily (4 PM on Sundays) from October 2 to 29 with the different communities taking turns in "hosting" by assigning their residents to lead the prayers. Each community adopted a template that worked best for them. Some had many residents assigned to lead, some had just a few, and some had families leading. But, regardless of the style adopted, the number of participants was consistently high every night, and on a few occasions, even breaching the maximum number our Zoom account allowed. A group of five (Jane Aldeguer, Leila Banico, Eileen de Leon, Maan del Rosario, and Buh Malonzo) who were just learning the Zoom controls and features, provided the "tech" support. By God's grace, every day of the rosary went technically well.

On each day, the group prayed for a relevant and timely intention (for the world or for the Church or for the Pope and the clergy, etc). Each decade was prayed for the many people affected by COVID-19 in different ways. Every day, the participants consecrated the Philippines to the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Rosary month was

opened on October 1 in the main church with Maney Salem of the Legion of Mary and Mel Novales of the Lecom ministry, leading the rosary. This was live-streamed via CTK FB. The closing was on October 30, also held at the main church and live streamed via CTK FB. Leading the prayers were Belle King of the Legion of Mary and Buh Malonzo of the Lecom Ministry. Father Steve, Father Ricky, and Father Jojo also joined as rosary leaders with Enclave, Ivory Court, and Libis communities during the last Zoom Rosary on October 29. Fr. Arvie Bello was present virtually all the way from Rome during the blessing of rosaries when Greenmeadows was the lead group. Even Fr. Bong Tupino was able to join one of the prayer sessions. Father Steve led the blessing of Rosaries on October 30 as part of the culmination of Rosary Month.

Many participants lingered after the prayers as if wanting to savor the experience of being in the community, albeit virtual.

Special thanks to the following dedicated persons for leading the Zoom Rosary Month: Legion lead was Carol de Jesus and Christine Bernardo, BEC's Eileen de Leon, Worship's Leila Banico, Village Coordinators May and Leo Nitorreda, Fe Flores and Lita Sembrano, Fely and David Ong, Sandy Abad Santos and Vangie Yam, Dinah and Paul Uy, Lulay de la Cruz and Charito Barredo, Melanie Aquino and Betsy Tenchavez. •





YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH
DECEMBER 8, 2020 - DECEMBER 8, 2021

POPE FRANCIS DECLARES YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH, CHURCH GRANTS PLENARY INDULGENCE

From Vatican News staff writer

The Apostolic Penitentiary issues a Decree granting plenary indulgences for the year of Saint Joseph proclaimed by Pope Francis on Tuesday. The special year will last from 8 December 2020 to 8 December 2021.

Pope Francis on Tuesday announced a special year dedicated to Saint Joseph starting from 8 December 2020 until 8 December 2021, on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the proclamation of Saint Joseph as the Patron of the Universal Church, as well as the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Our Lady.

The Apostolic Penitentiary also issued a decree granting special indulgences for the duration of the special year to celebrate the anniversary and “to perpetuate the entrustment of the whole Church to the powerful patronage of the Custodian of Jesus.”

During this period, the faithful will have the opportunity to commit themselves “with prayer and good works, to obtain, with the help of Saint Joseph, head of the heavenly Family of Nazareth, comfort and relief from the serious human and social tribulations that besiege the contemporary world today.”

Devotion to Saint Joseph

The decree signed by Cardinal Mauro Piacenza, the Major Penitentiary of the Apostolic Penitentiary, and the Regent, Fr. Krzysztof Nykiel, notes that devotion to Saint Joseph has grown extensively throughout the history of the Church, “which not only attributes to him high reverence after that of the Mother of God his spouse but has also given him multiple patronages.”

At the same time, the Magisterium of the Church continues to discover “old and new greatness in this treasure which is Saint Joseph, like the master in the Gospel of Matthew who brings from his storeroom both the new and the old.”

Therefore, the gift of indulgences granted through a decree of the

Apostolic Penitentiary by mandate of the Holy Father “will be of great benefit to the perfect attainment of the appointed purpose.”

Conditions for the plenary indulgence

The plenary indulgence is granted to the faithful under the usual conditions (sacramental confession, Eucharistic Communion, and prayer for the Pope’s intentions) to Christians who, with a spirit detached from any sin, participate in the Year of Saint Joseph on these occasions and manners indicated by the Apostolic Penitentiary:

- The plenary indulgence is granted to those who will meditate for at least 30 minutes on the Lord’s Prayer, or take part in a Spiritual Retreat of at least one day that includes a meditation on Saint Joseph. “Saint Joseph, an authentic man of faith, invites us,” the decree reads, “to rediscover our filial relationship with the Father, to renew fidelity to prayer, to listen and correspond with profound discernment to God’s will.”
- The indulgence can also be obtained by those who, following Saint Joseph’s example, will perform a spiritual or corporal work of mercy. Saint Joseph “encourages us to rediscover the value of silence, prudence and loyalty in carrying out our duties,” the decree notes.
- The recitation of the Holy Rosary in families and among engaged couples is another way of obtaining indulgences, in order that “all Christian families may be stimulated to recreate the same atmosphere of intimate communion, love and prayer that was in the Holy Family.”
- Everyone who entrusts their daily activity to the protection of Saint Joseph, and every faithful who invokes the intercession of Saint Joseph so that those seeking work can find dignifying work can also obtain the plenary indulgence. On 1 May 1955, Pope Pius XII instituted the feast of Saint Joseph “with the intent that the dignity of work be recognized by all, and that it inspires social life and laws, based on the fair distribution of rights and duties.”
- The plenary indulgence is also granted to the faithful who will recite the Litany to Saint Joseph (for the Latin tradition), or the Akathistos to Saint Joseph (for the Byzantine tradition), or any other prayer to Saint Joseph proper to the other liturgical traditions, for the persecuted Church ad intra and ad extra, and for the relief of all Christians suffering all forms of persecution. Because, the decree notes, “the flight of the Holy Family to Egypt shows us that God is there where man is in danger, where man suffers, where he runs away, where he experiences rejection and abandonment.”

A Universal Saint

In addition to these, the Apostolic Penitentiary grants a plenary indulgence to the faithful who will recite any legitimately approved prayer or act of piety in honor of Saint Joseph, for example, “To you, O blessed Joseph” especially on “19 March, on 1 May, the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, on St. Joseph’s Sunday (according to the Byzantine tradition) on the 19TH of each month and every Wednesday, a day dedicated to the memory of the saint according to the Latin tradition.”

The decree recalls the universality of Saint Joseph’s patronage of the Church, noting that Saint Teresa of Ávila recognized him as “a protector for all the circumstances of life.” Pope St. John Paul II also said that Saint Joseph has “a renewed relevance for the Church of our time, in relation to the new Christian millennium.”

For the sick

Amid the ongoing COVID-19 health crisis, the gift of the plenary indulgence is also extended to the sick, the elderly, the dying and all those who for legitimate reasons are unable to leave their homes. •

To support

OPLAN COVID

You may deposit/transfer cash donations to:



Payee: Christ the King Parish Church 3
630-7-63002927-5
Branch: Ortigas-Meralco Ave.

Please email deposit slip to
ctkgreenmeadows@yahoo.com.ph

To share

LOVE OFFERINGS

You may deposit/transfer cash donations to:



CA 089-330-00016-2
Christ the King Parish

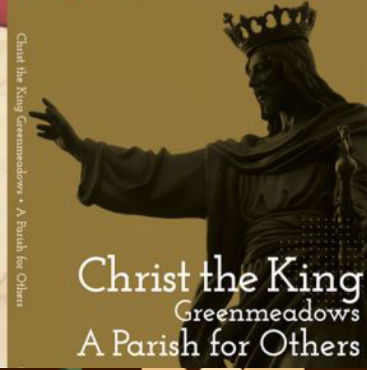
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Regular Price: P1,500



YOU CAN NOW SEND US YOUR MASS INTENTIONS ONLINE!

For inclusion of your prayers of Thanksgiving, Special Petitions and Repose of Souls in CTK's masses, please visit christthekingparish.ph/mass-intentions and accomplish the forms. You will also find information on how to make love offerings.

Cut off time is 12NN for same day evening masses and masses for succeeding day/s.

*Thank you for your generosity!
We continue to be together in prayer.*

