



THE HERALD

CHRIST THE KING PARISH • GREENMEADOWS

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FATHER'S HEART TODAY

THE ESSENTIALS OF GRATITUDE

Fr. Steven Zabala — *Parish Priest*

We are on our second pandemic Lenten and Easter seasons. More than a year ago, we experienced something that we never expected would happen in our lifetime. Coronavirus has changed the world, our worship, our perceived essentials.

Yet despite the trials of the past months, we are still here. Amid the millions that have been felled by the virus, we have endured. Despite the hits to our livelihood and the curtailment of movement, we are coping. Despite everything that has happened, we see ourselves growing

in grace. This is because with each passing day, we realize that our entire life is a gift of God.

These realizations are significant as we celebrate important milestones in our Christian faith. We are marking 500 years of Christianity in the Philippines. We are also celebrating the year of Saint Joseph. If COVID-19 had not hit us, our liturgical calendar would probably be peppered with a series of spiritual and social activities, and festive and colorful Mass gatherings. But instead, we are celebrating in a subdued yet meaningful manner. We attend

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A SILVER DAY OF GIVING

25 years as a priest!



The Feast of the Annunciation has special significance for me. It's a Day of Giving - a day when I gave myself wholly to the service of God's flock. It is also a day when I earnestly appeal to you all - parishioners, friends, supporters, long-time benefactors (present or virtual) from years of ministry to come together and support a cause close to my heart.

For now, that cause is **CASA DE SILENCIO**. This project resonates even more after two of Cubao's beloved senior priests, dear to CTK's heart, Msgr. Morti and Msgr. Dan, died in the past year.

Join our **Thanksgiving Mass** on **March 25, 2021, 6PM, Christ the King Parish, Greenmeadows, QC**. Mass is open to the public, but for your safety, you may follow the live-streaming via CTK's Facebook and YouTube.

Thank you all and may God bless and protect you always.

Fr. Steven Zabala
Christ the King Parish Greenmeadows
Parish Priest

In lieu of gifts, a donation to **CASA SETENTA** will be appreciated

You may send your donation to the CTK Parish Office or deposit to **Chinabank Acct # : 242-002031-2**
Acct name : **CHRIST THE KING PARISH**

Please send a copy of your deposit slip to ctkgmdonations@gmail.com or thru CTK FB Messenger

continued from previous page...

webinars on Saint Joseph, understand his great trust, and learn about what transpired in the last 500 years of our Christian faith. We engage in more prayer sessions albeit virtual, and experience closeness with the faithful from all corners of the country. Yes, sans the fiestas, life goes on. Because God goes on.

This year is also special for me as I mark 25 years of my priesthood on the Feast of the Annunciation. Since last year, many have been asking me how I intend to celebrate my silver anniversary. Many ideas were floated—thanksgiving Mass and dinner, a prayer caravan of sorts to my former parishes, a musical concert or a book to raise funds for causes close to my heart, and many others. But the health and safety concerns and more urgent priorities to help the displaced shelved most of those ideas. What remains and rightly so is the Eucharistic celebration, a thanksgiving Mass. It is a reminder that my priesthood is for the audience of One. My priesthood exists because it is focused only on Jesus. He alone is my essential.

The low-key celebration however does not dilute the gratitude I feel swelling in my heart. I am thankful for mentors and formators who have molded me. Two of them, Msgr. Dan and Msgr. Morti, we lost this year. I am thankful for the defining moments when I dreamed and journeyed with my communities, from St. Camillus and San Jose to my

past parishes. I am thankful for family and friends that cheer and pray for me. In fact, I feel that even my assignment in Christ the King is providential at this point in my ministry because the very nature of this parish stems from an all-pervasive gratitude. That attitude of gratitude rubs off on me. Each day, I witness acts of generosity from people who have made gratitude a daily intentional choice. What's even more remarkable is that most of these are quiet acts. No grand displays. No clanging cymbals. Just silent, sustainable generous acts intended to help those in need.

I will also find time to do something by doing nothing; to indulge in a period of quiet reflection. I've been longing to spend a day or two of inner stillness. I believe that doing nothing for a short period will clear the noise and busyness that may be drowning out God's message for me. It is only when I clearly discern His plan for me that I can once again sincerely give my *fiat*.

Truly, we forget none of His benefits. We constantly review our past, present, and future for God's mercies. We remember what transpired in our past to remind us that we gain and achieve things not by our own strength. We remember what God is doing for us in the present to remind us to keep working for His kingdom and not slip into complacency. We remember what God has promised to do in the future to keep the flame of hope alive in our hearts

As we continue to plod on in this situation, let us keep our eyes on Jesus. Let us remember His sacrifice. Let us remember the past, live the present and look forward to the future with our eyes trained on the Lord. Only then can we truly be thankful, content, and hopeful.

Easter blessings to all of you!

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PILGRIMS TO CTK GREENMEADOWS TO GAIN PLENARY INDULGENCE

Tessa Mangahas

The Vatican says Filipino Catholics can gain a plenary indulgence by visiting a Jubilee Church any time from now until April 22, 2022, after fulfilling prescribed conditions. Christ the King Parish Greenmeadows has been declared by the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines as one of nine Jubilee Churches in the Diocese of Cubao.

In a decision included in a decree dated February 25, Pope Francis is granting a plenary indulgence to Filipinos visiting any of 500 Jubilee Churches to mark 500 years of Christianity in the Philippines this 2021. The decree was signed by Cardinal Mauro Piacenza, head of the Vatican's Apostolic Penitentiary, as Filipinos mark the 500th year of Christianity in the country this 2021.

An indulgence is a special blessing that removes God's punishment for sins that have already been forgiven. When an indulgence is "plenary" it involves the total removal of punishment, as opposed to partial indulgence.

This is the second time in the last two years that visitors to Christ the King Parish Greenmeadows would get the chance to gain a plenary indulgence. In 2019, during the celebration of the parish's 40th anniversary, Pope Francis bestowed upon the parish a special apostolic blessing and plenary indulgence that lasted until December 31, 2019.

Fr. Steve explains the significance of the plenary indulgence that will be granted to CTK pilgrims. He quotes

the Catechism of the Catholic Church: "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)

But Fr. Steve says there are conditions that accompany the granting of plenary indulgences. During CTK's 40th, one had to do the following to gain the plenary indulgence:

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

As for the celebration of 500 Years of Christianity, Fr. Steve reveals that the Cubao Diocese are finalizing guidelines for Jubilee churches that will be released soon.

It is a season of grace indeed.



<https://rcadlc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/sjosephjesus.jpg>

THE MAN WHO REFUSED TO DOUBT GOD

A Reflection on Saint Joseph

Fr. Ricky C. Montañez

“Very quiet, humble and docile” are emphasized by Fr.

Ramon “Mon” Bautista, SJ on the recollection talk of “Saint Joseph of Nazareth—A Man of Faith” who has never uttered a word in the Scripture, yet figures an important role in salvation history.

The Gospel accounts record Joseph as one who exhibited a pattern of docility to God’s will. Instead of being discouraged and retaliatory for what appeared to be an apparent betrayal of Mary because of her pregnancy, Joseph opted to take the higher ground. “Since [Joseph] was a righteous man, [and] unwilling to expose [Mary] to shame, [he] decided to divorce her quietly” (Matthew 1:19).

Very much unlike us who tend to complain at the slightest inconvenience, there was no groaning and moaning on Joseph’s end, even though he had justifiable reasons to do so. With the number of things that have happened to us in the last few months, do we take time to sit and think about them? Do we take time and bring all these disturbing newness to prayer? Or are

our fingers much quicker to grab hold of our gadgets to complain, criticize, and express our angst before an audience—right on the platforms of social media?

“Joseph remains docile.” Again, Father Mon points this out as he quotes from Matthew 1:18-25 of the Gospel story surrounding the birth of Jesus. We do not hear a word of protest nor doubt from Joseph. He simply listened as he was told by God through an angel about what he has to do. This remarkable faithful obedience to God’s will included being told to take Mary as his wife (Matthew 1:20); to take Mary and the child Jesus to Egypt (Matthew 2:13); and then eventually to return to Nazareth after Herod’s death (Matthew 2:20).

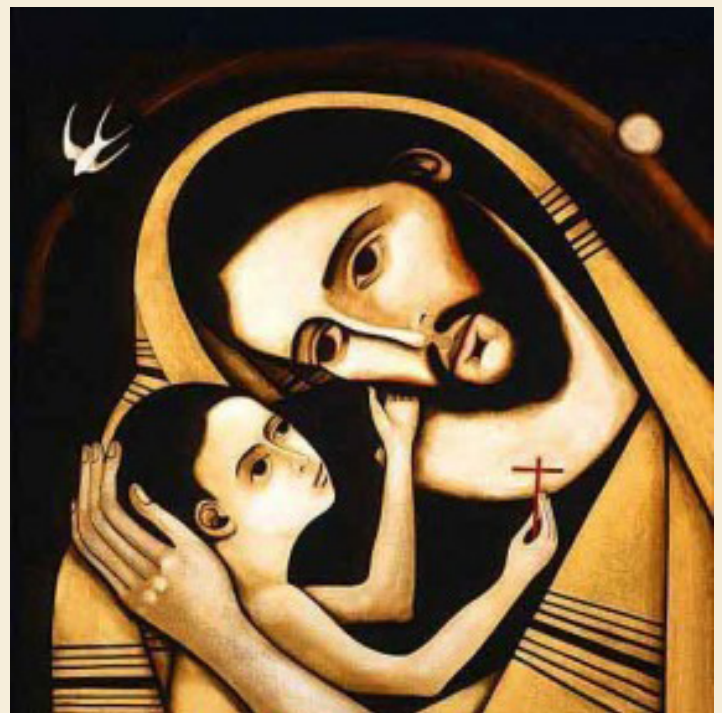
Joseph listened in faith.

Joseph obeyed in faith.

The singular faith of Saint Joseph reminds me of what the 19th century British preacher Oswald Chambers once said, “Faith never knows where it is being led, but it loves and knows the One who is leading.”

Joseph is able to see the reassuring hand of God at work in all the events in his life. Assured by God through the angel, Joseph humbly accedes to God’s saving will for humanity.

Joseph exemplifies for us one who is pure of heart; one who is blessed in the Kingdom of God. For indeed, “blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God” (Matthew 5:8). —





Mass of Celebration

Ordination Anniversary

60th sacerdotal anniversary on March 18
38th episcopal anniversary on March 24

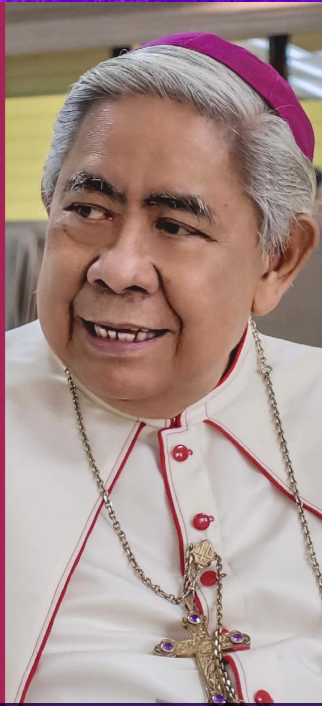
Most Rev. Raul Q. Martinez, D.D.
Bishop Emeritus of San Jose de Antique
Resident Bishop of CTK-GM

Thursday | 18 March 2021 | 4:00 PM
Via Zoom

Zoom ID : 878 0770 2124
No passcode required

BISHOP RAUL MARTIREZ CELEBRATES HIS PRIESTLY ANNIVERSARIES

Compiled by Bing del Rosario



empathy also. He treats each person as if he or she was the most important person in the world, and that's so endearing. Here's an interesting tidbit: CTK parishioners have seen parish priests, parochial vicars, assistant priests and guest priests come and go, but Bishop Raul has always been there, a steady calming inspiring presence. We're always looking forward to Bishop Raul's anniversaries!" – **Bing del Rosario**

"Bishop Raul is my spiritual adviser. He is gentle, kind, loving, and caring like my father whom I miss for almost 20 years now. I wish him good health and many more years of blessed life here on earth. We love you, Bishop!" – **Fely Ong**

"March 18 and 24, 2021 are days we give thanks to God for our priest, the Most Rev. Bishop Raul, as he marks his 60th year of sacerdotal and 38th year of episcopal anniversaries. We had the honor of meeting Bishop Raul Martinez in a pilgrimage to the Holy Land with Father Steve in 2008. Bishop Raul shared great spiritual insights as we visited the biblical places where Jesus once walked. Bishop Raul became our spiritual director at our Christian Family Movement and Life in the Spirit Community upon our return to Manila. Bishop Raul would share his love and devotion to God and the Blessed Mother to our groups. His homilies are short yet incisive. He would help us connect these reflections to our

Bishop Raul was ordained as priest in 1961 and then had his episcopal ordination (as bishop) in 1983, both at the Immaculate Conception Cathedral in Roxas City. He received his theology degree from the UST Central Seminary in 1960 and then received his MA from the Angelicum University in Rome in 1973.

In 1968, he became rector of the St. Pius X Seminary in Roxas City and in 1978, rector of the St. Joseph Regional Seminary in Iloilo City. In 1986, he became a member of the CBCP Permanent Council and was made Chairman of the Episcopal Commission for Non-Believers. In 2002, at the age of 65, Bishop Raul took official retirement.

He has been living and serving at CTK until the pandemic, when he moved out of the rectory to minimize exposure to the virus.

"Whenever I hug Bishop Raul, I always tell him, 'You are my pope, my Saint Peter!' I might never have the chance to hug or be hugged by Pope Francis in my lifetime, but by Bishop Raul, yes! I feel the embrace and love of God through Bishop Raul! Happy Sacerdotal Anniversary, my huggable pope Bishop!" – **Eileen de Leon**

"Bishop Raul's humility is what first strikes his so-many admirers, me and Elise included. Of course, his warmth and





own lives. And he never fails to greet us on our birthdays and anniversaries. We do keep in touch amid this pandemic. We always pray for his good health and fondly remember our shared favorites—books, Peking duck, chocolates, saging na saba and more!” – **Billie Pilar**

“Bishop Raul Martirez, having you in my life has added an abundance of joy! What a blessing you are! We are always glued to your homilies. We love your closeness to us, CTK parishioners. We feel akin with your love for Japanese food at Dad’s, especially when you feast on sashimi and sushi to your heart’s delight! On your anniversary, let me greet you with these words from the song ‘What a Wonderful World.’

‘I see friends shaking hands saying, “How do you do? They’re really saying ‘I love you.’”

Thank you for your friendship, Bishop! More anniversaries to come!” – **Lulay dela Cruz**

“We first met Bishop Raul when we joined the Christian Family Movement. Bishop Raul would always close our prayer meetings, wowing us all with his brilliant and excellent reflections and observations of the day. How can someone be so gifted to be able to deepen everyone’s faith through short, straight- forward and crisp stories which probably did not take more fifteen minutes?

“Bishop Raul, though retired, has remained connected to all of us. Just recently, we were most happy to spend time with him when he joined one of our meetings via Zoom. He always remembers not only our birthdays but wedding anniversaries too. He continues to care for all of us.

“Bishop Raul is first and foremost God’s good servant. For all those times that he spent with us, the center of his teachings always was, in everything that we do, we should always place Jesus Christ at front and center of our lives, which resonates with all of us up to this day.

“Thank you so much for all the good memories, stories and reflections, Bishop Raul, and congratulations for your 60th sacerdotal anniversary on March 18, 2021 and 38th episcopal anniversary on March 24, 2021. We love you!”

– **Leo and May Nitorreda**

“From the start, Bishop Raul has been my favorite priest. His homilies have always touched something in me and I knew he is a special person. Then, Paul and I joined CFM. Lo and behold! He was our mentor priest, our unit’s guide. How lucky for us! And in those times of our prayer meetings, I knew that he is truly a holy man. I would hang on to his every word. His explanations of things in the Bible, how things were, stories of saints and others—just kept me longing to learn more. I became really close to Bishop when we went on a Marian pilgrimage. Laughter, tears, more tears but tears of laughter. This holy man is like a father who watches over me with love and care. He is also a friend who is always there to lend a helping a hand, to listen and give sound advice on life, love and relationships. Congrats to Bishop Raul on his sacerdotal-episcopal anniversaries! Love you to the moon and back! (Yan ang lambingan namin sa isa’t isa.)” – **Dinah Uy**

“At daily Mass, whenever Bishop Raul emerges from the sacristy, I feel like I won the lotto. Yes! I’m going to hear God’s message for me today! I can’t count the times I’ve been devoid of inspiration—especially for my articles—and





then Bishop delivers his homily and boom! I get a flood of insights that fill pages. I'm blessed to be friends with such a holy and wise man who truly loves Jesus and Mama Mary.”
– **Rissa Singson Kawpeng**

Girlie and I first met Bishop Raul in 2006 when he came for quiet retirement at Christ the King Parish. I was eager to meet him specially after I learned he was the former bishop of Antique, the place where I had my early schooling and also learned to be a parish altar boy. Like many, I would have expected Bishop Raul to grow and become one of the luminaries and bright lights—maybe even a cardinal—given his prominent family background and scholastic achievements in Rome, his personal charm, and holiness. Yet God chose him to serve most of his clergy years in the adjoining Ilonggo provinces of Capiz Iloilo, Aklan, and Antique, away from the limelight and center of Church power and influence. On deeper reflection, perhaps his priestly choice and journey that had kept him almost entirely close to his parental roots and simple folks in the island of Panay, explains why we easily love and feel drawn to Bishop Raul. His disarming smile and welcoming hug, his comforting words and warm laughter, his humility and simplicity, his prayerful example and genuine kindness. What a wonderful blessing for us in CTK parish to share in his 60 years as God's faithful priest and shepherd! – **Jing Alampay**

“My first encounters with Bishop Raul were during my teaching days in Assumption Iloilo. All of us in the school loved listening to his very insightful homilies. At that time, an Assumption Sister would persistently ask me if I

wanted to become a priest. One day I jokingly obliged her query. However, I did say that if I were to become a priest, I sincerely would want to be a good preacher like Bishop Raul. Little did I know that Bishop Raul had been privy to that. He only revealed years later, that he had been praying that I consider becoming a priest. Fast track to 2012, when Bishop Raul saw me here in Christ the King as a priest, he told me he was very happy to see that his prayer had been answered!

Bishop Raul, you have always been an inspiration to me and my priesthood. Above anything else, I wish you continued good health during this time. May you continue to inspire others through the special ways God has allowed you to touch people's lives. Thank you for your edifying presence in my life! Mutual prayers.” – **Fr. Ricky Montañez**



To all his friends and well-wishers, Bishop Raul sends this message:

“I am no different from my countrymen or other people for that matter who are coping with the pandemic. Except for urgent reasons to see my doctor, I do not leave the house. Eat, sleep, read, and pray, exercise are my day's program. We just keep praying for the pandemic's end. Like everyone else, I dream and pray for personal good health, peace and prosperity for our country. And to those who so kindly say that I am a holy priest—I constantly need to be reminded of my sinfulness and to be grateful for God's mercy and forgiveness. Prayers and blessings to all. Amen.”



(All photos were taken during Bishop Raul's celebrations pre-pandemic)



LAST MINUTE BLESSINGS

Alma Yeh

Late November, I was excited to start preparing for the coming holidays, thinking of what gift to give whom. In my mind, my responsibilities as president of the Catholic Women's League (CWL) were done for the year. Boy, was I mistaken! God still had something up His sleeve. I received a message from Mila Bangco, SSDM Ministry Head, informing me that CWL still has pastoral funds that has to be used before the PPC books close by yearend.

Confused with the message, I clarified the info with our PPC treasurers Bing and Elise Del Rosario. Turned out, parish had a generous donor for use in prison outreach. What a wonderful blessing!

Immediately, I coordinated with CWL Social Services Committee Head Baby Banal. She got in touch with Quezon City Female Dormitory (QCFED) in Camp Karingal and the Quezon City Jail.

We got word from Quezon City Jail that they are preparing for transfer to their new facility in May and that donation by then would be more beneficial for their Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDL).

As for QCFED, they were eager to inform us that they are in need of additional high-speed sewing machine and edging machines that will be used for the livelihood of their PDLs.

CWL through referral found Unix Industrial Corporation, credible supplier for industrial use sewing machines. Purchase for three high-speed sewing machines and two edging machines were done and these were delivered directly to QCFED last December 22, 2020. Jail Warden Supt. Maria Lourdes P. Pacion received the machines. She extended her gratitude and appreciation for these most generous donations from Christ the King Parish through CWL. She said that these would greatly help in the livelihood of their PDLs and also develop in them skills that they could use once they have rejoined society.

Before our Lord Jesus celebrated His birthday, He made sure that it would be a meaningful Christmas for our sisters deprived of liberty in QCFED. I am happy that He made it possible through our parish and the Catholic Women's League. —

"The Lord hears the needy and does not despise those in captivity." —Psalm 69:34



MEET THE MARSHALS

Going the extra mile to keep Mass goers safe

Next to the security guard at the entrance gate of the church, these guys are the ones that greet you during Saturday anticipated, Sunday Masses, and liturgical services that may have high attendance. They are at their post 30 minutes before each assigned Mass, poring through lists of those who registered to attend. They check names on the registration list, assist Mass goers to take their body temperature, step on footbaths and sanitize. Not long ago, before the time of free seating, the marshals even had to usher each and every Mass goer to their assigned seat. Considering that seating capacity has been upped from an initial 90 to 190 persons, that was a daunting task. And with the Filipino penchant for arriving virtually at the last minute, marshals need sharp eyes, be quick on their feet, and still have enough charm to smile graciously as they go about their tasks.

The funny thing is, this predominantly male group, or *kuyas* as they are called, didn't originally sign up for this job. The marshals were primarily commissioned as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. Most of them got sidelined in their service due to the months of strict quarantine. As the church doors gradually opened to public worship again in the last quarter of 2020, it became clear that a new sub-ministry had to be created. The group had to be composed of able-bodied individuals that would command authority to enforce health protocols, yet amiable enough to patiently herd the returning church goers to their seats.

By God's mysterious design, Irwin Reyes had just been appointed as coordinator of the newly formed Disaster Management group of the parish just before the pandemic struck. Months later, he assumed the role of coordinator of the marshals' group when public Masses resumed. He admits that it is not an easy task. First, CTK spent weeks trying to fine tune adjustments on physical arrangements and policies to adhere to ever-changing government health protocols. Then, he had to cajole some members to his team. It would mean a decision to be a virtual frontliner. With the pandemic still swirling, each marshal was exposed to potential virus spreaders. Not only that, but it also meant time away from family. This lean team had to cover all the assigned high-attendance Masses like clockwork. Being absent from their "shift" meant an additional burden to hapless security guards or parish staff that may be overwhelmed by the onrushing (and at times, challenging) congregation.

And so by God's grace, the marshals stepped up to the plate one by one. The core team now is composed of Irwin Reyes, Anjoe Ramos, Allan Roxas, Joel Tamor, Jose Frandel, Radford Pereja, and Lito Perona. At times, we spot Jimmy Hernandez, Nino Mendoza, Rudy Retirado, Mon Acuin, and Leo Tan. Tessa Mangahas, Maan del Rosario, Leila Banico and Trix Delena assist in peripheral tasks.

What is striking with these marshals is the joy with which they approach their task. You see them in jovial *barkada* mode before the mad rush begins. But when the congregation start streaming in, they automatically become focused, all efficient and accommodating. It is a wonder how they manage to smile at each Mass goer and respectfully guide them to safe worship. And in cases that there is an unexpected swell of worshipers, they suddenly change to their EMHC uniforms and help distribute Holy Communion! Even CTK clergy are awed by their patience and constancy in their tasks and in taking post-Mass selfies.

As the saying goes, not all heroes wear capes. At CTK, heroes and frontliners take on different faces. Most of the time, the first heroic face that may greet you during Sunday Mass is that of a CTK marshal. God indeed sends workers to His vineyard in the most mysterious ways. *Kudos, kuyas!*



ST. JOSEPH OF NAZARETH, A MAN OF FAITH

Reflection on the Recollection of Fr. Ramon Bautista, SJ

Albert Cuadrante

Celebrating the Year of St Joseph
CTK Formation Ministry
Invites you to



**St Joseph of Nazareth,
a Man of Faith**
Learning from him who refused to doubt God
with
Fr. Ramon Luza Bautista, SJ

Saturday | 16 January 2021 | 10:00 AM
Zoom Meeting ID: 860 3415 1117

We all know about the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, but did you know that Saint Joseph also had his own Annunciation? It happened when an angel told him in a dream of the divine nature of Mary's pregnancy so he should not be afraid to take her as his wife (Mathew 1:18-25). And, Joseph, like Mary, also responded with his own fiat, with full faith and trust in God despite not fully understanding the many uncertainties and difficulties that lay ahead. This is what Fr. Mon Bautista reminded us at the start of his CTK Formation talk on January 16.

The pandemic has brought about so many difficulties. Despite the development and early rollout of vaccine options, there are still many uncertainties and no real clear end of the crisis in sight. During these tough times, we can learn to be steadfast like Saint Joseph and rest our complete faith in God.

Father Mon shared how Saint Joseph's Annunciation revealed the three images of God:

1. The God of Intervention – who answers our prayers in His own infinite time, which Saint Joseph accepted with a leap of faith.

2. The God of Assurance – who always gives us definitive sign that there is always reason to hope. To Saint Joseph, the sign of hope was Mary herself, pregnant by the power of the Holy Spirit. We see the unfolding of this kind of hope among the frontliners and people who adjusted themselves to every situation at hand.
3. The God of Presence – who never abandons His own.

Saint Joseph fully trusted in that presence, listened and obeyed in silent acceptance. We, too, can feel God's presence at this time of difficulty in our families, friends, and "angels" of mercy.

Through it all, God never promised anyone—including Mama Mary, Saint Joseph, and even His own Son—a life without suffering. What He did promise is that He will never leave us. He will always be there.

Significantly, Saint Joseph never uttered a recorded word in Scripture. Perhaps that's how he was able to hear God so well.



GETTING TO KNOW FATHER STEVE

Erniel Martin Enrile

If the shortest distance between two points is a straight line, you can say that the shortest distance between two people is a story. Here is Father Steve's.

I only know Father Steve as a priest at Christ the King Parish in Greenmeadows. As a casual churchgoer, I do not have extended encounters with him. It is a case of "I know of him." A towering figure in the church—literally and figuratively—he has a commanding presence, especially when he speaks. He makes insightful homilies and is quite good in singing. He has big smiles for everyone, but still, appears tacit and precise. Like a lead character in superhero movies, there are mysteries to his persona, and for sure, has an interesting backstory.

As an opening salvo for the year, the CTK Parish Greenmeadows Youth Ministry invited Father Steve to share his story about his youth and his calling to the priesthood. It was not a typical sharing of his life, but more of an intimate portrait that painted a renewed and deeper version of Father Steve in my eyes.

Father Steve's story resonated in all of us who participated in the Zoom session because, in one way or another, we can relate to what he experienced. It also helped that Father

Steve is a natural storyteller. When we listened to his story intently, it was as if we lived his story in those brief moments. That experience allowed us to learn more about him, from his struggles as a middle child, all the wounds he had endured, to finding closure and healing, as well as his journey from a Charismatic seminarian to an inspiring priest.

What struck me the most in his sharing is that he fully embraced his imperfections and used them as an instrument to bring people closer to God. He mentioned that God used his KSP (or kulang sa pansin) to accomplish His plan. He remained humble by admitting that he is not perfect and being a work in progress is a lifetime project. "We do not rely on our own strength, but on the grace of God," he said. Hence, we cannot achieve anything with our own merit or strength, but always, with and through God's grace.

In the session, we also discovered about his biographical book, *KSP: Kurwento ni Father Steve according to Posadas*. While the book together with its graphics is amazing enough, his former parishioners' love and effort poured into its writing and publication is a testament to his character. I'm eager to read a copy.

I love this kind of story sharing session. It humanizes a person you look up to even more. Of course, it is only the tip of the iceberg, but it gives meaningful perspective on what makes us human. Thank you, CTK Parish Greemeadows Youth Ministry for organizing this event. I feel blessed to be a part of this community knowing that we have a great and engaging parish priest.

HOLY WEEK 2021

The Diocese of Cubao has released a series of instructions and guidelines to help the parishes adjust and adapt to the consequences of this pandemic. To keep our observance of the Holy Week safe and within prescribed liturgical norms, Christ the King Greenmeadows will hold the following live-streamed services while public Masses are suspended.

PALM SUNDAY

March 28

Schedule of Masses (live-streamed)

Saturday (anticipated)

6 p.m.

Sunday

7 a.m. / 10 a.m. / 5 p.m.

There will be online blessing of palms. Like last year, when the faithful follow this celebration through online streaming, the blessing of their palms or any leaf branches is imparted by the Scriptural reading and the prayer of blessing during the celebration. There is no need for holy water for the blessing of their palm branches or leaves from available plants.

HOLY MONDAY

March 29

Schedule of Masses (live-streamed)

7 a.m. / 6 p.m.

HOLY TUESDAY

March 30

Schedule of Masses (live-streamed)

7 a.m. / 6 p.m.

Kasambahay and Drivers recollection with Fr. Jerry Orbos via Zoom:

4 p.m.

Zoom link is: 838 4525 3106 / No passcode required

HOLY WEDNESDAY

March 31

Schedule of Masses (live-streamed)

7 a.m. / 6 p.m.

Confession Schedule: 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.

HOLY THURSDAY

April 1

Chrism Mass, 7 a.m. (Immaculate Conception Cathedral, Lantana Cubao)

The celebration of the Chrism Mass will remain on Holy Thursday morning. Only the clergy and selected religious priests will physically attend the celebration in the Cathedral of Cubao. The lay faithful are encouraged to participate in the celebration utilizing the digital platforms available.

Paschal Triduum Reflections by Fr. Harold Anthony Parilla

9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Paschal Triduum

Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper, 5 p.m. (online)

Online Visita Iglesia

The faithful can join the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in the Pilgrim Churches of the Diocese of Cubao through the Online Visita Iglesia live-streamed on the Facebook pages of Christ the King Parish Greenmeadows and Roman Catholic Diocese of Cubao.

GOOD FRIDAY

April 2

Paschal Triduum Reflections by Fr. Harold Anthony Parilla

9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Novena to the Divine Mercy (1st day) to start before the recollection

Parish Way of the Cross (live-streamed)

Main Church, 2 p.m.

Veneration of the Cross/Communion Service, 3 p.m. (online)

The priest-president alone will do the kissing in the Veneration of the Cross. The faithful will be asked to make a common gesture of Adoration of the Cross together. There will be no Good Friday procession.

HOLY SATURDAY

April 3

Paschal Triduum Reflections by Fr. Harold Anthony Parilla

9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Easter Vigil, 8pm (online)

The Salubong rite will be held inside the church right after the Easter Vigil.

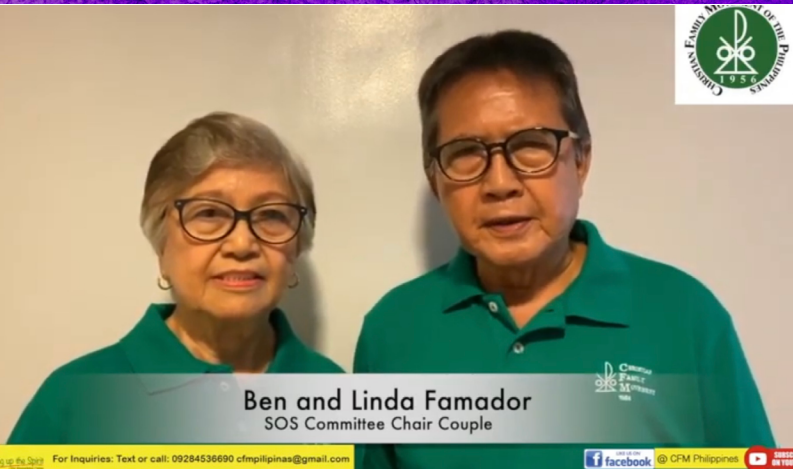
EASTER SUNDAY

April 4

Schedule of Masses (live-streamed)

7 a.m. / 10 a.m. / 5 p.m.

Happy Easter!



Ben and Linda Famador
SOS Committee Chair Couple



A grateful heart
is always a joyful heart

A grateful heart
is a humble heart

MOST REV. GERARDO ALMINAZA, DD
NATIONAL CHAPLAIN

LIFTING UP THE SPIRIT

Ben and Linda Famador

The Christian Family Movement (CFM) of the Philippines recently conducted a webinar series “Lifting Up the Spirit” that described the basic conversion module on the Spirituality of Stewardship (SOS).

The webinars concretized CFM’s mission to become disciples of Jesus Christ and make disciples of other families and communities.

The SOS vision of CFM is a community of Christian families living a life of prayer, serving, giving, welcoming and celebrating, and helping the poor.

We see this vision in CFM Unit 3 of Christ The King Parish where we belong.

Unit 3 was formed in 1978 and consisted of six to ten married couples and their families. By way of attrition, the present membership is seven couples and two widows. Three couples are original members, the rest have been unit members for 30 years. Two couples are tri-generational CFM and two couples are bi-generational. The oldest member is 84 years old and the youngest is 73 years old. The unit members are prayerful and daily Mass goers. The unit has served the parish since 1979 when the parish was formed. CFM is a mandated organization and the unit helped then young parish priest, Fr. Tony Lanuevo, form a new parish. They have served in the parish by serving in various ministries such as formation (chair couple), worship (as lector/commentator, eucharistic minister), social services and development, (several projects for the poor such as livelihood projects, and chair of social services ministry). In public ministry, the unit helps the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting during elections. They participate in parish recollections, retreats, and social celebrations, as well as, in CFM assemblies and conventions. Unit 3 has also formed several CFM units in the parish.

The unit has been holding prayer meetings with a priest chaplain twice a month and religiously following the Observe, Judge, Act (OJA) method. During the pandemic, the unit has been meeting via zoom.

The unit celebrates members’ birthdays and anniversaries.

They are godparents to members’ children. They travel together in pilgrimages, vacations, and consider the CFM unit as their second family.

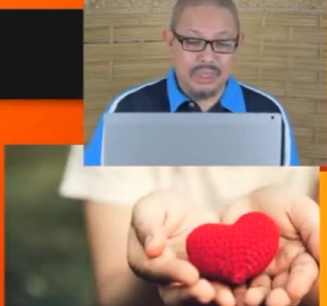
The members give regularly to the CTK Parish Fund and the CTK Stewardship Fund. CFM CTK was assigned to form the CTK Stewardship Committee in 2005.

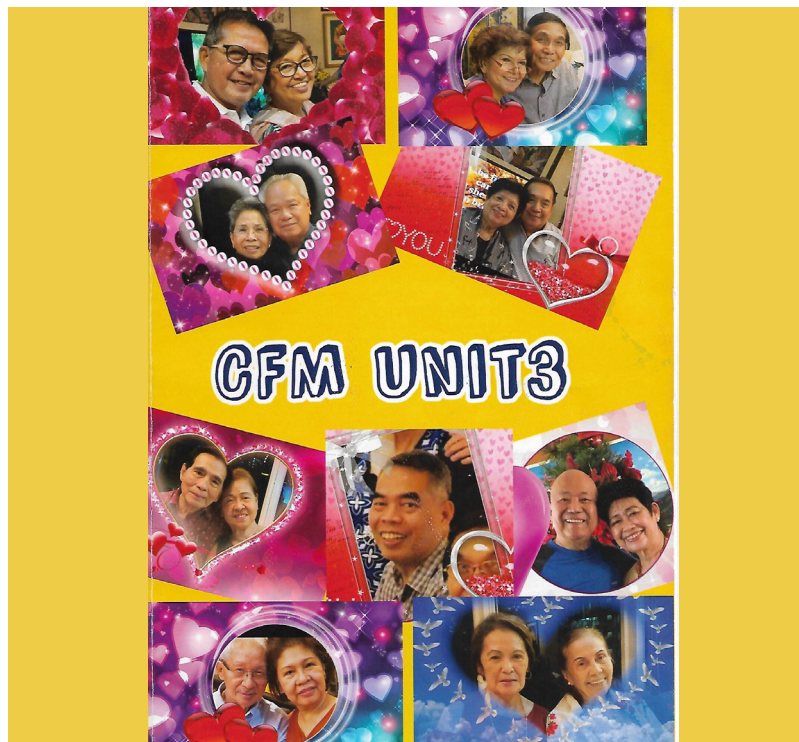
You can watch “Lifting Up the Spirit” episodes 1 to 4 at the CFM Philippines YouTube channel and on Facebook. If you are interested in CFM, email efamadormd@yahoo.com.

What is giving?

Generous sharing of our treasures out of love and justice.

Bukas palad na pagbabahagi ng ating mga biyaya.





BUKLOD NG PANGINOON IN ACTION DESPITE THE PANDEMIC

Cita Pabillo

We do what we can, and God does the rest. That's our experience as we serve others through our ministry. Last year, we were able to continue our feeding program for some undernourished children of Barangay Libis with the support of the Christ the King Parish. We also had a medical and dental checkup for these kids in February 2020. But when the lockdown ensued in March, we weren't able to follow up with the treatment. The supplemental feeding also lasted only up to the third week of March.

Despite the quarantine and dwindling funds, donations from some BnP members, benefactors, and friends enabled us to do some supplemental feeding as well as hand out grocery items, albeit sporadically.

Buklod gave 650 food packs to frontliners at the Quirino Memorial Medical Center, and with the St Ignatius Village Seniors Association, also handed P900 gift checks to 211 frontliners of the Lung Center of the Philippines.

For the 38th anniversary of Buklod last September 8, we had online Mass celebrated by Fr. Ricky Montañez.

We could not personally visit the wards of the Molave Youth Center and the Boystown Home for the Elderly but we sent them items they badly need. Last September 8 and December 8, we delivered personal hygiene kits, disinfectants, food items, vitamins, face masks and shields, among other things. Upon the request of Buklod, CTK donated two laptops to the Molave Youth Center for their online schooling.

With the continued threat of COVID 19, the feeding program for the undernourished kids of Barangay Libis will remain on hold but we intend to provide them with milk supplements and packed lunches whenever possible. We also have plans to work with the CTK Youth Ministry to develop an educational and spiritual program for the wards of the Molave Youth Center.

As the saying goes, when God closes the door, He opens a window. Despite the challenges, friends and benefactors appear from nowhere to help us with our mandate of bringing the members closer to God though service for the marginalized. ■



WE STAND ON THE SHOULDERS OF GIANTS

Fr. Herbie Santos, *parish priest, Parish of the Lord of Divine Mercy*

Icherish all the lessons I learned from Monignor Dan Sta. Maria. I'm sure he would want me to make this short tribute a little bit more upbeat, so let me share with you the Top 20 Things he has taught me:

- 1. Everyone needs a smile and a hug.** What made Monsi so approachable was that he would always call you by your name affectionately and even embrace you. And, suddenly, you feel loved.
- 2. Dance like no tomorrow.** Everybody knows what a great ballroom dancer he was. One time, a parishioner asked him, "Is it right for a priest to dance?" In response, he took the parishioner's hand and led her to the dance floor. He twirled her around so many times that she forgot what she was so upset about!
- 3. Support the arts!** He loved concerts. He adored our local choirs and would support their fundraising efforts when they needed funds for overseas competitions. He allowed Kammerchor Manila to perform in the church and they loved him dearly.
- 4. Provide decent shelter for the needy and elderly.** As parish priest of CTK, he took the displaced residents of Libis under his care, raised funds for the building of their homes, and helped relocate them to the GK housing area. He also thought of providing decent housing for our diocesan employees and thus spearheaded the Pabahay ng Diocese project. He was also determined to provide proper housing for our retired and elderly priests. He loved Casa de Silencio so much, but it's a pity he will not get to live there. He was looking forward to brewing coffee for those who would visit him.
- 5. Celebrate important milestones.** When I finished my 30-day Ignatian silent retreat, he took me out to a steak dinner to celebrate. When I had my installation as parish priest, he brought me to a fine dining restaurant. I never forgot those celebrations. It taught me to be happy whenever there is cause to be celebrate.
- 6. Encourage vocations.** Monsi never believed that seminarians should be punished or made to suffer. He always went out of his way to make them comfortable. When I was a seminarian, he would invite me over to have chats and even helped defray my seminary expenses. My vocation grew because of him. One time, when I told him I was thinking of leaving the seminary, he said, "How important is your vocation? I want to see you fight for your vocation!" Because of those words, I didn't leave the seminary.
- 7. Enhance the dignity and beauty of sacred spaces.** Monsi had a good eye for beauty. When he entered a parish, he would make changes that would enhance the surroundings. In Sta. Rita, he remodeled the fountain area and made a wonderful veranda where the brides could have their pictorials. He also constructed a beautiful adoration chapel in a much safer and brighter location. Years before that, he was instrumental in the beautification of our very own Cathedral of Cubao.
- 8. Host gatherings.** Monsi loved hosting parties. He would spend time with parishioners, having breakfast with the ladies who counted the collection or dinner with parishioners at the rectory. He would invite priests over for a good meal. During these meals over good food and good company, relationships were strengthened and friendships nourished.
- 9. Learn to be a good cook!** Monsi is famous for cooking a mean steak. He would never share his secret recipe but he would cook steaks that were so delicious that the priests and

parishioners would always clamor for them. He would start preparing the steaks in the morning by seasoning them. At the dinner itself, he would be grilling while everybody ate. It was a lot of work—he would be dead tired by the end of it yet happy when he saw the satisfied faces.

10. Don't let setbacks bring you down. Monsi had his share of disappointments, frustrations, and opposition. Some of his renovations he worked so hard for would be changed by his successors. Some of his projects would receive criticism. But he knew his purpose and his reasoning was clear. He believed in what he did so much that no amount of setbacks could prevent him from completing the task or pursuing what he thought was right.

11. Be a good steward. Monsi was general manager of the cooperative of priests for good reason. He was trustworthy. He also managed the retirement and insurance funds of the priests. He took care of the money entrusted to him and made it grow leaps and bounds.

12. Never stop doing menial things. After we would eat dinner, Monsi would quietly wash all the dishes, pans, and utensils. When we would offer to do it, he would insist on washing it himself.

13. Get angry for the right reasons. Monsi would sometimes get angry, but the reason was always clear. He would fight for a principle that he held close to his heart. By doing so, he showed that passion is necessary for the ministry and that if you are passionate about something, you get angry when you see things are not what they should be. I am reminded of Jesus in the Gospel who got angry at the moneychangers for turning his Father's house into a marketplace.

14. Take care of your health. He always reminded me to be conscious of my weight because he himself was health-conscious. He would swim laps at the Bahay Pari and would walk around Philam in the morning in his jogging pants, greeting parishioners along the way.

15. Love the youth. He supported the youth so much. He believed they were the future of the Church. Even in Sta. Rita, he spearheaded the construction of the Youth Activity Center. He wanted to give the youth a place to meet and to bond.

16. Make time for family. He would constantly visit his siblings who were far away or were sick. When his adopted son would come back to the Philippines from abroad, he took time out to bring him to other parts of the Philippines. He would share many happy anecdotes of his experiences with him and his family.

17. Share your experiences with others. When parishioners asked him what a parish priest would do during the day, he decided to just write a book about it instead of just answering them. I guess he felt that by writing a book, more people would benefit

from his experiences. He has two books on being a priest, *A Day in the Life of a Parish Priest* and *Another Day in the Life of a Parish Priest*. We joked that there should be a third book: *The Last Day in the Life of a Parish Priest*. It never came, but we know what it would be about—he died with his boots on. Up to his final days, he was messaging about work that needed to be done.

18. Be patient while waiting for fruits. Monsi used to own a farm. But even in the parish, he tended to plants, shrubs, and small fruit-bearing trees. He had a green thumb. He would patiently water them and prune them and wait for the fruits to come. He would be so proud when his plants bore fruit or blossomed into flowers. This mirrored his attitude regarding the other seeds he planted in life here and there. He was patient in seeing his efforts one day bear fruit.

19. Always give importance to your roots. He never forgot his alma matter. He would be active in the UST School of Engineering. He was active with the San Jose Seminary Alumni Association. He received citations for his contributions to his former community in Mandaluyong. He always made sure the ties he had forged were never broken.

20. Always have time for prayer. When I suggested we convert the small kitchen in the parish rectory to a small prayer room for priests, he was excited about it. I would catch him kneeling constantly in prayer in that chapel and I instinctively knew where he drew all his strength and inspiration. It was his relationship with Jesus that carried him through.

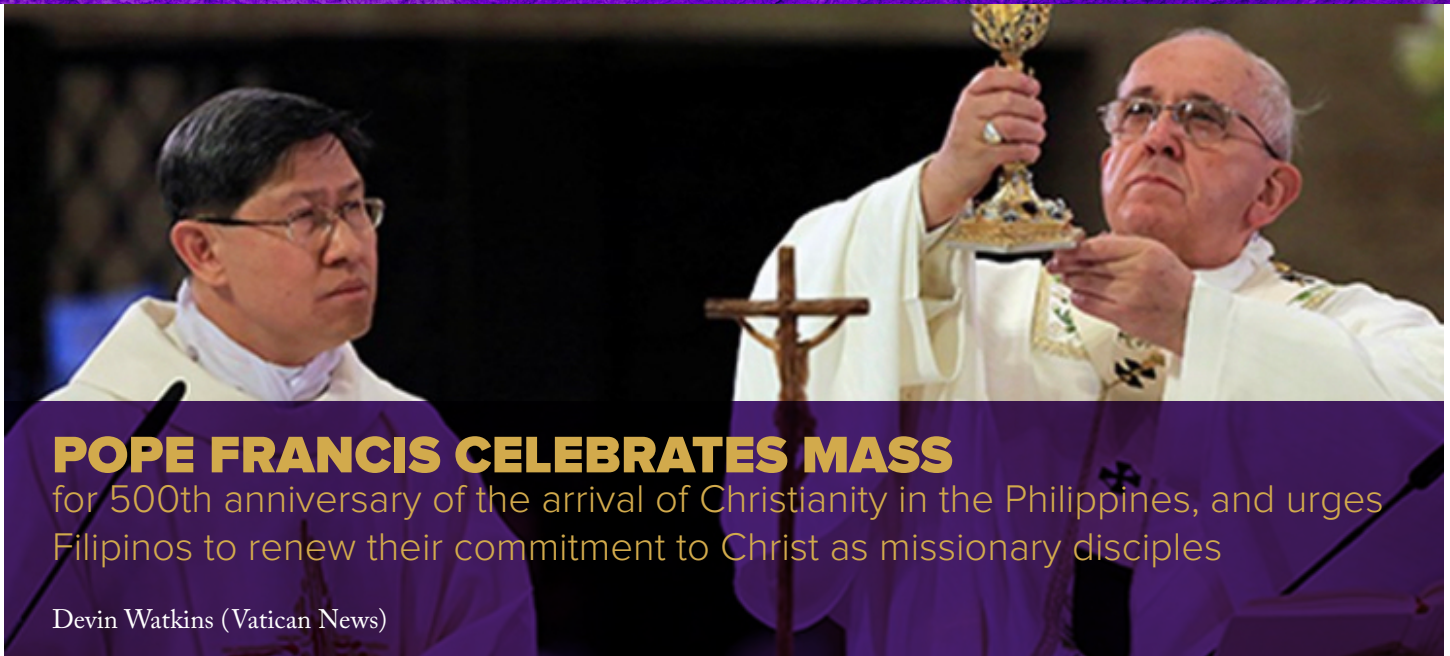
And so Monsignor Dan, I will miss you so terribly.

As you join our beloved priests who have gone before, keep us in mind, we who are left behind. Whisper words to Our Lady, to San Jose and to Jesus for us. May the Lord grant you eternal rest and the reward that awaits the good and faithful steward. Till we meet again Monsi Dan. *Mahal na mahal ka namin!*

CTK's fifth parish priest Msgr. Daniel Sta. Maria succumbed to heart failure on the early morning of February 25, 2021. Messages of grief and condolences poured in on the Internet. This article is an excerpt from the Facebook post of Fr. Herbie Santos, former youth minister of CTK, now the parish priest of the Parish of the Lord of Divine Mercy in Sikatuna Village in Quezon City. Father Herbie is also the son of Bert and Marie Anne Santos, former PPC Chaircouple during Fr. Bong Tupino's term at CTK.



Christ The King Parish — Greenmeadows



POPE FRANCIS CELEBRATES MASS

for 500th anniversary of the arrival of Christianity in the Philippines, and urges Filipinos to renew their commitment to Christ as missionary disciples

Devin Watkins (Vatican News)

Pope Francis on March 14 joined the Church in the Philippines in commemorating 500 years of Christianity in the Southeast Asian nation.

He celebrated Mass in St. Peter's Basilica with several representatives of the Filipino Church, including Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, formerly the Archbishop of Manila.

MISSIONARY DISCIPLES

In his homily, the Pope said Filipinos received the joy of the Gospel half a millennia ago, "and this joy is evident in your people."

"We see it in your eyes, on your faces, in your songs and in your prayers," he said. "I want to thank you for the joy you bring to the whole world and to our Christian communities."

Recognizing the witness of faith Filipinos offer through their "discreet and hardworking presence," Pope Francis also urged them to "persevere in the work of evangelization."

He said the Gospel message of God's closeness must be constantly proclaimed to others, so that none might perish.

As the Church in the Philippines celebrates the quinqucentenary of her birth, the Pope urged Filipino Catholics to walk courageously along the path of missionary discipleship.

"Never be afraid to proclaim the Gospel, to serve and to love," he said. "With your joy, you will help people to say of the Church too: 'she so loved the world!'"

JESUS IS SOURCE OF OUR JOY

Turning his reflections to the Sunday Gospel, Pope Francis pointed out that it contains the heart of the Gospel message. "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son" (John 3:16).

He added that the Gospel message is not an idea or doctrine, but Jesus Himself.

"The source of our joy is not an elegant theory about how to find happiness, but the actual experience of being accompanied and loved throughout the journey of life."

The Holy Father then spoke about two aspects of the day's Gospel passage: "God so loved" and "God gave."

'GOD SO LOVED'

Pope Francis said that "God so loved" that He came to seek us out when we were lost and raise us up.

"He has always looked at us with love, and for the sake of love, He came among us in the flesh of his Son," said the Pope. "In Jesus, God spoke the definitive word about our life: you are not lost, you are loved. Loved forever."

He added that sometimes we prefer a "glum, sorrowful, and self-absorbed religiosity," even though the Gospel should "enlarge our hearts and make us grasp the immensity of God's love."

'GOD GAVE'

Pope Francis then reflected on the action of God's love: "God gave his Son" for our salvation.

Love, noted the Pope, takes us out of ourselves, and always seeks to give itself fully.

"That is the power of love," he said, "it shatters the shell of our selfishness, breaks out of our carefully constructed security zones, tears down walls and overcomes fears, so as to give freely of itself."

God's love in Jesus, said Pope Francis, is so great that "He cannot fail to give Himself to us."

JOY IN SELF-GIVING

As we see in people who love one another and share their lives in love, he said, "the more we love, the more we become capable of giving."

The Pope said that sometimes we seek joy in dreams of glory or in the false security of material possessions.

Yet, true joy can only be found in complete self-giving, as God shows in giving His Son.

"Life teaches us that true joy comes from realizing that we are loved gratuitously," concluded Pope Francis, "knowing that we are not alone, having someone who shares our dreams and who, when we experience shipwreck, is there to help us and lead us to a safe harbor." ■



CHRIST THE KING PARISH
GREENMEADOWS

Catechetical Ministry

APRIL - JUNE 2021 SCHEDULE

May 2, 2021 2-3:30PM	Life and Virtues of St. Pope John Paul II and St. Mother Teresa
May 2, 2021 2-3:30PM	The Creed Series: The Forgiveness of Sins The Resurrection of the Body Life Everlasting
May 15, 2021 2-3:30PM	Flowers of May: The Titles of Mary
May 29 2021 2-3:30PM	Flowers of May: The Virtues of Mary
April 4, 2021 2-3:30PM	Life and Virtues of St. Maximilian Kolbe and St. Catherine of Siena
April 4, 2021 2-3:30PM	The Creed Series: The Holy Catholic Church, The Communion of Saints
April 18, 2021 2-3:30PM	Bible Sharing Class: Readings for the Third Sunday of Easter
June 6, 2021 2-3:30PM	A Brief History of the Catholic Church
June 20, 2021 2-3:30PM	Bible Sharing Class: Readings for the Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time



FR. RICKY MONTAÑEZ: THE SINGING PRIEST

Roberto Locsin

The online Masses brought out the best in our priests and highlighted how talented and capable they are. During the lockdown, when churches were closed to parishioners, they not only celebrated the Mass but also became the de facto choir in the celebration. Their beautiful voices perfectly harmonized animated our Masses. One of these singing priests is the humble Fr. Ricky Montañez.

Born on July 15, 1971 in Bago City, Negros Occidental, young Ricky grew up in Iloilo City. His father, Errol, died in a vehicular accident when Ricky was only 11 years old. So to this day, he regrets not having spent enough time with him. His mother, Elsie Canet, was a housewife and a very caring mother. He studied in public schools for elementary and high school.

Father Ricky attributed his religiosity to an aunt and credits her for a big part of his formation. He became a member of the church choir as early as a second grader, an altar server at age 11, and later became a member of the Legion of Mary. He went to West Visayas State University graduating with a degree in Education and was awarded as Outstanding Student Teacher in English and with academic excellence.

He graduated magna cum laude at Loyola School of Theology in Ateneo de Manila University for his Bachelor in Sacred Theology. Subsequently, he was ordained in the religious Order the Augustinians of the Assumption on November 12, 2011 by then Bishop Chito Tagle of Imus. He has continued his education with a Master of Arts Degree in Pastoral Ministry from the Ateneo de Manila University and a Master of Research Degree in Pastoral Theology from Heythrop College, University of London. He says that he has experienced ministering to different kinds of people of different age groups in different places, with his experience working in places like Greece, France, Italy, Mexico, Australia, Spain, Germany, Poland, Israel, Jordan, Egypt, Portugal, Ecuador, Brazil, Argentina, Thailand, Japan, South Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan, UK, and the US. Therefore this has made him better prepared to perform his priestly ministry. His singing talent was once more awakened when he was made a cantor in a parish in Massachusetts. Asked who his favorite saint is, Father Ricky readily named St. Philip Neri because of his saying, “A joyful heart is more easily made perfect than a downcast one.” In one moment of epiphany, while giving communion to the people at Mass in CTK, he felt his responsibility for the souls of his parishioners. He therefore realized his responsibility to “make liturgy more meaningful and prayerful.”

To know Father Ricky is to hear him singing the Liturgy of the Eucharist at Mass. One parishioner told him, “I have been experiencing dryness in my prayer life since 2019, but for the past two Sundays,

your singing touched my heart and I felt consoled. It was like I was really transported to the Last Supper. That’s a gift to bring people to feel God’s presence through one’s singing. I praise and thank God for your singing. It doesn’t make me focus on you but in Jesus.”

Another parishioner texted him, “My standard of Mass has been upgraded because of how you say the Mass. Hearing my children (14 and 7 years old) say, ‘I liked the Mass,’ needs no further explanation.”

And yet another lady texted, “Our family heard your singing four weeks ago. We had a very extraordinary spiritual experience while attending your Mass and had to go back the same time the following week hoping to hear you again. Just want to wish you well and to inform you that you have touched me and my son’s heart through your homily, but especially when you sang during the Liturgy of the Eucharist. My eyes were closed when you sang and we transcended to a different place, like we are breaking the bread with Jesus Himself. Truly an amazing experience.”

Where do we attribute these “amazing experiences”?

To his prayers and intimate relationship with the Lord. Aside from his required priestly and community prayers, he has his rosary, meditation and his heart-to-heart talk with the Lord in front of the Blessed Sacrament.

His secret is 10 percent action and 90 percent prayer.

Further to his saintly virtues, his humility is a homily in itself. For truly, by his fruits you shall know him. ■



Christ the King Parish
GREEN MEADOWS

Formation Ministry

Paschal Triduum

Reflections



Rev. Fr. Harold Anthony S. Parilla

1 - 3 April 2021 (Thurs, Fri, Sat)
9:30 am - 11:00 am

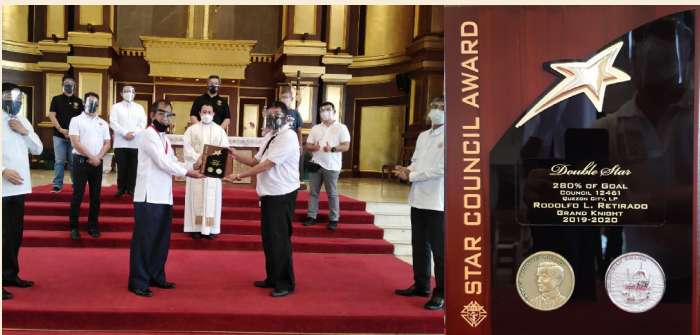
Zoom ID 822 6655 0531
No passcode required

SEEN ZONE



GREENMEADOWS CORE PRAYER TEAM REGROUPS

Greenmeadows prayer warriors have regrouped and revived their monthly Bible sharing sessions. The first meeting was held at the GM boardroom. Present during the session were Fely Ong, Tessie Moran, Beth Monedero, and Teri Floro. Joining via Zoom were Rissa Kawpeng and Eileen de Leon.



CTK KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS RECEIVE AWARDS


Knights of Columbus North Luzon Jurisdiction recently awarded the Double Star Council Award to members of CTK Knights of Columbus. The award recognizes the outstanding achievements in membership, insurance, programming and overall operations. The award was given through District Deputy Cho Maglalang to Grand Knight Rudy Retirado.

Two Star Council medal awards were also given to GK Rudy Retirado for Grand Knight, SK Nitoy Tagle for Membership and SK Irwin Reyes for Program Director. KOC Council 12461 is the only recipient of such an award within the Diocese of Cubao.



LECTORS AND COMMENTATORS

Fr. Steve also commissioned four lectors after the 7am mass on March 10. These were Mai Supetran, Minerva Cornelio, Myra Reyes and Ira Reyes. Congratulations to all!



Holy Land Subic Retreat Village
A 3-Day Zoom Recollection


Holy Land
Subic
Sanctuary and Biblical Theme Park

EASTER

and the Gift of Hope

with **Fr. Arvie Bello**

April 13-15, 2021
4:00 pm to 5:00 pm



Please Register with Bang Santos @0918 938-0979/ email @ holylandsubic@gmail.com

No Recollection Fee / Voluntary donations WELCOME
Holy Land Subic Foundation, Inc. BPI C/A 3140-0147-87
for Spiritual Director stipend, maintenance of Holy Land Subic and Aeta's Salaries

FR. ARVIE LEADS HOLY LAND SUBIC RETREAT RECOLLECTION IN APRIL.



LIVING PILLARS OF LENT

Prayer. Fasting. Almsgiving.

Beyond external rituals, the season of Lent beckons us to do acts of mercy.

CTK's EMHCs, prevented by the pandemic from its traditional visits to the infirm on the World Day of the Sick, still found a way to reach out and help the sick.

CTK's EMHCs were able to donate P179,000 to Quirino Memorial Medical Center (QMMC) as part of its annual World Day of the Sick Outreach to this institution.

Many of the Kuyas responded generously to the call to top the base donation of P 50,000 from its funds, allowing the group to donate P179,000.00, which is even 39% higher than its pre-pandemic donation!

Photo shows the donation turnover of CTK's EMHC to Quirino Memorial Medical Center on February 11, 2021.

From left to right are Kuyas Lito Pasquin and Manny de Leon, QMMC's Dr. Evelyn Victoria Reside and staff.

Gifted to Give

THE DIOCESE OF CUBAO
LENTEN RECOLLECTION SERIES

March 15, 24, and 31, 2021



SPEAKERS:



MARCH 15 | 7:30 PM
Most. Rev. Bishop
Pablo Virgilio David, D.D.
Diocese of Caloocan
Sponsored By:
Our Lady of
Pentecost Parish



MARCH 24 | 8:00 PM
Most. Rev. Bishop
Midyphil Billones, D.D.
Archdiocese of Cebu
Sponsored By:
Parish of the Holy
Sacrifice



MARCH 31 | 8:00 PM
Most. Rev. Bishop
Honesto Ongtioco, D.D.
Diocese of Cubao

The three-day online recollection will be streamed live via the Facebook Page and Youtube Channel of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Cubao.





CTK SOCOM LAUNCHES 'FAITH STREAMS'

CTK's Social Communications Ministry launched its weekly online series called "Faith Streams." The five-minute vignettes feature thought-provoking reflections of leading homilists to help the Catholic faithful foster a more intimate relationship with God and develop their prayer life. For February, Cubao Bishop Honesto Ongtioco shared his thoughts and inspiring personal experiences that he related to Scripture. CTK's parish priest Fr. Steven Zabala who celebrates his birthday and priestly anniversary in March shares how he derives strength for his continuing journey from God and the communities he serves. Other invited guest homilists include Caloocan Bishop Pablo "Ambo" David, Pasig Bishop Mylo Vergara, Archbishop Soc Villegas, Fr. Jojo Gatdula, Fr. Ricky Montañez, Fr. Domie Guzman of Our Lady of Sorrows Parish in Pasay and Fr. Herbie Santos of the Parish of the Lord of Divine Mercy (PLDM) in Sikatuna Village. Apart from reflections on the Sunday Gospel, Faith Streams also poses questions for the faithful to ponder. As Cubao Bishop Nes Ongtioco aptly puts it, "With Faith Streams, we hope that your relationship with God will grow season by season."

Tessa Mangahas of SoCom says "Faith Streams" also seeks to prepare the faithful as it gears to be a Jubilee Church in the nationwide celebration of 500 Years of Christianity. CTK's Faith Streams can be seen through the parish website, official Facebook page and YouTube channel.



Faith Mask Part 2 Update

Attend public worship safely with the
CHRIST THE KING PARISH GREENMEADOWS Faith Mask

Proceeds of the sales will be donated to Christ the King Parish Greenmeadows

3 pcs. for P 400* only

* Price does not include delivery

For orders, please contact:
Lito Pasquin at 0967-2340194

- Masks Sold: **429 pcs (143 sets)**
- Donation to CTK: **P 32,000.00**
- Remaining to Sell: **66 pcs (22 sets)**
- All unclaimed and unsold masks have been turned over to the Parish Office are of Marjorie Ruga

**CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE
 CTK UNIT INVITES ALL
 KASAMBAHAY AND DRIVERS
 LENTEN SPIRITUAL TALK**

FR. JERRY ORBOS
 MARCH 30, 2021. HOLY THURSDAY.
 VIA ZOOM
 NO PASSCODE REQUIRED
 ZOOM ID 838 4525 3106

Register with the Parish office
 or
 Alma Yeh at 0932 849 9427



FR. JOJO GATDULA PURSUES STUDIES

CTK held a thanksgiving Mass for its resident guest priest Fr. Giovanni "Jojo" Gatdula on January 18, 2021. Fr. Jojo was part of the CTK triumvirate together with Fr. Steve and Fr. Ricky, that cared for the community during the period of harsh lockdowns. Parishioners particularly love his insightful homilies steeped with Filipino cultural elements. A baritone, he was also part of the CTK clergy choir that sang for all Masses when choirs were not allowed to serve due to restrictions. He hails from the Apostolic Vicariate of San Jose Occidental Mindoro. He will be finishing his studies in Canon Law at UST Manila before returning to Mindoro.

Thank you for your service, Fr. Jojo!



CHRIST THE KING PARISH
GREENMEADOWS

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

Please email deposit slip to
ctkgmdonations@gmail.com



CHRIST THE KING PARISH
GREENMEADOWS

SCHEDULE OF ONLINE MASSES

WEEKEND

Saturday—6PM
Sunday—7AM / 10AM / 5PM

WEEKDAY

Monday to Friday—7AM / 6PM
Saturday 7AM

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.



500 Years of Christianity
in the Philippines



Let's help celebrate this milestone. We are raising funds to vest 500 priests with the chasuble on the left which costs P3,000 each.

Please make checks payable to "Mother Butler Mission Guilds Inc." or Direct deposit to Metrobank Acct#442-7-44201292-6 Account Name: Mother Butler Mission Guilds Inc. or GCash: 09175928982 Ma. Paz Rosario Araneta

Please inform Sally at (0977)199-8707 that donation is for 500YOC Thank you for your generosity!



Mother Butler Mission Guilds



FOLLOW GOD UNCONDITIONALLY

A message from Msgr. Manny Gabriel for Fr. Steven C. Zabala on the occasion of his 25th priestly anniversary

“What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” – Micah 6:8

ACT JUSTLY.

To act justly as a priest means to love your priesthood.
The priesthood is not a task, a function to perform.
Not a status that we can excel in,
Not just a prop in our personality,
The priesthood defines who you are as a person.
Love it.
It is not something that you can disrobe yourself from like a sutana.

It will shape who you are as a person, as a man.
The priesthood is not a persona that we carry with us.

It touches our inner self.
I pray that as you go to the next level of the priesthood,
Towards turning gold,
Twenty-five years from now,
I hope you continue that journey.
Embrace that priesthood.
Respect it.
Love it.
Twenty-five years of inner journey
Will bring you and lead you a long way.

LOVE TENDERLY.

You will be receiving assignments.
You will go higher up the ladder of the hierarchy.
Wherever your inner process will lead you,

I pray love the poor.
Always feel the ground on where you stand.
The lowly,
The hapless,
People who have become part of you,
Those who are forgotten,
They are the ones.
Let them soften your heart,
Catapult you to bigger heights.
Love tenderly.
Do not fail to look at the ground where you have come from,
The ground on which you stand,
And the road that lies ahead.
Be with the poor.

WALK HUMBLY WITH YOUR GOD.

The journey might be difficult.
The journey might be easy.
The journey might be rewarding,
Or it can be punishing.
But in both ways and in all ways,
Walking humbly with your God means
We are but servants for the building of His Kingdom.

The issue is not us, but God's kingdom.
Continue that journey aware,
That the kingdom is bigger than all of us.
On your anniversary,
I thank the Lord for the gift of priesthood in you.
I thank the Lord for the people who have loved you,

And the people you have served.
I thank the Lord for your family.
I thank the Lord for you.
You are your own person.
You are your own man.
You are your own priest.
Let the Lord lead the way.
Follow Him unconditionally.

Congratulations and Happy Priestly Anniversary, Father Steve!



Msgr. Manuel “Manny” Gabriel was one of Fr. Steve’s mentors and played a key role in his priestly formation. He is a product of the San Jose Seminary and has held several key pastoral assignments. Like Fr. Steve, Msgr. Manny was also ordained on the Feast of the Annunciation (March 25, 1970).