



# H

## THE HERALD

Christ the King Parish  
Greenmeadows

Apr - Jun 2025

Father's Heart Today

# New Beginning. New Life.

By Fr. Aytoy Opiniano, *Parish Priest*

Every new chapter in life invites us to pause, reflect, and recommit to our deepest hopes. Today, our Church and our parish stand at the threshold of such a chapter—a new beginning, and with it, new life.

This moment is graced by the leadership of our newly elected Pope, Leo XIV. His presence brings not only a change in title but a fresh wind of hope, peace, and vision for our global Church. His pastoral imagination—a concept beautifully described by theologian Dr. Campbell-Reed as the ability to visualize new and creative ideas and actualize them with hard work and commitment. It is already transforming the way we understand leadership and discipleship.

Jesus Himself was a master of pastoral imagination. Through His parables, His radical welcome of the poor and excluded, and His bold challenges to the powers of His day, Jesus reimagined what it means to live a flourishing human and Christian life. Pope Leo XIV follows in His footsteps—not by copying, but by creatively embodying Christ's message for our time.

### A Shepherd of Peace and Imagination

When Pope Leo XIV stepped onto the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica for the first time, his opening words were: "Peace be with you all!"—the same words the Risen Christ spoke to His disciples. It wasn't merely a greeting. It was

*continued on next page...*

## WHAT'S INSIDE

03 / St. Joseph Sanctuary 04 / New Pastoral Team 06 / Bishop Nes 07 / Sacred Heart Jubilee 08 / Mary's Month 09 / BEC Formation 10 / Migrants 11 / Seen Zone 12 / Children's Ministry 13 / Seniors on Pilgrimage 14 / Worship 15 / The Upper Room 16 / Vicariate News 17 / LOC 18 / BEC 19 / Special Feature 20 / Holy Week 2025 22 / Apostles 23 / Easterrific 24 / Prayer for Popes



*continued from previous page...*



a declaration of intent. He reframed peace as something “unarmed and disarming, humble and persevering.” In a world weary from conflict, division, and spiritual fatigue, these words felt like healing balm.

His choice of name—Leo XIV—is also meaningful. Inspired by Pope Leo XIII, the great defender of laborers and promoter of Catholic social teaching, our new pope signals his commitment to justice, dignity, and solidarity. He dreams boldly within the Gospel and acts decisively in the world.

### **Walking with the People**

In his first homily, Pope Leo quoted St. Augustine: “*With you I am a Christian, for you I am a bishop.*” These words say it all. He is a shepherd who listens before he leads. A man who walks humbly with his flock. His embrace of *synodality*—journeying together as Church—is not just a theme; it is his lifestyle. He is building bridges, not walls. He fosters unity, not uniformity. This is pastoral imagination at its best.

### **Courage, Compassion, and Creativity**

Pope Leo XIV has not shied away from speaking prophetically. He dares to address uncomfortable realities—war, poverty,

ecological crises—not with fear, but with a heart filled with Gospel courage. For him, the Church is not a fortress to be defended, but a field hospital and a family home where healing, creativity, and hope take root.

He calls us not merely to survive, but to *flourish*—to live fully human and deeply Christian lives. And that flourishing must include everyone: the broken, the searching, the lonely, and the lost.

As Thomas Merton wisely said, “*We are not at peace with others because we are not at peace with ourselves, and we are not at peace with ourselves because we are not at peace with God.*” Pope Leo leads us back to the source of peace—God Himself—and invites us to rediscover that peace within and among us.

### **A New Chapter in Our Parish**

As we give thanks for this new beginning in the universal Church, we also celebrate a new chapter here in our CTK parish community. God has blessed us with a new Parish Pastoral Team—faith-filled men and women who have accepted the call to serve.

To our new team: thank you for your yes. Your willingness to serve, to imagine new paths for ministry, and to make CTK Parish *a parish for others*, is deeply appreciated. May your hearts be filled with the same pastoral imagination that inspires Pope Leo XIV: bold in vision, gentle in spirit, and rooted in the Gospel.

### **Moving Forward Together**

Let us walk together in this time of renewal, both globally and locally. Let us be a Church and a parish that doesn’t fear new beginnings, but welcomes them with joy, hope, and faith. Let us allow the Spirit of God to breathe new life into our ministries, our relationships, and our mission.

In the words of Pope Leo XIV, “*Peace be with you all!*” May that peace inspire us to live creatively, love generously, and serve faithfully—now and always. 🙏



### **EDITORIAL BOX**

Editor-in-Chief **Rissa Singson Kawpeng**  
Managing Editor **Tessa Mangahas**

Editorial Consultant/Adviser **Fr. Aytoy Opiniano**  
Graphics **JG Gonzales** • Layout **Pio Mallari**  
Printer **The House Printers**

Photo credits **Ella Yeh, Bing del Rosario, Fred del Rosario, JG Gonzales, Tessa Mangahas, Ladies of Charity, Eileen de Leon, Mina Mejia, Mae Heredia, Vinchu Lapid, Cubao Media, Catholic Women's League, Nadine Navarro, Charlyze Kawpeng, Rissa Kawpeng, Frandel Recto, Albert Cuadrante, Vatican Media**

Contributors **Fr. Aytoy Opiniano, Fr. Rex Jeba, Rissa Kawpeng, Charlyze Kawpeng, Tessa Mangahas, Lorie Santos, Mina Mejia, Eileen de Leon, Mae Heredia, Vinchu Lapid, Albert Cuadrante, Frandel Recto, Nadine Navarro, Mina Mejia, Marie Molina, Tinnah dela Rosa, Ramil Chua, Ralph Tecson, Jose Locsin Jr.**

The Herald is a quarterly publication of the Social Communications Ministry of Christ the King Parish Greenmeadows Avenue, Quezon City, Philippines

Telephone: 8633-0280 • E-mail: [info@christthekingparish.ph](mailto:info@christthekingparish.ph)  
<http://christthekingparish.ph> • FB.com/CTKPGreenmeadows

**THE HERALD 2025**





# SAINT JOSEPH SANCTUARY PROJECT LAUNCHED

By Tessa Mangahas

(Standing l-r) Maan del Rosario, Fr. Herbie Santos, Tessa Mangahas, Atty. Jackie Cruz  
(Seated l-r) Fred del Rosario, Bishop Eli Ayuban Jr., Fr. Aytoy Opiniano

On May 23, 2025, Cubao Bishop Elias Ayuban Jr., CTK's parish priest Fr. Aytoy Opiniano along Fr. Herbie Santos, Diocesan Finance Council members, Fred del Rosario, Atty. Jackie Cruz signed the agreement launching the Saint Joseph Sanctuary. Representatives of CTK's Parish Pastoral Team, Maan del Rosario and Tessa Mangahas were on hand to witness the event.

In his message to the PPC on signing day, Fr. Aytoy shared the significance of the Saint Joseph Sanctuary saying, "Today marks a moment of profound significance – one that will shape the future of CTK community for

generations to come. We are not only called to honor the memory of those who have passed, but more importantly, to walk alongside their loved ones during this sacred time. Together, we are touching countless lives as we journey in faith toward the Lord. On behalf of this Great Community, I offer my heartfelt gratitude to each of you for your humble and faithful commitment to serve. To God be the Glory!"

More details of the project will be released by the Board soon. May God bless the work of our hands!



CTK Finance Council Member Fred del Rosario and parish priest Fr. Aytoy Opiniano affix their signature on the Saint Joseph Sanctuary project document.



Cubao Bishop Eli Ayuban Jr. signs the document on behalf of the diocese.



## A NEW PASTORAL TEAM 2025-2028: SERVING WITH HUMILITY

*My dear people of God,*

It is my pleasure to share with you the names of the incoming Parish Pastoral Council members who have generously agreed to serve their new term effective July 1, 2025.

First, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to our PPC officers who have served faithfully for many years. Your dedication and hard work have shaped CTK into what it is today. Your presence is truly a blessing. As Madame Lulay (dela Cruz) has just said, "It was the best time of my life."

Second, to both our new and returning PPC officers—Congratulations! Please know that you were carefully chosen and highly endorsed by our servant leaders. This method of selection is not only wise but also practical. It removes the need

to determine who among you is the "best" because all of you bring unique value and purpose to this ministry. This has been my well calculated option since I became a parish priest.

As for serving the people: it is a mission that never ends—it grows and improves continuously. My only suggestion is this: Let us serve CTK with all humility, for it is only through humble service that we are truly pleasing to HIM.

May we remain grounded, yet always strive to be efficient and effective.

Thank you for saying yes. Thank you for offering your commitment.

To our CTK community - let us all give our new set of PPC members our unwavering support as they help bring to life CTK's mission of being a "Parish for Others" and by being walking examples of practicing stewardship as a way of life.

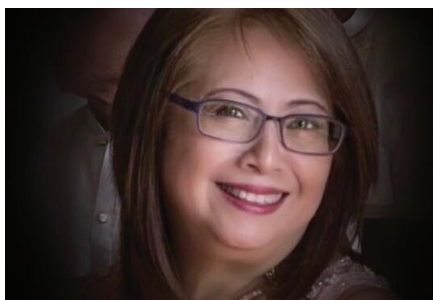
God bless us all!

*Fr. Aytoy*

## 2025-2028 CTK GREENMEADOWS PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL OFFICERS (MINISTRIES)



**Albert Cuadrante**  
PPC Lay Coordinator



**Maan del Rosario**  
PPC Asst. Lay Coordinator



**Bunny Gerochi**  
PPC Secretary



**Irene Robles**  
PPC Treasurer



**Nadine Navarro**  
Basic Ecclesial Communities (BEC)



**Sheryl Coronel & Alma Yeh**  
Catechetical Ministry



**Regie & Joanne Polancos**  
Family & Life Ministry



**Joy Cuadrante**  
Formation Ministry



**Frandel Recto**  
Migrants Ministry





**Mon & Loung Cuartero**  
Public Affairs Ministry



**Tessa Mangahas**  
Social Communications Ministry & Seniors Ministry



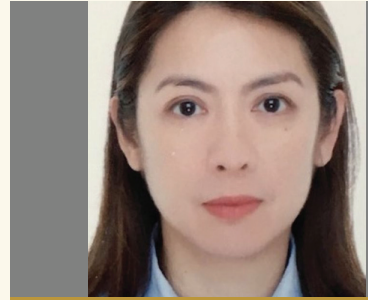
**Eileen de Leon**  
Social Services & Development Ministry



**Ellen Chua**  
Stewardship Ministry



**JG Gonzales**  
Vocation Ministry & Altar Servers



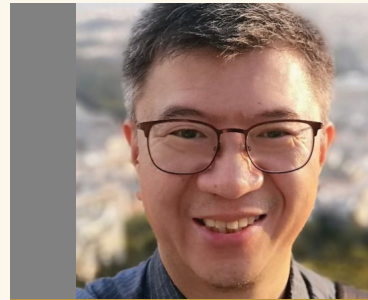
**Monette Najar**  
Worship Ministry



**Jops Padrinao**  
Lectors & Commentators



**Benjie Jimenez**  
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHC)



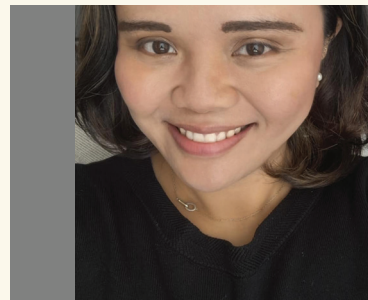
**Arwin Tan**  
Music Ministry



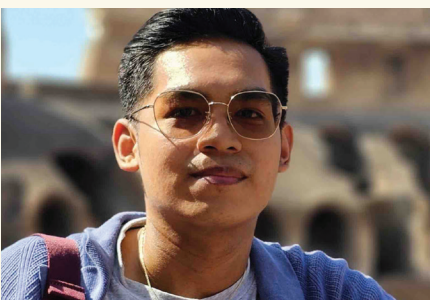
**Jeanette Cagurangan**  
Greeters & Collectors



**Rissa Kawpeng**  
Young Catholics Ministry



**Maielle Montayre**  
Youth



**Ryle Rellosa**  
Youth



**Chino & Marian Quizon**  
Young Catholic Professionals



**Sonny & Mina Mejia**  
Children's Ministry



# BISHOP NES MARKS 27TH EPISCOPAL ORINATION ANNIVERSARY

By Tessa Mangahas



ROMAN CATHOLIC  
DIOCESE OF CUBAO

The celebrant wanted a low-key and simple event. But grateful clergy and an equally blessed community had other ideas. On Wednesday, June 18, 2025, Cubao's Bishop Emeritus and CTK's resident bishop Most Reverend Honesto F. Ongtioco DD was feted in a Thanksgiving Mass at CTK's Main Church.

Friends and clergy from the Diocese of Cubao including Vicar General Fr. Frederick "Jojo" Simon, CTK parish priest Fr. Aytoy Opiniano, guest and visiting priests, Cubao Diocese's Chancery staff and others gathered to give thanks for the nurturing presence and pastoral leadership of Bishop Nes who shepherded the diocese for more than two decades before he turned over the reins to Bishop Elias Ayuban Jr. in December 2024. Sine Nomine Choir carefully chose and rendered the songs that perfectly fit the occasion.

In his homily, Bishop Nes emphasized that he considered the event not as one of personal achievement, but a "humble thanksgiving to God's abundant grace, and to the people God has entrusted to my care; for it is walking with you, listening to you, serving you and praying with you that my calling as a bishop finds its deepest meaning."

Bishop Nes also recalled his service in 3 dioceses – 5 years in the Diocese of Balanga, Bataan, 2 years in the Diocese of Malolos and 21 years in the Diocese of Cubao. He said that he had tried to always serve with joy and give his whole heart for the Gospel. He waxed grateful for the sustaining grace of God and the communities' kindness and prayers through the years. He realizes that his greatest mission as a bishop lies not just in ministry but in the "simple, ordinary moments, visiting sick, encouraging the discouraged, listening to the small voice of the poor, and simply being present like Jesus was."

Vicar General Fr. Jojo Simon said that Bishop Nes always had a low-key celebration of his Episcopal Ordination anniversary due to pressing matters as Cubao Bishop and member of finance councils of the local Church. For a while, he said the bishop's anniversary became part of fund-raising efforts for various causes. On behalf of Bishop Eli, Fr. Jojo thanked Bishop Nes for his decades long guidance and nurturing of his brother priests, and promised prayers for Bishop Nes, "to always be the shepherd that we need."

Bishop Nes enjoined the communities to keep praying for his "little self", saying that he needs God's mercy and everyone's support to keep serving with a heart rooted in Christ. 🙏





# THE JUBILEE OF THE SACRED HEART

By Tessa Mangahas

**T**he month of June is traditionally dedicated to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. This is to venerate, honor and imitate Jesus who has a heart that loves beyond measure.

But in the many activities surrounding the Jubilee Year of Hope pronounced by Pope Francis, we may have forgotten that this year, we also celebrate the Jubilee of the Sacred Heart.

It was in the Octave of Corpus Christi in June 16, 1675 when the Sacred Heart appeared to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque when she was before the Blessed Sacrament in Paray Le Monial, France, an event which is referred to as the “Great Apparition”. It was here that the Sacred Heart spoke these words to St. Margaret Mary – that His Sacred Heart “will open wide and pour forth lavishly the influence of its Divine love on all” who will receive Holy Communion on the Feast of the Sacred Heart in a spirit of reparation.

June 2025 is exactly 350 years from when Christ requested this feast. In CTK, we celebrate the Jubilee by having the Sacred Heart Novena and consecrating our families to the Sacred Heart in Masses starting June 13.

Pope Francis came out with the encyclical “Dilexit nos” in October 2024. One of the passages read “It could be said that I am my heart, for my heart is what sets me apart, shapes my spiritual identity and puts me in communion with other people.”



In a recent interview, Filipino Cardinal Chito Tagle, Pro-Prefect of the Dicastery for Evangelization, talked of the Filipinos’ devotion to the Sacred Heart, “The devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus is widespread in the Philippines. We are grateful to the many religious orders bearing the name “Sacred Heart”, the Society of Jesus and the Apostleship of Prayer that promote the devotion in dioceses, parishes, schools and families. In addition to vigils and prayers every first Friday of the month, it is customary to have the image of the crowned Sacred Heart in one’s home. We beg the Heart of Jesus to rule and govern our families and nation with His mercy and love. This prayer comes from a people whose hearts have experienced being wounded when injustice, greed, corruption and indifference rule.

Tagle also said that this “devotion is a reminder that we should constantly beg Jesus to transform our hearts to be like His.” He mentioned that the Filipino faithful still sing a hymn to the Sacred Heart in Spanish where the nation offers its heart to Jesus: “*no más Amor que el tuyo, O Corazón Divino. El Pueblo Filipino te da su corazón.*” The song never fails to bring consolation to the heart and tears to the eyes.

The Feast of the Sacred Heart is on Friday, June 27, 2025. Let us receive Holy Communion on that day in a spirit of loving reparation for the outrages our Eucharistic Lord has received.





# MARY'S MERRY MONTH OF MAY

By Eileen de Leon

It has been a revered tradition for our parish (and other parishes across the country) to pray the Holy Rosary daily and to offer blooms to our Blessed Mother as a symbol of our devotion and unwavering faith that she will intercede for us in our prayer petitions to Jesus Christ. As the oft-repeated phrase of the song goes, *"ibulong sa Kanya, minamahal ko Siya."*

Yes, believing in our hearts that Mama Mary is our "whisperer" to her Son, we fervently pray the Rosary and pass on this practice to our young. That is why it is also a tradition in a lot of places for children to gather flowers and offer these to the Blessed Mother amid songs of praise. In the provinces and some urban areas, the loveliest belles of the place have a procession called the *Santacruzán* to commemorate the search for the Holy Cross by St. Helene.

On the last day of the beautiful month of May, with a special act of devotion we burned the prayer petitions that we have gathered for the whole month bearing those heartfelt desires and intentions that weighed in our hearts "Pueblo Amante de Maria. Burning these petitions were our simple act of faith and trust with Mary's intercession. We watched intently as the flames rose to the sky, knowing full well that Mary is present and interceding for us in expressing the wishes of our hearts.

Indeed, our devotion to Mama Mary is deeply ingrained. *Tagos sa buto, nakaakit sa puso.* We have many names for Mary. We dedicate churches and shrines to her. No wonder our country is called "Pueblo Amante de Maria" (People in Love with Mary).

In CTK, we celebrate Mary as our line to her Son, Jesus. We come together in prayer, and our hearts are filled with peace and faith that our prayers are answered according to God's perfect will. 🙏



THE HERALD 2025



Marian devotees pray and offer flowers to Mary during the Mayflower season.



Fr. RL Orate, Fr. Aytoy Opiniano and parishioners marked the culmination of Mary's month of May with fellowship, snacks and beverages.



Marian devotees and other parishioners gather and burn their petitions lifting their prayers to the heavens.

The community dropped their petitions in gaily decorated boxes for the entire month of May.





# THE GREATEST WOMAN EVER

## A MARIAN EVENING DRAWS THE GREENMEADOWS COMMUNITY TO OUR LADY

By Rissa Singson Kawpeng

On May 16, our parish community in Greenmeadows gathered at the Garden Lounge for a beautiful Marian celebration titled “The Greatest Woman Ever.” The event, organized by the Basic Ecclesial Community of Greenmeadows, brought neighbors together in a spirit of devotion and gratitude to Our Lady.

The evening started at 5:30 p.m. sharp with the recitation of the Holy Rosary led by Arlene Veloso and Eileen de Leon. Afterwards, parishioners solemnly processed forward, as Sine Nomine choir members Rissa Kawpeng and Monica Uy filled the air with song. Each attendee carried a long-stemmed rose to present to Mary.

The highlight of the evening was the talk by Danny Moran, a Greenmeadows resident and daily CTK Mass goer. A sports enthusiast and chairman of the Henry V. Moran Foundation which helps underprivileged kids through sports development, Danny also chairs the PAREF schools. His life exemplifies the balance between worldly responsibilities and spiritual devotion as he juggles the demands of running Amici Restaurants and Cara Mia Cake and Gelato stores.

Danny’s presentation was both enlightening and inspiring, as he skillfully wove together the rich tapestry of salvation history. He drew compelling connections between

Old Testament characters and events and their ultimate fulfillment through Mary’s *fiat*—her willing acceptance of God’s plan at the Annunciation. Through his words, participants gained a deeper understanding of how Mary’s role in our salvation was prefigured throughout Scriptures all the way from Eve in the Garden of Eden. It was a topic for theologians and scholars, yet lay people were able to appreciate its depth and importance. Kang Goco, a resident, thanked the organizers of the event saying, “I found it very enlightening and informative,” adding, “dinner was good too!”

Oh, yes, how can we gather without food for the tummy after feeding our souls? Neighbors and their friends bonded over a simple buffet of yummy pancit, embutido, chicken teriyaki, and lumpiang shanghai—with bottles of wine and lots of desserts, including Cara Mia cakes! It was truly a night that honored Mama Mary and Jesus with the community gathering as one big family. 🙌



# MIGRANTS MINISTRY IMMERSSES IN TAIWAN

By Frandel Recto

The Diocese of Cubao Migrants Ministry, with the participation of CTK-Greenmeadows Parish, visited Kaohsiung last March 2025 for an immersion with the Filipino migrants workers and church communities in the southern metropolitan port city of Taiwan. This is the first time the Philippine Catholic Church sent a mission of this kind overseas on the diocese level.

The Bishop of Cubao exhorts that this first overseas venture is a concrete expression of the diocese's commitment to the journey with God's people, experiencing the struggles and difficulties of our fellow Filipinos working abroad. It is a great opportunity for parish workers under the diocese to go deep into issues covered by the ministry so that programs and services are designed to address the concerns of our brethren migrants.

The Holy Father, in his 2024 World Day of Migrants and Refugees note, also highlighted the spirit of synodality - "God walks with His People", to give special attention to the plight of our migrant brothers and sisters.

The contingent gained meaningful insights and realizations from our Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW) in Taiwan, despite the short visit and hectic schedule. These can be used as inputs as we serve the OFW families in our Diocese and in the parish.

Some of the key concerns we gathered are:

- 1. Home-sickness / Separation from families and loved ones.** This is a great sacrifice each OFW endures with long-distance relationship (LDRs), physical absence in the family and loved ones. Not a few of these LDRs lead to marital disputes and separation, unguided development of OFW children (addiction, early pregnancies & marriage, spoiled upbringing, etc.).
- 2. Money Matters with OFWs and families back home.** The main reason for our OFWs in seeking job opportunities abroad is economics, i.e. to earn money to support and secure the future of the family. Time and again, this is also a main source of dispute for the OFW and the families left behind.

The OFW works hard to earn, but families left behind only has the appreciation that money comes very easy for the OFWs, a mindset which develops long term dependence on the OFW remittances. In one interview we have, the kabayan broached up this perennial concern within two minutes into the unprompted & spontaneous conversation, a revelation that this is a top-of-mind OFW concern through the years.

- 3. Physical difficulties and sacrifices.** For many factory workers, living accommodations mean being billeted in van containers, with all the noise and intolerable temperatures (very hot in summer & very cold during winter). They also face at times tough supervisors and managers, and difficult work shift schedules. These are the sacrifices families at home does not realize their OFW breadwinner is enduring.

The OFW phenomenon has been happening for nearly two generations, but the same problems and concerns beset our kabayans and their families. It magnifies human weakness, if devoid of values education, guidance and community support. It is in this circumstance that our church can intervene and provide another layer of support to bring and animate Christian love to our marginalized OFW brethren and families. 🙏



The author (extreme left) with Shanhua Holy Family OFW Parishioners in (north of) Tainan, Taiwan.



# SEEN ZONE

## SEEN ZONE



**Kasambahay recollection  
with Fr. Edrylle**



**Recollection kit**

### 2025 CWL KASAMBAHAY & DRIVERS LENTEN RECOLLECTION

April 15, 2025 | 8-11am

CTKGM St. Matthew & Mark rooms

Facilitator: **Fr. Edrylle Dayrit**

The CTKGM CWL Unit has successfully conducted its yearly Kasambahay and Drivers' Recollection last April 15.

A total of 60 participants joined this yearly recollection that focused on how these individuals in their own capacity, can be a pilgrim of hope to others.

The CWL Unit of the CTK-Greenmeadows invited all the Kasambahays and Drivers of the Parish for a Lenten Recollection last APRIL 15, Holy Tuesday from 8-11AM at the St Matthew and Mark rooms with Fr Edrylle Dayrit as facilitator.

A total of 60 individuals came to rekindle their faith thru this activity.

A Recollection kit was provided to each participant that consisted of the ff: notebook, pen, New Testament Bibles (c/o TGP), vitamins (c/o TGP), canned juices (c/o NutriAsia) and blessed rosaries.

Confession came right after recollection proper and the celebration of the Holy Eucharist.



**Renewal of Liturgical Ministers  
May 10, 2025**



**Social Communications Ministry Commisioning  
Ascension Sunday, June 1, 2025**



**Well done, CTK PPCRV!  
May 12, 2025**

### Stations of the Cross White Plains



### Mother's Day Mass



**Christ The King Parish — Greenmeadows**



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY ACTIVITIES

Compiled by Mina Mejia



## MOVIE TREAT AT SANTA LUCIA MALL

A fitting Easter treat for the Children's Ministry of Christ the King: the kids enjoyed a special movie screening of *The King of Kings* at Santa Lucia Mall. This meaningful activity was made possible through the generosity of our parishioner, Ms. Irene Robles.

Twelve-year-old Hilary Sorne, one of our faithful Children's Mass volunteers, shares her thoughts about the film: The movie showed that Charles Dickens chose the story of Jesus Christ to entertain his troublemaking son, Walter. It talked about the lifetime of Jesus and how he saved us from sin. It is a heartwarming and inspiring movie retelling the life of Jesus and how He saved us from all the sins of mankind. I also cried a bit at the part where Jesus died on the cross. It was really heartbreaking, but the movie made my heart full.

## KIDS PRAY TO MAMA MARY *By Eileen de Leon (mamita of Jakob de Leon)*

Every Sunday of May, before the Children's Mass, the children led the congregation in praying the Rosary, followed by a heartfelt flower offering to Mama Mary. Among the youngest leaders is four-year-old Jakob—already showing deep love and devotion.

Jakob says he often hears about Mama Mary from both his Lolás. At Christmas, his family tells him the story of Jesus' birth. He listens with wide-eyed wonder, always inserting himself into the tale. With his toy car, he "drives" Mama Mary and St. Joseph to inns and hotels, helping them find a place to stay—and promises to protect them from Herod.

One day, at an Opus chapel, he surprised everyone by leading the Rosary with eyes closed, hands together, and a voice louder than all the adults.

At home, Jakob prays every night with his mom and dad. When asked what he thinks about prayer, he simply says, "God listens to our prayers."



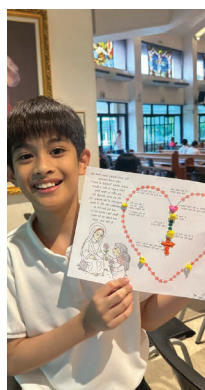
## SALU-SALO PARA KAY MARIA: A THANKSGIVING FEAST

*By Marie Molina (mom of Children's Mass volunteers Paco and Rafa)*

Following the last Children's Mass of May, families gathered to celebrate this year's Merry Month of May for Mary. Fostering strong love for our Mother, children lead the rosary on all Sundays of May, complimented by a Mustard Seed activity focused on the Holy Rosary. On May 25, the sixth Sunday of Easter, there was sharing of food, lively conversation, games, laughter, and a little bit of jamming. As parents, we are happy to grow in faith with our children, the Children's Ministry, providing a venue for the little ones to feel welcome and very much part of the Catholic Family.



**Zachary Porciuncula**  
*I got a chance to be a Rosary Leader, so I can honor Mama Mary for her day. We colored the Rosary and Mama Mary in an activity. It was fun to do.*



**Nathan Porciuncula**  
*shows this artwork dedicated to Mama Mary.*



**Mary Mendoza**  
*I always look forward to doing the activities in Church. I learn more about mary, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. At home, I continue coloring and read the prayers like Hail Mary and the rosary again.*

## GATHERED, BLESSED, BROKEN AND SHARED

Gathered, Blessed, Broken and Shared. Eucharistic Call of family Life. This was the title and theme of this year's Parent Recollection of the 28 first Communicants, given by one of CTK's EMHC, Nino Mendoza. Nino is not just a lay minister, but a parent himself, spiritual director, and fellow pilgrim walking this path of love, faith, and family life. The recollections were attended by 52 parents and guardians.

One of the parents of the participants gave this feedback:

*"We are thankful and grateful that parents were allowed inside the sessions. The sessions and doing the homework together brought our family closer and renewed our beliefs as a family as well. The parents' recollection, while initially we doubted the necessity, turned out to be a reaffirming and bonding experience as well. It also validated the good things we try to do for the family, and more than anything, it contributed to a renewal of our commitment to our family, values, and our faith."*





# SENIORS ON PILGRIMAGE

By Vinchu Lapid

**I**t all started when we found ourselves seated together in a dinner and started to reminisce about our activities as members of the Sunrise Ministry in the years before the pandemic. We specially recalled our pilgrimages to churches in Batangas and Manila and the funny and memorable incidents we shared that bound us together in friendship. Hence the idea of going on pilgrimage together in this Jubilee Year of Hope.

Immediately, a date was set, and plans were made to visit the Jubilee Churches of the Diocese of Antipolo. We would hire a coaster so that we could all be together. As we were all Senior Citizens and many of us had disabilities as well, we decided that this would only be the first leg of our pilgrimage – we would take it easy, visit only four churches, and take time to rest during lunch. We would have the rest of the year to visit the other churches.

We designed our schedule to make sure that we would have a chance to go to confession, hear mass and receive communion on the day - part of the requirements to obtain a plenary indulgence during the 2025 Jubilee Year. It was important to us to be spiritually ready. Some of us even went to confession before the day!

So, on Monday, March 24, 2025, we started to arrive in CTK as early as 7am – George and Baby Banal, Bon and Nina Intengan, Dan and Vinchu Lapid, Doy and Estrella Lopez, Louie and Nel Laudico, Pepe and Billie Pilar, Lulay de la Cruz and companion, and Manolo Dayrit. Unfortunately, Anna Lagman couldn't make it.

Armed with our Pilgrims Passports, printed out Itineraries, and lots of food and drink, we set off for the first leg of our pilgrimage to Jubilee Churches in the Diocese of Antipolo. Our first stop was at the Diocesan Shrine of St. Therese of the Child Jesus. Here, we stood in a circle around the Baptismal Font and renewed our Baptismal Vows. After praying the Jubilee Prayer together in front of the Jubilee cross, we experience the first-class relics of St. Therese of Lisieux (a bone fragment), and her parents St. Louie and St. Zellie Martin.

Next stop was at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage, also known as the Antipolo Cathedral, where we participated in the 9am Eucharistic Celebration. Some of us received the Sacrament of Reconciliation as well. We did not leave Antipolo until we were able to purchase the food and pasalubong the city is known for.

We prayed the rosary on our way to Mount Purro Nature Reserve where we were scheduled to have lunch. But when we got there, we forgot to be in pilgrimage mode for a while and feasted on the Filipino cuisine prepared for us by the owners, amidst fun and laughter and freshly brewed coffee.

We regretted having to leave this beautiful nature preserve but needed to keep scheduling. We were rewarded by our visit to the beautiful and historic Nuestra Señora de Annunciata Parish Church in BosoBoso. First established in 1669 by the Franciscans, passed on to the Jesuits in the mid 1700s, the parish is now managed by the Camillian fathers and has been fully restored. We lingered in this church longer than the others and took lots of pictures.

Praying the Jubilee Prayer together in front of the Jubilee Cross in Nuestra Señora de Annunciata.

We were on our way to our last church when we hit 3 o'clock and prayed the Chaplet to Divine Mercy together. And by 4pm, we were at the Diocesan Shrine of Our Lady of the Abandoned. The church enshrines one of several images of the Madonna and Child venerated as miraculous, which received a Pontifical decree of coronation from Pope Benedict XVI in 2005.

We were hot and tired at the end of this pilgrimage, you'd think we'd want to go home, but we couldn't seem to part ways. So we ended the day at Rustic Mornings Café – a truly quaint place very near the church for more kuwentuhan and to make plans for the second leg of our 2025 Jubilee Pilgrimage, hoping to visit at least 10 of the 14 Jubilee Churches of the Diocese of Antipolo before the end of the year. 🙏



Our first group picture, all happy and smiling at the Diocesan Shrine of St. Therese.



Christ The King Parish — Greenmeadows



## LOM PILGRIMAGE: PILGRIMAGE TO 7 CHURCHES IN BULACAN OF THE LEGION OF MARY (IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY PRAESIDIUM)

Reflection by Mae Heredia

**H**ow we counted the days, the hours—the moment had come— a day with Mama Mary as we visit her in the most beautiful historical churches of Bulacan.

1. San Pascual Baylon Parish – Obando
2. St. Francis of Assisi Parish – Meycauayan
3. Our Lady of the Assumption Parish – Bulakan
4. Our Lady of Mt. Carmel – Barasoain Church (Malolos)
5. Malolos Cathedral – Immaculate Conception
6. St. John the Baptist Parish – Calumpit
7. St. Anne Parish – Hagonoy

We stood in awe as we admired every corner of the Baroque Renaissance Architecture dressed up in gold, silver, ornate chandeliers bringing forth the age-old history of the tradition and heritage Spain shared with us centuries ago.

A prayerful rosary began our tread with our Tesserat prayers. Yes Mama Mary, here we come to honour you, our beautiful lady, fair as the morning rising, terrible as an army—You listen to our pleas for the countless favours nestled in our hearts—to heal so many souls we touch along our paths. We treasure the warmth of your mantle as we feel the comfort of your loving embrace.

With each station of our Via Lucis, you shed light to the grace you pour out from your mantle, assuring with your tender gaze that all will be well— that you are seated right by Your Son and He cannot and will not deny the tender command of His Mother— “Do what He tells you” and at your Word, He turned water into the finest wine.

As we plead for a spray of miracles of graces abounding from your hands extended to us, we enjoy every moment of this pilgrimage of bonding —sisters of your beloved Legion, getting to know each other, and earnestly relishing the sincere friendship flowing from your grace. We note the gifts and talents shared by each one—from remarkable organisation and an in-depth research into the history of each one of the churches to visit, to the sparkling humour filling the air with laughter and jokes, precious pictures capturing our special moments to look back to this joyous day.

As we finish this blessed pilgrimage with hearts brimming with thanksgiving, for prayers answered, our hearts filled with peace, assured of your loving companionship as we embark on the little tasks of our Legion. You are there and will always be there to accompany each and every one of us, as we whisper “Mother Mary, may anyone who looks at me, see You”. “Madre mia, que quien me mire, te vea.” 🙏



LOM at the Malolos Cathedral



Barasoain Church



# THE POWER OF THE UPPER ROOM

By Fr. Rex Jeba SDB



**“It is in the silence of the ‘upper room’ of the heart that God speaks most intimately to us.” – Thomas Merton**

In the heart of Jerusalem, there is a sacred and storied place known as the Upper Room. It is a simple space, yet profoundly powerful—a room where the disciples gathered with Jesus for the Last Supper, where the Holy Spirit descended at Pentecost, and where the early Church, united in prayer, found strength, guidance, and renewal.

The Upper Room reminds us that prayer is not a side activity or a last resort; it is the lifeblood of a Christian community. It is where hearts are aligned with God’s will, where courage is born, and where love takes root.

Recently, I had a moving encounter with one of our parishioners at the adoration chapel. She is a familiar face there, always quiet, always praying. One afternoon, I sat beside her and we talked. She pointed to the Eucharistic Lord and said with deep emotion, *“Fr. Rex, do you know why I’m still alive? It’s because of Him. I am a cancer survivor. I’m not afraid to die. But I pray because if I die, my children, my husband, and my elderly in-laws will suffer. God has given me a second life. I have a purpose to live.”*

Her faith reminded me of the disciples in the Upper Room—clinging to Jesus, not with fear, but with hope, trust, and a burning desire to live for others. Her story is one of many quiet miracles unfolding in the corners of our parish where prayer happens—where the Spirit moves unseen but powerfully.

We are all called to our own Upper Room moments.

When we pray as individuals, we open the door of our hearts to God. In solitude, we discover His voice, His peace,

and His direction. Like Thomas Merton said, it is in the inner silence that God speaks most intimately to us. In a noisy and distracted world, prayer becomes our sanctuary, our compass.

When we pray as families, we transform our homes into sanctuaries of grace. In the routine of life—meals, chores, school, work—it is easy to forget that we are a “domestic church.” But when we gather even for a short time in prayer, God enters our homes in a special way. We model for our children that faith is not just for Sundays but for every moment of our lives.

And when we, as a CTK parish community, pray together—when we celebrate the Eucharist, adore the Blessed Sacrament, lift intentions for the sick, the struggling, and the grieving—something sacred happens. Just as the early Christians gathered in the Upper Room with “one heart and one mind,” our unity in prayer brings spiritual power. The Holy Spirit descends. Courage is renewed. Healing flows. Lives are changed.

Christ the King Parish can become an Upper Room.

A place where prayer is alive.

A place where the Spirit is welcome.

A place where bold witnesses for Christ are born.

Let’s make that vision real. Let our adoration chapel not be a silent corner but a heartbeat of our community. Let our family dinners be touched by Thanksgiving. Let every ministry, meeting, and Mass be soaked in prayer.

The great Christian philosopher Søren Kierkegaard once said, *“Prayer does not change God, but it changes the one who prays.”* In the Upper Room, it changed the disciples. In our time, it is changing hearts right here in our parish—one prayer at a time.

May each of us find our own Upper Room. And may we, together, lift this parish to God in prayer—faithful, fervent, and full of hope.

Let us begin again, on our knees.

Let us begin in the power of prayer.

Let us begin in the Upper Room.

— *Christ the King, reign in our hearts and in our homes!*





# OLPH VICARIATE SHARES RESULTS OF “LISTENING”

By Tessa Mangahas



OLPH's Fr. Ronnie Santos welcomes attendees



Vicar General Fr. Jojo Simon relays Bishop Eli's message



Vicar Forane Fr. Aytoy Opiniano gives his remarks

Three years after it was launched, the 16th Ordinary Assembly of the Synod officially concluded on October 27, 2024, with the celebration of Holy Mass in St. Peter's Basilica presided by the now deceased Pope Francis.

The assembly focused on the theme, “For a synodal Church: communion, participation and mission.” The final document of the synod showed the results of a three-year journey of listening and dialogue and presented as a “threefold gift”.

Over in the Philippines, the local Church, including the Cubao Diocese actively participated in the process. It also marked significant changes including the appointment of a new bishop for the Cubao Diocese in the person of a Claretian missionary, the Most Reverend Bishop Elisa Ayuban Jr.

On Friday, May 16, 2025, the Vicariate of Our Lady of Perpetual Help with its Vicar Forane Fr. Aytoy Opiniano and host OLPH's Fr. Ronnie Santos along with Vicar Forane Fr. Frederick “Jojo” Simon led the first Vicariate Meeting in order to share the results of the 3-year listening and dialogue among the parishes of the Vicariate – Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Cubao, Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal in Project 4, Christ the King Greenmeadows, Nativity of Our Lord, Transfiguration of Our Lord, San Roque Bagumbayan and St. John Paul II Eastwood.

CTK PPC Coordinator Albert Cuadrante presented the results of CTK's “listening” dialogues that were consolidated during the Parish Pastoral Council Meeting held earlier this year. Following the template of Leadership, Presence and Evangelization, Cuadrante noted that volunteer burnout, and insufficient support to ministries hamper the development of leaders in the parish. The lack of transparency in financial matters also clouds the positive image and hinders the strong presence of the parish in community life. Another concern was the lack of communication or misinformation on clergy matters. While most evangelization efforts among ministries

are largely productive, there was a marked lack of youth engagement in the parish.

To address these concerns, Cuadrante presented the recommendations culled from the listening activities among ministry members. Among these are the formulation of programs that will highlight the spirituality of service and formation to boost and unravel more parish servant leaders. To improve financial transparency, the parish fully supports the creation of the Parish Finance Council as part of the Diocese' Finance Council. There is also a need for quick, regular and timely reports of donations for a slew of causes. Finally, there is a clamor to adapt and implement tested programs to revitalize youth participation in parish life as part of the evangelization thrust.

It is heartening to note that even after the passing of our beloved Pope Francis, his initiative for synodal dialogue and listening is alive and present in the Cubao Diocese, particularly in the Vicariate of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. We fondly remember the late pontiff's exhortation, “we need to practice listening, in order to be able to respond to the Word that each day says – affirm your brothers and sisters – feed my sheep.”



CTK delegation attends Vicariate Meeting



## LADIES OF CHARITY, CHRIST THE KING: A GLORIOUS CELEBRATION OF FAITH, SERVICE, AND LEGACY

By Lorie Santos

**T**he Ladies of Charity, Christ the King Parish Unit proudly took part in the 64th Annual National Convention held at The Prince Hotel, Manila, from May 30- to June 1, 2025. This year's theme, "Grateful for the Past, Celebrating the Present, Hopeful for the Future," beautifully echoed the celebration of 75 remarkable years of the Ladies of Charity in the Philippines.

The convention brought together women of faith from across generations and regions united in the Vincentian spirit of service, humility, and leadership. It was a powerful convergence of wisdom, inspiration, and lived mission, honoring our roots while igniting renewed passion for the call to serve Christ in the poor.

We are honored to share that the Christ the King Parish, was recognized as the most awarded group, receiving 11 prestigious awards out of 75 presented. Other special awards were also bestowed on LOC members from CTK. These awards highlight the dedication and commitment of our members to serve with love and excellence:

Melanie Aquino- Leadership Award

Sonia Ongkiko – Founding Leadership Award

Ellen Chua – Philanthropic Award

Teresita Fajardo – Leadership, Achievement & Philanthropic Awards

Aurora Santos – Leadership & Philanthropic Awards

Alicia Sison – Leadership Award

Josie Mallari – Philanthropic Award

Rosalinda Hortaleza – Philanthropic Award

Milagros Dayrit – Leadership & Achievement Awards

Mila Bangco – Philanthropic Award

Christ the King Parish – Outstanding Unit Award

Loretta David – Recognized as the First National President of CTK

Cely Basas – Recognized as the oldest LOC member from CTK Unit at 102 years old

Evelyn "Mambi" Aquino: Recognized as having 30 years of service with LOC

Virgie Cheng: Recognized as having 20 years of service with LOC

The celebration continued with a joyful and dazzling fellowship night themed "Glittery Night-Shine Bright Lika a Diamond". All units showcased their talent and spirit, dressed in radiant glittery gowns, a true reflection of their inner and outer glow.

As we look back with gratitude and forward with renewed hope, may we continue to be shining beacons of Christ's love. Let us serve with hearts on fire, anchored in humility, simplicity, charity, and always ready to respond with courage where love is most needed.

TO GOD BE THE GLORY, AND TO OUR ORGANIZATION, A HEARTFUL THANK YOU!



Ladies of Charity Fellowship Night



Christ The King Parish – Greenmeadows



## FAITH AND FELLOWSHIP: THE GROWING BASIC ECCLESIAL COMMUNITY IN GREENMEADOWS

By Rissa Singson-Kawpeng

In the heart of Greenmeadows, a vibrant Basic Ecclesial Community (BEC) continues to blossom, bringing together neighbors not just in worship but in genuine fellowship and shared faith. Rooted in the Catholic tradition of small, faith-based communities, the BEC in Greenmeadows has become a space where residents build deeper relationships with God and each other.

One of the cornerstone activities of the community is the First Sunday Mass, held monthly at the Garden Lounge. More than just a liturgical celebration, this gathering offers an opportunity for residents to reconnect, catch up, and strengthen their bonds as neighbors. It is a time of shared worship, reflection, and a chance to grow in unity as a faith-filled village.

During Lent, the BEC held a moving Way of the Cross at the clubhouse garden. The peaceful setting became sacred ground as residents prayerfully processed around the walkway, holding candles and taking turns reading the Gospel and prayers at each of the 14 stations. The presence of parish priest Fr. Aytoy Opiniano, who led parts of the prayers, made the event even more meaningful. The experience left many participants spiritually renewed and more connected to the passion of Christ.

Another highlight in the BEC's spiritual calendar is the monthly Bible study, regularly hosted at the home of Danny and Tessie Moran. These sessions invite residents to dive deeper into Scripture and our Catholic beliefs, like the sacraments and our devotion to Mother Mary. The Bible study is followed by a potluck merienda cena, a shared meal that strengthens the sense of family and community among participants. Homemade dishes, heartfelt conversations, and the simple joy of breaking bread together foster a spirit of inclusivity and shared purpose.

The BEC in Greenmeadows is a living example of Church at the grassroots—where faith is practiced not just in formal worship but in everyday relationships and shared experiences. Through its regular gatherings and special events, the community continues to grow as a circle of friends who pray, serve, and journey together in faith. 🙏



Parish priest Fr. Aytoy leads prayers in GM Way of the Cross.



GM residents prayerfully process around the Clubhouse garden



## NOVO IN SPAIN: A MUSICAL JOURNEY TOWARDS DEEPER TRUST

By Tinnah dela Rosa

**N**ovo Concertante Manila dreamed of joining the 70th International Choral Contest of Habanera and Polyphony in Torrevieja, Spain to mark our 25th anniversary as a choir with the able leadership of conductor and founder, Dr. Arwin Tan, who is also the Music Coordinator of Christ the King Church in Greenmeadows.

The competition required only five songs (one obligatory habanera, two choice habanera pieces, and two polyphonic pieces), the weeklong schedule fit well amongst the educators and students among the members, and the weather and location was beautiful this time of the year. Torrevieja also had much meaning for us, having won the First Prize in 2009 for the Polyphony Category in the *55th Certamen Internacional de Habaneras y Polifonía*.

Beatrice Ramirez de Cartagena, one of our sopranos, shares, “What started out as wishful thinking post-pandemic, turned into what is probably the most meaningful and memorable experience I’ve had with Novo thus far, and the most emotional.” It was an emotional journey because our preparation was riddled with challenges. While twenty-five of us prepared to travel to Spain, eight of us or 1/3 of the choir did not receive the visas they needed to travel. The choir made the difficult decision to carry on despite having only 16 singers. The competing choirs were mostly comprised of 24-40 members and it was reminiscent of David’s plight against Goliath.

Ever a man of profound faith, Sir Arwin always reminded us that winning the prize should never be our ultimate goal but to give glory and honor to the Giver of our gift of song by helping our audience hear God’s divine music through our singing.

Choirs hailed from as far as China, Indonesia, Serbia, Ukraine, Venezuela, Colombia, Belarus, Mexico, the Philippines and Spain to show their interpretations of habaneras and polyphonic. Victoria Suarez, one of our new altos, described our days in Torrevieja as, “a week filled with breathtaking sunrises and moonlit nights on the mediterranean beach, camaraderie, new friends, and glorifying God through beautiful songs.”

It was a joy and an honor to be among the eight competing choirs selected to sing that evening and be awarded a Gold diploma for reaching the high standard imposed by the competition organizers. Novo also received the 3rd Prize in the ‘Habaneras’ category. In the end, the Habaneras category 1st Prize went to Coro de cámara del departamento de música de la Universidad de Guadalajara (Mexico) and the Polyphony category 1st Prize went to Telkom University Choir (Indonesia).

We could not have accomplished this feat if not for Sir Arwin. Yazmin Tolentino, our soprano, writes: “We are so blessed to witness and learn from the leadership of Sir Arwin whose guidance goes beyond music and anchors us deeper in faith.” Maria Carmela Pabalan adds, “we came back with stronger faith and awe at the grace given to us, the gifts of old and new friendships, and memories we can cherish and hold dear always.” Indeed, as our last song in the competition says, “some trust in horses, some trust in chariots, but we trust in the name of the Lord” who will “give you the desires of your heart and make all your plans succeed.”

We thank all of you who supported us in our quest to glorify God through our voices in Torrevieja, Spain - our family and friends, those who donated towards our travel expenses, attended our concerts, and gave us the moral, psychological and spiritual support we needed to overcome many hurdles. May God give you the desire of your heart!



Christ The King Parish — Greenmeadows



# 2025 HOLY WEEK

## PALM SUNDAY April 17



Fr. Bryand Restituto leads the Palm Sunday procession from the CTK Garden.



Altar servers hoist the crucifix amid the waving of palms.



Lectors and altar servers share a light moment before the rites.



12 "Apostles" pose with Fr. Bryand as they begin the 7-day commemoration of Holy Week.

## HOLY WEEK RECOLLECTIONS April 17-19

April 17: Fr. Arlo B Yap, SVD | April 18: Fr. Rolando V. dela Rosa, OP | April 19: Fr. Rolando A. Tuazon, CM



CTK parishioners listen intently to recollection facilitators as they are spiritually guided and prepared for the Paschal Triduum.



Fr. Pal Berdos, Fr. RL Orate and Fr. Aytoy Opiniano flank Fr. Rolando dela Rosa OP after the recollection.



Fr. Arlo Yap asks CTK parishioners to wear their own "crown of thorns" as they ponder and reflect on the passion and death of Christ during the Holy Week recollection.



## HOLY THURSDAY April 17



Adorers knelt before a massive Altar of Repose as it glimmered in the darkness after the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper. To highlight the Jubilee of Hope, the faithful were enjoined to write their petitions. These were offered during the veneration rites of Good Friday.



President Bishop Emeritus Honesto Ongtioco washed and kissed the feet of the 'apostles' in the Holy Thursday rites as an act of humility like Christ did.



Bishop Ongtioco led the faithful in prayer before the Altar of Repose after the Blessed Sacrament procession.

## GOOD FRIDAY April 18



"For by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world." Adorers, young and old alike, queued, kissed and venerated the Holy Cross during the Good Friday liturgy.



Despite the humid weather, parishioners joined the Santo Entierro procession in its longest route since the pandemic, to pay homage to Christ's passion and death.



CTK priests led by Bishop Honesto Ongtioco prostrate themselves at the altar at the start of the liturgy

## EASTER VIGIL April 19



Bishop Ongtioco started the Easter Vigil liturgy with the lighting of the blessed fire.



At the stroke of the bells ushering in the "Gloria", members of the Mother Butler Mission Guild dress up the altar with appropriate linen.



The "Salubong" with the traditional singing of the Regina Coeli by an "angel" makes a comeback in CTK after the procession of the Risen Christ and the Mater Dolorosa.

Christ The King Parish — Greenmeadows





## TO BE AN APOSTLE

**Priests:** (left to right) Fr. Aytoy Opiniano, Fr. RL Orate, Bishop Nes Ongtioco, Fr. Rex Jeba, Fr. Mike Cabangisan, Fr. Pal Berdos

**Apostles:** (left to right) Rafael Antonio Tecson, Vince Tolentino, Nonoy Locsin, Domingo Sampaga, Eddie Pantoja, Nelson T. Montayre, Paolo Sampaga, Ruel Ramos, Carlos David Prudencio, Ralph Palma, Ramil S. Chua, Lorenzo Z. Valenton



### THE HUMILITY OF JESUS

Being invited to take the role of one of the apostles left me wondering why I was so lucky and blessed. It really felt good and invigorated me to be invited to take on the role of one of God's servants.

Undeniably, I was very emotional in the entire experience especially in the "washing of the feet". I almost broke into tears. Seeing Bishop Ongtioco kneeling, washing and then kissing my feet was overwhelming. This very pure action envelopes my interpretation of Jesus' humility when he washed others' feet and served people.

Being an apostle has empowered me more to sustain my advocacy of serving the community and spreading the word and good deeds for others, even to strangers. Will all humility, I will endeavor to continue to uphold my values the way the Son of God has shown us.

**Ralph Tecson**

### SPIRITUAL GROWTH

I had already been an apostle before during the time of Fr. Tupino when he was CTK parish priest. Being an apostle is not new to me. If I have to count this will be my sixth time I have been chosen as an apostle from different parishes in my home province in Albay. I welcome the opportunity given to me to join this church activity since I always consider anything that is good as a building block to strengthen my faith in God.

Since, as apostles, we were encouraged to attend the Holy Week talks—although optional in the morning—what struck me most was the talk about the example of a father washing the feet of his children. Another memorable event was the procession, where I had the opportunity to be assigned to the Santo Entierro, although it was very tiring for me. All these experiences during Holy Week will always be a part of my life—moments that cannot be taken away—because I know they were time well spent.

During the washing of the feet on Holy Thursday all of my family members were present. These activities I've taken part in I consider are not only for my own spiritual growth, but also to show and encourage my family to be involved in church life. I hope that through these experiences, something meaningful will be planted in their hearts—something they will carry with them now and in the years to come. And when the time comes that I am no longer with them, I pray they will remember, reflect, and find the desire deep within themselves to seek and love God on their own.

**Jose Locsin Jr.**

CTK Extraordinary Minister for Holy Communion

Married to Brenda Locsin, father of 3



### THE HUMILITY OF JESUS

As one of the chosen apostles, I am proud to say that this opportunity spiritually touched my life. I heard the Gospel very clearly and awakened me for the first time. I realized that I was hopelessly lost, spiritually. I realized years later that God had protected me from such risky behavior. The moment I responded by putting my faith in Jesus Christ by dedicating myself an apostle, I was born again.

I grew up in a church-going family. I've always believed in God. However, I never heard the Gospel preached in such a way that I could understand how to begin this relationship with Jesus Christ. And yet, God was working in me, and was paving the way towards faith in Him.

The influential part during the Holy for me was the transition from Jesus' burial on Holy Saturday to the lighting of the Paschal candle at the Easter Vigil.

It's a story of profound suffering, but also of profound hope and redemption. I may have unilateral contracts with God where I tried to live a righteous life and in return expected God to bless me by fixing all my problems. I can rejoice in my suffering, knowing God is using it to produce in me what I could not produce in myself. Suffering forces us to move in one direction or another. No one comes through suffering unchanged.

Ever since the end of the Holy Saturday, my Christian faith has impacted every single area of my life: my family, career, what I do, what I think, what I say, where I've been, and where I am going. This renewed my relationship with the Holy family and Holy Spirit that definitely will get richer over time. I began to truly know God even more. In knowing Him, He continued to transform me. Several shifts of these changes are irremediable. Even after decades, I am still growing in my faith.

Continuously preserving my faith in God, surrounding by an influential faithful community, seeking, understand and protecting my inner life will build me to become more mindful of what I do because what fills the mind can affect the heart...to the faith that we believe in; when our faith is being expressed with compassion to others; and finally, when our faith is being converted into service others especially with Jesus Christ. I can apply faith in action by reflecting to certain events utilizing the mind, emotion, and the willingness to do it. Preserving my faith can be rendered through actions serving others along with the direction of Jesus by conducting advocational justice, practicing gratitude and compassion. So let us continue to be truehearted believers!

**Ramil Chua**

CTK Parishioner



# IT'S FUN, IT'S TERRIFIC, IT'S EASTERRIFIC!

By Charlize Kawpeng

**C**hrist the King's Children's Ministry held a joyous and memorable Easter experience for kids 12 and under. Last April 20, eight student volunteers facilitated different booths to celebrate and commemorate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. These booths had fun and different activities including pin the tail on the donkey, ring toss, cookie decorating, and of course the Easter egg hunt! The event was held in the CTK parish hall that was decked with festive decorations. "Here, everyone gets a prize even if you don't win!" says Dani, one of the teenage volunteers in the event manning the donkey booth. Prizes ranged from treats, small toys, to glitter slime as the grand prize for the winners of the egg hunt.



Children eagerly line up to be blindfolded at the Pin the Tail on the Donkey Booth



A kid claims his prize for participating in the "Following Jesus" Booth

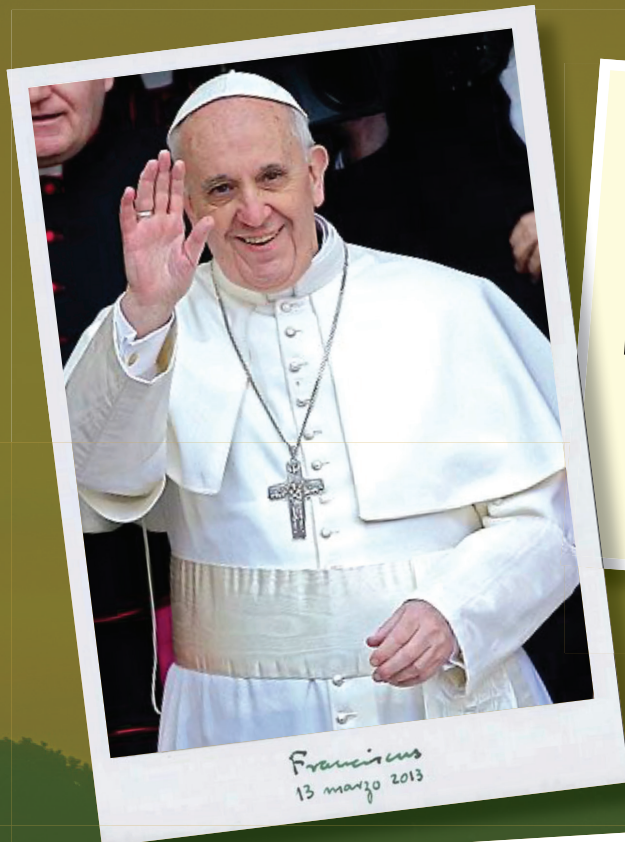


Teenage volunteers man the ring toss booth



Participants decorate their sugar cookies





### A Special Prayer for POPE FRANCIS+

Loving God,  
thank you for giving us Pope Francis,  
who helped lead the Church  
and taught us to follow Jesus.  
Please welcome him into your heavenly home  
and guide the Church  
as we prepare for a new pope.  
Help us to be kind, loving and faithful,  
just as he showed us. Amen.

### PRAYER FOR POPE LEO XIV

Lord, source of eternal life and truth,  
give to your shepherd Leo XIV  
a spirit of courage and right judgment,  
a spirit of knowledge and love.  
By governing with fidelity  
those entrusted to his care, may he,  
as Successor to the Apostle Peter and Vicar of Christ,  
build your Church into a sacrament of unity,  
love, and peace for all the world.  
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with You  
and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.




### SCHEDULE OF PUBLIC MASSES

#### WEEKDAY MASSES

Mon to Fri 7AM  LIVE  
6PM  
Sat 7AM  LIVE

#### SUNDAY MASSES

Sat (Anticipated Mass) 6PM  
Sun 6AM  
7:30AM  LIVE  
9AM  
10:30AM  
12NN  
4:15 PM CHILDREN'S MASS  
5:30PM  
7PM

### PARISH OFFICE

Mon CLOSED  
Tue to Sun 8AM-12NN  
1PM-4PM

#### PARISH OFFICE PHONE NUMBERS

8633-0280  
8638-4838  
8687-1909