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## THE HERALD

Christ the King Parish  
Greenmeadows

Oct-Dec 2025

Father's Heart Today

# A PARISH FOLLOWING THE PATH OF THE FOURTH WISE MAN

By Fr. Aytoy Opiniano  
Parish Priest, Christ the King Parish



Parols bedeck Christ the King Parish Church announcing the Christmas season.

A long time ago, under the same star that led the three Magi to Bethlehem, there walked another wise man, Artaban, the Fourth Wise Man. His story, beautifully told in *"The Story of the Other Wise Man"* by Henry Van Dyke (1895), is not found in Sacred Scripture, yet it carries a Gospel truth that speaks deeply to our hearts even today.

Like the Magi, Artaban saw the star announcing the birth of the Savior. Filled with faith and longing, he prepared for the journey, bringing with him three precious gifts: a sapphire, a ruby, and a pearl, treasures worthy of a King. His heart was set on Bethlehem. His eyes were fixed on the light.

Yet, along the road, Artaban encountered a wounded

man, beaten and left to die. Faced with a choice between continuing his journey or showing compassion, Artaban chose mercy. He sold one of his precious jewels to save a life.

That decision changed everything.

Because of that act of love, Artaban missed the other wise men. His journey became longer, lonelier, and more uncertain. Over the years, he encountered others in need: a slave girl longing for freedom, the poor and the hungry, victims of injustice and violence. Each time, Artaban gave what he had. Each time, he surrendered another treasure.

What seemed like delays were, in truth, divine

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appointments.

After thirty-three years, Artaban finally reached Jerusalem only to discover that the Child he had sought all his life was now a Man about to be crucified. With no gifts left to offer, he felt he had failed.

Then came the voice of Christ: *“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for the least of my brothers and sisters, you did for me.”* (Matthew 25:40)

In that moment, Artaban realized the truth: he had met Christ many times in every person he loved, helped, and served. He did not place his treasures in a manger but laid them at the feet of Christ through a life of compassion.

### A Call to Emulate the Fourth Wise Man Today

The story of Artaban reminds us that:

- The journey to Christ is found in service
- Helping others is never a delay in God's plan; it is God's plan
- Christ is encountered not only in churches, but in daily acts of mercy

As St. Vincent de Paul beautifully said, *“We should strive to find Christ in the poor and serve Him in them.”*

At CTK, we are blessed to be a Stewardship Parish, a parish that believes faith must be lived through the generous sharing of time, talent, and treasure. Like Artaban, we are called to choose love over convenience, mercy over comfort, and service over self-interest.

### 2025: Walking Together as a Parish for Others

In the year 2025, our parish family walked this path together for the greater glory of God and the good of His people.

Through your generosity and active participation:

- We formed the Libis Parish Pastoral Council to strengthen the life and livelihood of the Libis community.
- We began regular Sunday Masses in Libis, now celebrated at Mount Carmel Chapel, bringing spiritual nourishment closer to our people.
- For the first time, we joyfully celebrated the CTK Fiesta in Libis, fostering unity and belonging.
- We contributed ₱48 million to Casa de Silencio, providing loving care for our retired priests in Cubao, a powerful act of gratitude and stewardship.
- Our Fiesta and Christmas celebrations were filled with life and generosity, highlighted by the Festival of Gifts.
- We celebrated the 20th Stewardship Sunday, a legacy initiated by our beloved Bishop Honesto, reminding us that stewardship is not an event, but a way of life.
- We welcomed and trained more altar servers, nurturing young hearts in service.

- Our SSDM and Village Coordinators shared Christmas food baskets with 2,350 families in one day, across 8 parishes in the Diocese of Cubao.
- As attendance grew, we added more Masses at the Opus Chapel, ensuring that no one is left behind.
- To deepen our love for Sacred Scripture, we launched the School of the Word every Friday at Opus Mall.

These are not just activities. These are acts of love. These are the jewels we placed at the feet of Christ. As St. John Chrysostom reminds us, *“The rich man is not one who is in possession of much, but one who gives much.”*

### Gratitude and Hope

Dear parishioners, thank you for your generosity, your commitment, and your faithful service. Each hour you volunteered, each talent you offered, each treasure you shared has become an offering pleasing to God.

Like Artaban, we may sometimes feel tired, delayed, or unsure. But when we choose to serve, to give, and to love, we discover that we have been walking with Christ all along.

May CTK always remain a parish for others, following the path of the Fourth Wise Man until we meet Christ face to face.

With gratitude and prayer,

**Fr. Arthur Opiniano**

Parish Priest, CTK Parish

**Puso at Piso  
Para kay Lola at Lolo**

**Initial Donation: P100 for a coinbank**  
Filled coin banks will be offered on the Feast of Sto Niño on Jan 18. Proceeds will be donated to the abandoned elderly cared for by the Little Sisters of the Poor.  
**Contact 0949-1174992 for more details**

### Isang Mensahe mula kay Mina Mejia ng Children's Ministry:

Happy New Year!

Salamat po sa lahat na sumuporta sa aming Puso at Piso para kay Lola at Lolo Campaign. Salamat din po sa mga humabol at nag-participate sa aming booth on Sunday, Feast of the Epiphany, after the 9:00 AM, 10:30 AM, 12:00 NN, and 4:15 PM Masses.

We sincerely apologize for not being able to meet the demand in the earlier weeks—talaga overwhelming pala at ang daming generous sa CTK!

Maraming salamat po muli mula sa Sunrise, Stewardship, at Children's Ministry.



# A LIFE OF SAYING “YES” CELEBRATING THE 53RD PRESBYTERAL ANNIVERSARY OF BISHOP HONESTO ONGTIOCO

By Tessa Mangahas



CTK clergy and brother priests join Bishop Nes as he celebrates 53 years as a priest.

On December 8, 2025—the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception—the community of **Christ the King Parish Greenmeadows** gathered in thanksgiving to celebrate the 53rd presbyteral anniversary of Bishop Honesto Ongtioco. The Eucharistic celebration was a grace-filled moment of prayer and gratitude for a life steadfastly offered in service to God and His people.

The Mass was concelebrated by Fr. Aytoy Opiniano, Fr. Rex Jeba, Fr. Mike Cabangisan, and brother priests, a visible sign of the communion and fraternity that have accompanied Bishop Ongtioco throughout more than five decades of priestly ministry.

In his homily, Bishop Ongtioco reflected on priesthood as a daily renewal of saying “yes” to God. With

humility, he shared that every Eucharist celebrated, every absolution given, and every sacrament administered is a reminder that the priest is merely an instrument of God’s mercy. It is the Lord who calls the weak, remains faithful, and never abandons those He chooses.

Central to his reflection was a deep devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. From the beginning of his priesthood, he said, Mary’s quiet presence has guided him through uncertainty, strengthened him in weakness, and shielded him from discouragement. Celebrating his anniversary on the feast of the Immaculate Conception, he underscored that Mary’s “yes” was made possible by God’s preparatory grace—grace that always comes first and prepares the heart even before one recognizes the call.

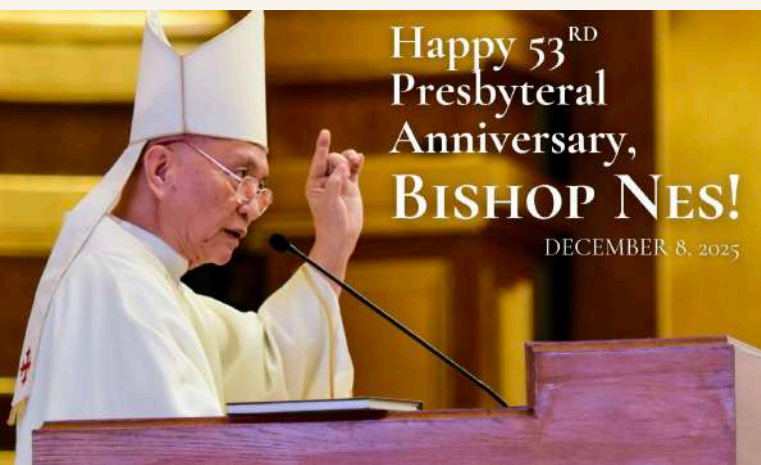
“My 53 years as a priest,” he shared, “are proof of the preparatory grace of God.” Yet grace invites response. The “yes” spoken decades ago, he noted, must be renewed each day—in trust, in service, and in mercy.

He invited the faithful to pray for priests and for vocations, encouraging all to respond to God’s grace with humility and courage, following Mary’s example. The celebration concluded with his heartfelt thanks to God, to the Blessed Mother, and to the people who have walked with him in prayer and service, followed by a simple breakfast with parishioners.

As a parish community, we give thanks for 53 years of faithful priestly service—a life marked by perseverance, devotion, and an enduring yes to God. To God be the glory, now and always.



CTK parishioners during the Thanksgiving breakfast.





PASKO 5

Sto. Niño Parish Violago

# CTK'S ADOPT-A-FAMILY PROJECT 2025

## Sharing Christ's Love This Christmas

By Nadine Navarro

In the true spirit of Christmas, the Christ the King (CTK) Basic Ecclesial Community (BEC), in partnership with the Social Services Development Ministry (SSDM), joyfully carried out CTK's Adopt-a-Family Project 2025—a Christmas rice- and basket-giving outreach that reached families in need across the Diocese of Cubao.

What began as a plan to adopt 700 families quickly became something much bigger. Through the generosity and compassion of our parishioners, the project expanded to serve 2,350 underprivileged families, with an additional 150 families from Barangay Libis also receiving assistance. Each family was given a Christmas basket meant not only to help meet basic needs, but also to bring hope, dignity, and reassurance during the season.

### Beneficiary Parishes

This project reached families from the following parishes:

1. Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Parish
2. Transfiguration of Our Lord Parish
3. Most Holy Redeemer Parish
4. Resurrection of Our Lord Parish
5. San Antonio de Padua Mission Station
6. San Isidro Labrador Parish
7. Holy Cross Parish
8. Sto. Niño de Violago Quasi-Parish

The parish communities played a vital role in identifying families most in need, ensuring that the help reached those who would benefit most.

San Antonio De Padua Parish



Krus na Ligas leaders express thanks for the Christmas baskets



Krus Na Ligas Church



Beyond the distribution of rice and Christmas baskets, the gatherings became moments of grace and encounter. There were spiritual talks, updates on parish formation activities, and heartfelt sharing from the beneficiaries themselves—stories of faith, gratitude, and how God continues to work in their lives. Simple conversations turned into meaningful connections, reminding everyone present that charity is as much about presence as it is about giving.

We extend our sincere thanks to all who supported and participated in this outreach, especially our partners from the LOC, MBMG, and EMCH/KOC. Your generosity and willingness to serve made this mission possible.

**CTK's Adopt-a-Family Project 2025** is a beautiful reminder that the true meaning of Christmas is found in sharing—not just our resources, but our time, compassion, and love. Each basket delivered carried a message of hope, a sign that no family is forgotten, and that Christ is truly present in our acts of service.

May this Christmas outreach continue to inspire us to live the season not only with joy, but with hearts open to loving and serving others—just as Christ has loved us.



Transfiguration of Our Lord Parish



Most Holy Redeemer Parish



Resurrection of Our Lord Parish



Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal

San Isidro Labrador Parish



CHRIST THE KING PARISH — GREENMEADOWS

# SIMBANG GABI 2025

## CTK MAIN CHURCH

The faithful line up for the traditional pahalik of the Baby Jesus image during Christmas Eve Mass



Youth representatives say their special intentions on the first dawn Simbang Gabi on December 16



Fr. Rex Jeba blesses the creche during Christmas Eve Vigil Mass



New Year's Eve Mass with Fr. Aytoy presiding

## OPUS MALL



The community at Opus Mall just keeps growing as shown by the large attendance during the anticipated Simbang Gabi.





# CTK GOES RAD AND RETRO ON CHRISTMAS 2025

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2025.  
PARISH SOCIAL HALL.



Christmas Party Core team does it again!



CTK fashionistas sashayed in their best 80s garb.

Celebrity dance icons Theody Delmoro, Jojo Alejar and Joy Cancio pose after judging the performances.

Singing Sampang family regales with their Abba medley.



Everyone was up on their feet in feverish dance mode until late at night.



Raffle prizes galore for the lucky parishioners!



Michael Jackson dancers slay it on the stage.



CTK clergy and CatMin dancers flank Santa (Bishop Nes) after their number.



The Family and Life, Catechetical and Public Affairs Ministry dancers win the BEST CTK DANCE CREW CROWN.

Monica Uy renders much applauded song numbers.





The Ladies of Charity, Sorsoyon Bishop Dialogo and concelebrating priests were at the Thanksgiving Mass before the facility's inauguration.

# FAITH OVER TURBULENCE:

## A SHELTER BUILT ON COMPASSION AND COURAGE

By Tessa Mangahas

Not even a worldwide airline computer system glitch that disrupted flights on November 29 could stop the mission. Driven by faith and compassion—and led with quiet determination by **Tessie Fajardo**—around 30 members of the **Ladies of Charity of Christ the King Parish Greenmeadows** pressed on to attend the blessing and inauguration of the Holy Infant Jesus Temporary Shelter in Matnog, Sorsoyon. Delays, rerouted flights, early-morning departures, even same-day returns—none could dampen their resolve. *Tuloy ang* inauguration.

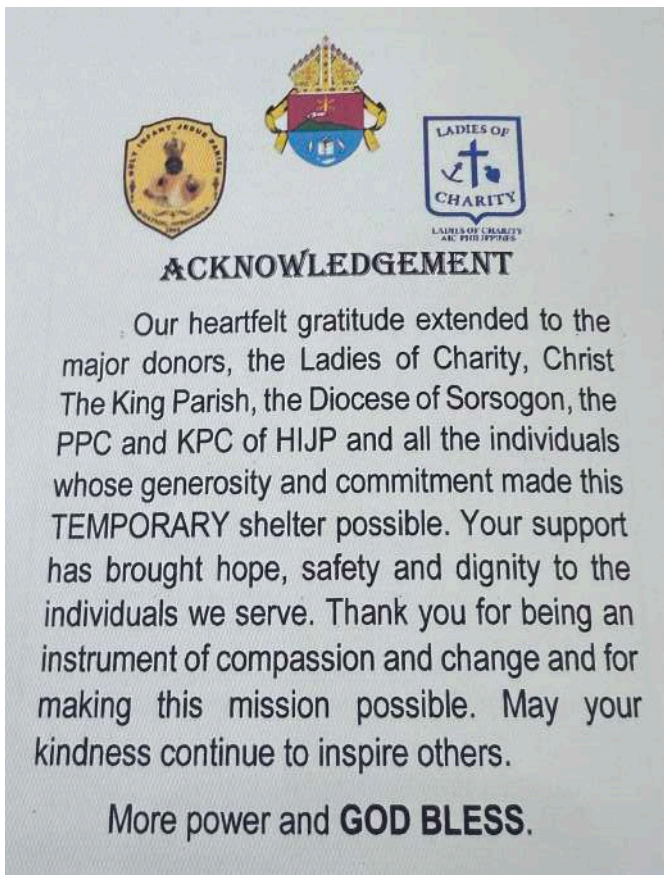
At the heart and soul of this seven-year journey is LOC's Tessie Fajardo, who spearheaded the project from vision to reality. From its earliest stirrings in 2018, Tessie carried the dream of a halfway house for travelers stranded by typhoons and rough seas—listening, coordinating, fundraising, and persevering through countless challenges. When obstacles arose,



Even if their original flight was canceled due to a global airline glitch, these ladies were determined to push through with the event.



Sorsoyon Bishop Jose Alan Dialogo lauds LOC's noble project.



An acknowledgement of LOC's generous hearts.

she persisted; when delays mounted, she trusted; when resources ran thin, she rallied hearts. The shelter stands today because she never let the mission go.

The facility was blessed by Sorsogon Bishop Jose Alan Dialogo and is designed to offer safety, rest, and dignity to the most vulnerable travelers—poor families, women, children, and drivers of buses, trucks, and container vans moving between Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao.

“In times of disruption—whether from storms or systems failures—it is always the poor who suffer first,” Bishop Dialogo said. “This shelter is a clear sign that the Church sees those who are often unseen.”

Matnog, a critical transit point, is frequently paralyzed by erratic weather, leaving travelers exposed and exhausted for days. The Holy Infant Jesus Temporary Shelter now provides beds, restrooms, and a secure place to wait—protecting guests from hunger, danger, and exploitation.

The strong presence of the Ladies of Charity from Greenmeadows underscores CTK's identity as a “Parish for Others.” This mission reaches beyond parish boundaries, serving communities far from home. “This shelter is a concrete expression of Christian service,” Bishop Dialogo noted. “It shows that compassion does not stop at borders.”

The project took shape with early inspiration from Fr. Serafin Peralta, gained momentum in 2022 with Fr. Rolando Tuazon, and was affirmed by Fr. Burt Sare of Holy Infant Jesus Parish. Yet it was Tessie Fajardo's steadfast leadership—supported by the unwavering commitment of the Ladies of Charity—that carried the mission through funding hurdles, construction delays, and logistical trials.

As storms—and even global disruptions—continue to test communities, the Holy Infant Jesus Temporary Shelter now stands in Matnog as a quiet but powerful witness: when one faithful “yes” is sustained by love and perseverance, compassion always finds a way. 🙏



LOC members unveil the shelter's markers.



Another pose of gratitude and thanksgiving after the inauguration.



# A FESTIVAL OF GIFTS

## CELEBRATING 20 YEARS AS A STEWARDSHIP PARISH

By Tessa Mangahas

On October 12, 2025, **Christ the King Parish Greenmeadows** joyfully marked a meaningful milestone—**20 years as a Stewardship Parish**—with a day-long Stewardship Fair fittingly called the **Festival of Gifts**.

The parish social hall came alive as ministries and organizations set up colorful booths, each one reflecting the many ways our community lives out the call to stewardship. From early morning until day's end, the fair was filled with games, laughter, free-flowing food and drinks, fellowship, and engaging presentations from various parish groups. Mass-goers during that Sunday trooped to the social hall to see how Stewardship is alive and thriving in the community, the impact it has made through its pastoral projects and to find out how to be part of the stewardship effort. It was a celebration that felt less like an event and more like a joyful family gathering.

This milestone traces its roots back to 2005, when **Bishop Honesto Ongtioco**, then parish priest of Christ the King, launched **Stewardship as a Way of Life**. What began as a vision has since become deeply woven into the parish's identity—one that continues to call every parishioner to share their **time, talent, and treasure** in service of God and neighbor.



A poster to invite volunteers to beef up the Social Communications Ministry.



No one is too young to serve the Lord.



Bishop Nes and Fr. Aytoy officially declare the Festival of Gifts Stewardship Fair open.



Christian Family Movement members await more sign ups.



Even senior volunteers are all excited to give more of themselves.



Lectors and commentators sign up to proclaim God's word.



LOC members show off dance moves to add energy to the venue.

Twenty years on, that vision remains alive. The Festival of Gifts was not only a celebration of the past, but also a renewed invitation for the present and future. Through Fr. Aytoy's prodding, the interactive booths and joyful encounters, parishioners—especially the young—were encouraged to discover where their gifts might best be shared and how they, too, can take part in building the parish community.

Throughout the day, the spirit of stewardship was evident in simple yet powerful ways: volunteers cheerfully serving, ministries proudly sharing their mission, and parishioners stopping to listen, participate, and connect. It was a reminder that stewardship is not merely about giving resources, but about offering ourselves—our presence, skills, and hearts—for the good of the Church.

The Stewardship Fair succeeded in reigniting the spirit of generosity and belonging that has defined Christ the King Parish Greenmeadows for two decades. As the parish moves forward, the Festival of Gifts stands as a joyful affirmation that stewardship continues to thrive when a community chooses to give freely, love deeply, and serve together.

May the next years be marked by the same joyful sharing of God's gifts—today, tomorrow, and always.



Father Aytoy tests his skills at the Stewardship Ministry booth.



The Knights of Columbus group lists down their new recruits.



The Catechetical Ministry welcomes new members with open arms and warm smiles.



Stewardship Ministry coordinator Ellen Chua lines up for Caramia's frozen delights.



Fr. Mike Cabangisan is "framed" by Family and Life Ministry stalwarts Joanne Polanco and Michelle Bernardo.

The Legion of Mary came in full force to welcome more Marian devotees.



Parishioners sit down with Fr. Aytoy to take a break and have some snacks.



"Hala Bira" Libis dancers move and groove to the stewardship beat!



The children's choir was on hand to sing out for joy (and for some ice cream too).

# SEEN ZONE



This year's candle bearers strike a pose with CTK clergy after the rites

## Rite of Remembering | Solemnity of the Dedication of Christ the King Greemeadows Parish Church

October 30, 2025

Christ the King Greenmeadows Parish marked the **Solemnity of the Dedication of the Parish Church** with a prayerful Rite of Remembering—honoring its establishment in **1979** and dedication in **1988**.

The Mass was presided over by Bishop **Honesto Ongtioco**, with concelebrants parish priest Fr. **Aytoy Opiniano**, Fr. **Mike Cabangisan**, and Fr. **Rex Jeba**.

In his homily, Fr. Rex Jeba reflected on the parish fiesta theme, *"In Christ the King, We Are One,"* reminding the community that the Church is more than bricks and stones—it is a **living body and a spiritual home**. Each of us, he said, is a living stone, called to carry Christ's presence beyond the church walls.

Representatives from the parish BECs served as candle bearers, a beautiful sign of unity across communities.

As we remember our dedication, may we continue to live as one Church—rooted in Christ, united in love, and sent to serve.



Remembering the day our church edifice was dedicated



A young saint hurries to join the Parade of Saints



Even saints get hungry too. These kids feed... their souls.



CTK joins November 30 protest rally versus corruption



Fr. Mike Cabangisan blesses pet animals on October 4, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi.



Ready to serve! Members of the EMHC were renewed on October 26 and November 9. Together with 3 basic commissioning rites during the year, the ministry now has 115 commissioned EMHC's for liturgical year 2025-26.

December 6, 2025: LOC treats CTK scholars now numbering 85 from Grade 7 to college to a festive Christmas party.





Gathering to pray the Rosary for the past 30 years and counting.

## OCTOBER ROSARY GATHERING IN GREENMEADOWS

### BUILDING COMMUNITY ONE HAIL MARY AT A TIME

By Tessie Moran

BEC Village Coordinator—Greenmeadows

The October Rosary Gathering in Greenmeadows is a tradition born of faith, courage, and community prayer.

It began in the early 1990s, in the wake of the devastation caused by the Pinatubo eruption and the Baguio earthquake. During that uncertain time, the Legion of Mary proposed a simple yet profound devotion: praying the rosary at midnight while walking around the village. Priscilla Pacheco felt deeply called to this practice, even as she wondered if such a devotion could truly endure.

When our late Msgr. Mora learned of the idea, he gave it his full support. He encouraged Priscilla and then-Parish Pastoral Council President Jimmy Calpo to begin the rosary procession in collaboration with the Legion of Mary, of which Priscilla was a member. Parishioners soon joined, and before long, neighboring subdivisions followed.

Each year, the gathering reached its peak on October 31, when all villages processed toward Christ the King Church—praying, singing, and eventually converging in front of the church for the celebration of the Holy Mass. Every night of prayer ended with a simple *salò-salò*, shared by all, including our beloved “angels”—the helpers and drivers who have always been part of this devotion’s story.

More than 30 years later, the October Rosary Gathering continues. We are blessed that some of our founders remain actively involved: Priscilla Pacheco, Mila del Fonso, Carol Quizon, and Carol de Jesus. We thank them for planting and nurturing the seeds of this devotion.

Today, the block rosary is a joint effort of the BEC of Christ the King and the Legion of Mary. We remain committed to carrying forward what was lovingly begun.

We also acknowledge the many who quietly serve behind the scenes—our BEC Village Coordinators past and present; our generous food sponsors; those who carried Mama Mary from house to house; and the Greenmeadows security team who ensured our safety each night. Special thanks to Teri Floro for entrusting the statue of Mama Mary to our community, and to the “angels” who managed sound systems, candles, and countless details with patience and care.

As Fr. Aytoy once said, “*Saying the rosary together builds a community.*” Indeed, our nights of prayer drew us closer—to Mama Mary and to one another.

Until we gather again, may the bonds formed through prayer continue to unite us as one community in faith.



Every night of prayer strengthens community bonds.



Thank you for continuing to plant the seeds of this devotion.



CTK parish community came to listen to Fr. Jocis talk

## FR. JOCIS SYQUIA LEADS FIESTA RECOLLECTION AT CHRIST THE KING GREENMEADOWS

By Joy Cuadrante

Last November 8, Fr. Jocis Syquia, Chief Exorcist of the Archdiocese of Manila, led the Fiesta Recollection at Christ the King Parish in Greenmeadows with a compelling and deeply spiritual talk titled **“Why Am I Here?: The Real Battle.”**

Opening his recollection, Fr. Syquia posed a disarming question to the audience: “Why are we here? Are we here to be happy?” When many participants answered, “Yes!,” he gently corrected, explaining that the purpose of our lives as Catholics is first and foremost, holiness, not happiness.

He further shared that we need to be holy in order to achieve union with God, adding that such union is formed by “doing God’s will and becoming like Him.” This path, he emphasized, is shaped through persistent prayer and the heroic practice of virtues.

### Avoiding Occult and New Age Influences

At the core of his message, Fr. Syquia cautioned the faithful about the growing spread of pagan, occult, and New Age practices, warning that these can subtly contaminate one’s faith and open the heart to spiritual confusion and harm.

He stressed that many such practices—often disguised as wellness trends, “spiritual” activities, or harmless rituals—are incompatible with our faith. Believers, he reminded the audience, must remain vigilant and rooted in authentic Church teaching.

### Protection Through a Sacramental Life

To guard oneself against spiritual attacks, Fr. Syquia urged the faithful to anchor their lives in the sacramental life of the Church. He highlighted especially the **Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist** and the **Sacrament of Reconciliation**, describing them as powerful channels of grace and protection.

PPC coordinator Albert Cuadrante introduces Fr. Jocis

Receiving the Eucharist strengthens the soul against temptation, he explained, while regular confession cleanses the heart and restores the believer’s spiritual armor. Living this way, he said, keeps a person firmly aligned with God and safeguarded from spiritual deception.

### A Call to Renewed Faithfulness

The recollection, as part of the parish’s preparation for its fiesta celebration, drew parishioners seeking deeper reflection and renewal. Fr. Syquia’s message—a call to holiness, a life of prayer and virtues, and sacramental living—resonated strongly with attendees, offering both guidance and a reminder of the ongoing spiritual battle in the modern world.



Fr. Jocis Syquia cautions us to recognize the real enemy





# A FIESTA OF FAITH, FIRSTS, AND FAMILY

## THE 46TH FIESTA CELEBRATION OF CHRIST THE KING PARISH GREENMEADOWS

By Tessa Mangahas

For three joyful, grace-filled months—from September all the way to November 23, 2025, the Solemnity of Christ the King Parish Greenmeadows community lived its 46th Fiesta not as a single day, but as a journey. A journey marked by *panalangin* (prayer), *pagtulong* (reaching out) and *pagdiriwang* (festivity) that went deeper, celebrations that felt warmer, and service that reached farther. The people embraced its chosen theme, “In Christ the King, We are One” truly making this a fiesta to remember—heartfelt, festive, and full of “firsts.”



A convert during the Rite of Baptism.



Kumpilang Bayan group pose with officiant Bishop Nes



Fr. RL Orate with communicants at the Divine Mercy Chapel.



When holiness runs in the family. CTK parish priest Fr. Aytoy Opiniano (left) welcomes big brother, Msgr. Alex Opiniano (right) who graciously presided over the 12 noon Fiesta Mass.

### Panalangin: New Milestones in Faith

At the core of this year’s fiesta was a renewed focus on prayer and immense hope, lived not just in church pews but in homes and streets. One of the most moving highlights was the weekly Consecration of Families to Christ the King and the intensification of the devotion—a beautiful ‘first’ that invited families to consciously place their daily lives, joys, and struggles under Christ’s loving reign. Done every Sunday from September to November by the Basic Ecclesial Communities (BECs), each family consecration was intimate, intentional, and deeply personal. Fr. Jocis Syquia, a known exorcist, also led the community in the fiesta recollection.

Another much-awaited first was the procession of the image of Christ the King after the evening Fiesta Mass. As the image passed through the parish grounds and Greenmeadows Avenue, accompanied by prayers, the warm glow of candles and quiet awe, it felt like Christ Himself was being brought closer to His people—lingering with them a little longer on His feast. The fireworks display as the procession returned to the church grounds further heightened the fiesta feels.

The fiesta also honored life’s sacred moments: the *Kumpilang Bayan* saw some converts being baptized and confirmed, and presider Fr. RL Orate found himself turning emotional during the First Holy Communion of young children as he realized the significance of being the one to give the Holy Eucharist to the young faithful for the first time. Of course there was the heartfelt recognition of retirees from liturgical service, whose years of quiet dedication helped shape the parish’s prayer life.

More of the beloved traditions anchored the celebration: the spiritually nourishing nine-day Novena Masses, the 10:30 am Mass presided by Pasig Bishop Mylo Vergara, the 12:00 noon Mass presided by Msgr. Alex Opiniano and finally the 5:30 p.m. Fiesta Mass presided over by Cubao Bishop Elias Ayuban Jr. Another solemn tradition was the Holy Hour at White Plains Chapel, the community’s first place of worship, followed by a reverent Eucharistic Procession to the Main Church and Benediction—moments that drew the community into silence, gratitude, and wonder.



Fr. Aytoy, Bishop Mylo and Bishop Nes officially declare the Barrio Fiesta open!



Cubao Bishop Eli Ayuban Jr. and Bishop Emeritus Nes Ongtioco distribute Holy Communion during the afternoon Fiesta Mass



The bishops and concelebrating priests together with members of the Fiesta Core Team 2025.

### Pagtulong: Faith That Reaches Out

True to its identity as a parish for others, CTK's fiesta extended beyond celebration into compassionate action. Within the 3-month period, the Knights of Columbus spearheaded bloodletting drives that gave the gift of life. The Ladies of Charity brought hope to Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDLs) through prison visits. The Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion reached out to Libis with communion visits, while the parish continued its annual mission of love to the Gawad Kalinga Zabarte Village.

### Pagdiriwang: The Joyful Noise of Fiesta

Faith spilled joyfully into festivity. After the 10:30 a.m. Sunday Mass on November 23, the parish's lower grounds in front of the Divine Mercy Chapel transformed into a lively Barrio Fiesta, complete with free-flowing food and refreshing beverages—*walang bitin*, *walang KJ*, *lahat* welcome. Laughter, *kwentuhan*, and shared tables turned strangers into friends and friends into family. BEC groups were also delighted and energized by the first-ever Pickleball tournament in the community.

The celebration danced and marched its way through the parish with Caracol presentations, brass band processions through the villages, and a dazzling fireworks display that had both kids and kids-at-heart looking skyward in delight. The Thanksgiving Dinner, elegant and generous, was a fitting capstone—full of gratitude, and prepared numbers. And yes—no one will forget the much-applauded dance number of CTK priests and the Fiesta Core Group, proof that even after 46 years, CTK still knows how to surprise and delight.

### A Fiesta Made Possible by Many Hearts

None of this would have been possible without inspired leadership and tireless teamwork. Kudos to our parish priest Fr. Aytoy Opiniano, Bishop Nes Ongtioco, the rest of the CTK clergy, Fiesta Lead Ellen Chua, the dedicated Fiesta Core Team

and the tireless parish staff. Their vision, patience, and joyful service turned months of planning into a celebration that felt seamless, meaningful, and deeply loved.

Forty-six years on, Christ the King Parish Greenmeadows continues to show that a fiesta is more than an event. It is prayer lived together, joy shared freely, and service offered generously. And if this year is any indication—best fiesta ever? *Mukhang oo.*



They all smile and scream for ice cream!



Free flowing refreshments to quench everyone's thirst.



Kids ready to jump for joy and treats at the Barrio Fiesta pabitin.



Exuberant hosts Louie Padrinao and Cynthia Rodriguez brimming with fiesta energy!



Participants of the 1st CTK-GM Pickleball Meet! Success!

## PICKLES, POINTS, AND PARISH PRIDE: WHITE PLAINS TAKES THE TROPHY!

By Beth Monedero and Rissa Kawpeng

It started as a lighthearted banter between Beth Monedero and Fr. Aytoy while they were playing at the pickleball court one day. Why not have a pickleball tournament as part of the parish fiesta celebrations? The idea soon turned into something exciting—the first-ever CTK Pickleball Tournament that brought our parish villages together in a day of friendly competition and fellowship.

On November 8, 2025, the Greenmeadows basketball court buzzed with energy as six teams—Acropolis, Corinthian Gardens, Greenmeadows, Saint Ignatius, White Plains, and a combined Arcadia and Corinthian Hills squad—served, volleyed, and smashed their way through a fun day. Each team was comprised of two players per age category: 20 to 34 years old, 35 to 49, and 50 and above.

The games started with prayer followed by a ceremonial serve from Father Aytoy, Beth, and Rissa Kawpeng who were part of the organizing committee. Then the games were on, with each team playing five games per category.

The White Plains Pickleball Team emerged victorious, claiming the coveted trophy that would be theirs until a new champion claims it at the next tournament. Greenmeadows secured second place with impressive plays, while Acropolis rounded out the top three.

But honestly? Everyone won that day. Because the tournament wasn't just about power serves and strategic dinks—it was about creating connections in the hopes of drawing in more people into the parish and its various ministries. Players from different villages discovered shared passions and got to know each other beyond the perfunctory hellos and nods at church.

The goal was simple yet profound: create a parish sports community that draws people out of their homes and into meaningful parish activities. Mission accomplished! The laughter, camaraderie, and genuine sportsmanship displayed throughout the competition proved that when we come together—whether in worship or in play—our parish family grows stronger.

Special thanks to all the generous sponsors who made this event possible—and at no cost to the players: Danny Moran, Rowina Tan, White Plains Ladies, Basic Ecclesial Community village coordinators, Sta. Lucia Realty, Toby's Sports, JB Sports, Villman Computers, Caramia, and Councilor Chuckie Antonio.

Mark your calendars—the 2nd CTK Pickleball Tournament is already scheduled for summer 2026. Will White Plains defend their title? There's only one way to find out. See you at the courts!



Podium finishers for 35-49 years old category

Team White Plains takes home the Grand Champion Trophy





Commissioning of Libis Lectors

# UNTI-UNTING TUMITINDIG

## THE FAITH JOURNEY OF LIBIS

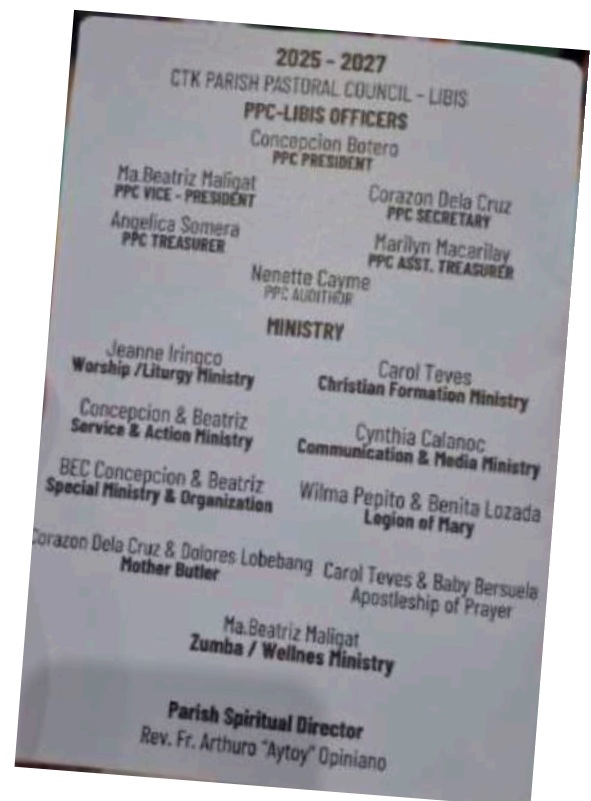
By Tessa Mangahas

Ang Libis community sa Quezon City ay kilala sa pagiging abala—mataong kalsada, magkakadikit na mga bahay, at mga pamilyang busy sa trabaho at eskwela. Pero sa gitna ng lahat ng ito, may isang tahimik pero mahalagang nangyayari: unti-unting tumitibay ang isang komunidad na natututong magbuklod sa pananampalataya—at tumayo sa sariling mga paa.

Sa mga nagdaang buwan, hinarap ng Libis ang hamon ng unti-unting pagpapatibay ng pamayanan mula sa Christ the King Parish Greenmeadows, na matagal na naging tahanan ng kanilang pananampalataya. Hindi madali ang transition. May mga adjustment, may kaba, at may mga tanong—parang isang pamilyang natututong humiwalay pero hindi lumayo sa puso ng nakasanayang komunidad.

Sa malingap na paggabay ni Fr. Aytoy Opiniano, at alalay ng CTK-BEC, nagsisimulang bumuo ang komunidad ng sarili nitong liturgical ministries—mga lector, choir, altar server, at lay leaders. Ang dating “tumutulong at sumasabay lang” ay naging “kami na ang may pananagutan.” Mahirap sa simula at iba sa nakasanayan, pero mas malinaw ngayon ang sense of mission at purpose ng mga taga roon.

Habang mas nagiging independent, pinili ng Libis na panatilihin ang maayos at magiliw na ugnayan sa mga kaibigan at parishioner ng Christ the King Parish



Libis Parish Pastoral Council

Greenmeadows. Walang putol—kundi pasasalamat. Walang hiwalayan—kundi pagpapatuloy ng iisang pananampalataya.

Ngayon, mas buhay ang pananampalataya sa araw-araw. Ramdam na ramdam ito sa pagdiriwang ng Libis ng Christ the King feast sa kanilang lugar. Mas maraming pamilyang kusang nagdarasal, mas maraming maliit na grupo ang nabubuo, at mas personal ang paglilingkod sa loob ng komunidad. Sa simula ay tumutulong ang mga lector at EMHC members ng CTK para magabayang at



Libis parish pastoral leaders kasama si Fr. RL Orate.



Fr. Aytoy and newly installed ministers



Young voices come together for community worship.



All out. Todo na 'to sa Libis fiesta celebration ng Christ the King feast.

maka-recruit ng mga members mula sa Libis community. Nagkapag buo na rin sila ng sariling Parish Pastoral Council sa pamumuno ni Ching Botero at meron na rin mga ministry counterpart. Mas lumalago ang mga ministry. Noong December 13 ay nag-commission na sila ng kanilang mga lector. Meron na ring binuo na Children's Choir. Unti-unti. Hindi perpekto, pero totoo. Minsan may sablay, pero laging may pag-usad.

Ang Libis community ay patunay na ang pananampalataya ay lumalalim kapag inaangkin—kapag natutong lumakad, habang patuloy na nakakapit sa Diyos at sa isa't isa.

Salamat sa patuloy na paggabay, suporta at pagmamahal mula sa ating kura at kaparian, sa BEC sa pamumuno ni Nadine Navarro, sa mga kasapi ng LGU, sa chaplain at staff ng Our Lady of Mount Carmel chapel, at sa mga parishioner ng CTK at ng Libis.

Pagpalain tayong lahat ni Kristong ating Hari.



Sama-sama together sa Libis Christmas Party!

# DIOCESAN SOCIAL COMMUNICATIONS ASSEMBLY: MAKING FAITH VISIBLE

## MEDIA JOURNALIST RAFFY TIMA ON STORYTELLING, TRUTH, AND DIGITAL EVANGELIZATION

By Tessa Mangahas



Raffy Tima explains the delicate balance in mobile journalism.

Members of the Social Communications Ministries of the parishes of the **Diocese of Cubao** were given a rare and enriching encounter with seasoned broadcast journalist **Raffy Tima** of GMA-7, who shared insights drawn from years of reporting on some of the country's most challenging and defining moments. More than a technical talk, his message was a reflection on how storytelling—when done with integrity and compassion—can become a powerful form of evangelization.

Drawing from his experiences in disaster zones and conflict areas, Tima reminded participants that the most powerful stories are not always those filled with spectacle or breaking news. What truly moves people, he said, are stories of shared humanity: a father rebuilding his home after a typhoon, a mother quietly waiting for a missing child, or a teacher who continues to serve even when no one is watching. These are the moments that stay with audiences—not the scale of destruction, but the dignity and resilience of the human spirit.

He also drew a clear parallel to parish life. In the Church, God's grace is often revealed in small, quiet moments—a volunteer sweeping the church before Mass, a child lighting a candle and whispering a prayer, a simple gesture of care at a wake. Captured thoughtfully, these moments become what Tima called "mobile journalism for evangelization"—faith made visible through everyday life.

With this power, however, comes responsibility. Tima stressed the importance of **ethical storytelling**, especially when representing the Church. He urged communicators to constantly ask: *Does this story reveal God's light, or does it exploit someone's pain?* In an age where emotional and "crying" stories easily attract attention, discernment is crucial. Truth, compassion, dignity, and mission must guide every post. Vulnerable people must be protected, identities safeguarded, and stories shared in ways that uplift rather than humiliate.

OLPH Vicariate SoCom ministries pose with Bishop Eli

Moving into practical advice, Tima encouraged communicators to **keep stories simple and human**. Perfection is not the goal. Studies show that people often connect more deeply with honest, slightly rough content than with overly polished productions. What matters most is the heart of the story—the faces, the emotions, and the message behind the event. A smile, he noted, can be more powerful than any wide shot or elaborate edit.

He also introduced a helpful storytelling framework: **Hope-Heart-Hope**. Begin with a strong image or question that captures attention, move into the heart of the story by showing people and their struggles, and end with a message of hope that points forward. This simple structure can transform even a one-minute video into a moment of grace.

Perhaps most striking was his reminder that **listening comes before recording**. Taking time to know a person's name, story, and context builds trust and authenticity. Listening, he said, is not just a journalistic skill—it is a Christian virtue.

Tima closed by affirming the vital role of parish communicators. Posting photos, editing videos, and managing social media may seem small, but these acts are forms of witness. Parish communicators are missionaries in the digital continent, using their smartphones as vessels and compassion as their compass. Every story shared with love continues the work begun by the first disciples—proclaiming the Good News.

In the end, his message was clear: when storytelling is rooted in truth and guided by faith, it does more than inform—it evangelizes, inspires, and brings people closer to Christ. Tima encouraged parish communicators to see themselves not merely as "content creators," but as **digital missionaries**. "Every time you raise your phone to capture a moment, remember — you are standing on holy ground."

Through mobile journalism rooted in truth and love, today's parish storytellers continue the same mission begun over 2,000 years ago: to make Christ known and visible in the world.

Members of CTK's Social Communications Ministry Gilda DePerio, Elaine Rodriguez and Tessa Mangahas participated in the day-long General Assembly.



# TOUCHED BY THE FISHERMAN'S RING

By Rev. Fr. Mikhail P. Cabangisan

Meeting the Holy Father is a cherished dream for every Catholic, and even more so for priests and religious. In my own journey—from my seminary days to my priesthood—I have been blessed with the rare privilege of encountering two Popes up close: Pope Francis and Pope Leo XIV.

My first encounter with Pope Francis was in 2015 during his apostolic visit to the Philippines, particularly to our Archdiocese in Palo, Leyte. I served as a pontifical server during his Mass for the victims of Super Typhoon Yolanda. My only small regret from that day was that I did not get the chance to kiss the fisherman's ring. Yet the joy of seeing him in person, standing before our people in their suffering, was more than enough. He gifted me a rosary, which I have treasured ever since.

My second encounter with him came in 2024 at the Vatican during his general audience. He simply passed by in front of us, but even that brief moment carried a grace of its own. His smile radiated a deep, genuine joy—the joy of a shepherd delighted to be among his flock. That simple encounter remains one of my most memorable experiences.

My third and most recent encounter with a Pope took place in September 2025, during our presbyterium's pilgrimage to Rome for the Jubilee Year of Hope. We were given the extraordinary privilege of a private meeting and photo opportunity with the new pontiff, Pope Leo XIV, at the Paul VI Hall after his Wednesday Audience. I had never expected to meet him so closely, especially with 160 priests present and many other pilgrims waiting. But during the photo-op, Pope Leo XIV suddenly walked toward our group. Before I could process what was happening, he was already standing right in front of me. Instinctively, and without uttering a word, I took his hand and kissed the fisherman's ring. Everything happened so quickly that I was left speechless. Yet receiving his blessing and meeting him face-to-face was more than enough—it was a dream fulfilled, a once-in-a-lifetime grace.

Every Pope carries a unique charisma, and Pope Leo XIV's is unmistakable. His warm greeting, his gentle way of speaking, and the sincerity of his smile create an atmosphere of fraternity and welcome. You sense in him a heart eager to embrace everyone with love, compassion, and joy. He leads not with the weight of authority, but with the humility of a true servant. This humility shone

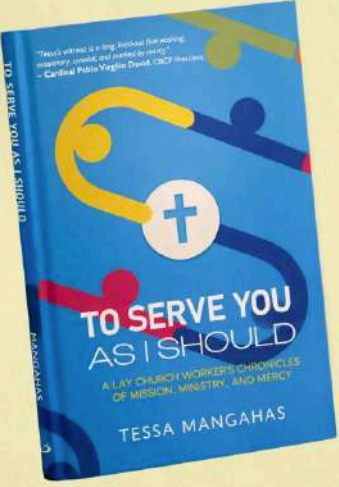
through in one of his early interviews. When asked about his first thoughts upon being elected Pope, he simply replied, "Here we go, Lord. You're in charge; you lead the way." For Pope Leo XIV, what mattered was not the honor of the role, but the mission entrusted to him by God. This, I believe, will define his pontificate—a spirituality of surrender, a shepherd who entrusts everything to the Lord and allows God to lead. And having met him, even for a moment, I felt the grace of that spirit in a profound and unforgettable way.



Fr. Mike profoundly feeling the spirituality of surrender during a pilgrimage to the Vatican.



Kissing the Fisherman's Ring—a dream fulfilled, a once-in-a-lifetime grace.




**TO SERVE YOU AS I SHOULD**

A lay worker's chronicles of mission, ministry, and mercy.

-TESSA MANGAHAS

“May this book awaken in its readers the same joy of service that has sustained its author through the years. And may it inspire many others to say, with their lives: “Here I am, Lord. I come to do your will.”

**CARDINAL PABLO VIRGILIO DAVID**



## “EVERY TUSOK IS A BLESSING”

By Maney Salem

The Mother Butler Mission Guild (MBMG–CTK) recently brought Christmas cheer to the hardworking sewers of the Christ the King Greenmeadows Gawad Kalinga Village in Zabarte, Novaliches. Joined by MBMG 2024 National President Mely Diaz and CTK SSDM Ministry Head Eileen de Leon, the visit was filled with warmth, gratitude, and joyful encounters.

The MBMG ladies shared a simple but heartfelt salo-salo, creating a relaxed and festive atmosphere. The sewers, in turn, delighted everyone with lively singing and energetic dancing—so infectious that even the usually reserved MBMG members found themselves dancing along to “Opalite.” As a Christmas gift, the 24 sewers each received five kilos of rice, adding to baskets of goodies they had earlier received.

Established around 2009, the CTK GK Village was created to provide housing and community support for families displaced by the Santolan–Katipunan overpass project. One of its most meaningful livelihood initiatives has been training housewives—many of whom started with no sewing experience—to create altar linens and priestly stoles. Over the past 16 years, through patience, hard work, and determination, they have produced beautiful pieces that serve the Church. Though the income is modest, the work has given them dignity, purpose, and pride. Remarkably, some of the sewers are now in their 70s and 80s, yet their eagerness and love for sewing remain strong.

## A STORY OF FAITH WHY SERVICE SUSTAINS THE LOCAL CHURCH

In a world driven by noise and self-promotion, some of the most powerful stories are lived quietly. **To Serve You as I Should** by lay church worker Tessa Mangahas is one of them—a gentle but honest reflection on decades of service in the local Church.

Rooted in real parish life, the book honors volunteers who serve before sunrise and long after events end, ministry workers who persevere despite fatigue or misunderstanding, and lay people who choose faithfulness over visibility. These stories reflect the everyday reality of many Filipino Catholics whose unseen service keeps parish life alive.

The book does not romanticize service. It speaks candidly about burnout, discouragement, and quiet struggles, while affirming why people continue to serve: because service freely offered to God becomes a path to inner transformation.

Beyond church walls, the message resonates with anyone who gives without applause—parents, caregivers, volunteers, and community workers. It is a reminder that dignity, purpose, and grace are often found in faithful service done quietly.

The formal launching of “To Serve You as I Should” is on Ash Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at the Chapel of the Archangels, 6th floor Opus Mall.

*Available at St. Pauls Bookstores nationwide and online.*



MBMG 1



MBMG 2

In her message, Mely Diaz, together with Eileen de Leon, thanked and encouraged the workers, affirming that their time, talent, and dedication add deep meaning to every Mass. The altar linens and stoles they create complete the Mass kits donated by MBMG—kits that have reached parishes across the Philippines and even other Asian countries.

The visit ended with grateful smiles and uplifted spirits. Indeed, every stitch sewn with love is truly a blessing.

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CHRIST THE KING PARISH  
 GREENMEADOWS

**IS A STEWARDSHIP PARISH**

HERE ARE WAYS TO SHOW THANKFUL GIVING



**Christ the King Parish**

242-002031-2

Casa de Silencio



**Christ the King Parish**

089-330000-16-2

Parish Operations/Church Maintenance

**STEWARDSHIP FUNDS** *as of December 2025*

Receipts	
Cash & Direct Deposit	1,972,110.00
Check Donations	4,882,500.00
Interest	1,320.32
Disbursements	
Pastoral Projects	2,056,884.36
Remittance to Diocese	1,000,000.00
Casa de Silencio	288,574.50
Calamity Assistance	34,000.00
Administrative Expenses	48,000.00
<b>Net Inflow for 2025</b>	<b>3,428,471.46</b>

**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

# A NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE

By Fr. Aytoy Opiniano

2025 really felt like a roller coaster—turbulent and scary at times, filled with twists and turns, moments of heartache, and moments that made us smile. Through it all, we remained grateful and steadfast.

No matter the highs and lows we faced, \*we now welcome 2026 with open hearts full of hope, enthusiasm, and a sense of wonder.

So what will life bring this year?

As humble servants, we are so blessed to be in a special position—one where we can help our community “create wonders,” “build beautiful memories,” and “bring people closer together to God.” In doing so, we offer smiles, hope, and strength not only to individuals, but to their families as well.

I am truly grateful for your active presence here in CTK. I always pray for you and your families that our \*Lord Jesus Christ\* will bless you with every good gift that you need and more time to serve HIM.



CTK clergy spreading Christmas cheer. From l-r: Fr. Rex, Fr. RL, Fr. Mike, Bishop Nes (Santa Claus), Fr. Bryand and Fr. Aytoy.