



ANG BINHI



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...think about this...

When I was young I prayed to God, "Lord, give me the energy to change the world." As I approached middle age and realized that half my life was gone without changing a single soul, I changed my prayer to, "Lord, give me the grace to change all those who come in contact with me." Now that I am an old man and my days are numbered I have begun to see how foolish I have been. My one prayer now is: Lord, give me the grace to change myself."

If I had prayed for this right from the start, I should not have wasted my life. The moral lesson is:
 EVERYBODY THINKS
 OF CHANGING
 HUMANITY. BUT
 HARDLY ANYONE
 THINKS OF CHANGING
 THEMSELVES.

Fr Marce Singson



"Flores de Mayo"

Procession during Flores de Mayo at St Bernardine's Church, Browns Plains on May 27, 2006



"Barrio Fiesta"

Holy Mass, Mabuhay Choir, cultural dance and guests during the Philippine Independence Day celebration at Yeronga Football Club on June 11, 2006

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My Way

By: Art Pagaduan



Virgil, a Roman poet, wrote in Latin before Christ our Lord was born: "When a man grows old, he becomes a 'laudator temporis acti' a praiser of time gone by." It was true more than 2000 years ago, and it is true to this minute.

My brief recollection of the past is no exception. In 1976 I attended a Lay Leadership seminar in our parish in the Philippines, a precursor qualification for lay people who wanted to serve the church as Lay Minister or Eucharistic Minister. Our first speaker was the Bishop of Cavite who did the introduction and lay down the foundation and the theme of the whole seminar.

He said, that from a Christian perspective, our main vocation is not leadership, but followership. When Jesus called His first disciples, He did not say: "Come and be leaders." He said: "Come follow Me" (Mt. 16:24). Jesus Himself, in fulfilling His mission to lead us to salvation, "emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, being formed in the likeness of human beings, obediently accepting even death, death to the cross" (Philippians 2:6-8). Even St. Paul did not tell to the first Christians to be leaders. Paul said: "Be imitators of me" or be my followers."

My perspective and orientation about lay leadership was guided and formed from that first seminar. A year later, I was 30 years old then, I was installed as a Lay Minister and subsequently, joined our Parish Pastoral Council, which I served as member and leader for a number of years.

In 1981, I left the Philippines with my young family for Papua New Guinea to worked for an Australian Mineral Exploration Company, I thought that will end my association with the church but to my surprise, we met three young Filipino SVD priests working in the mission houses there, they become our friends. We supported their missions and pastoral programs, involved in forming prayer groups and building basic Christian communities within their mission areas.

In 1986, I was transferred in Townsville, Qld. Australia. We were involved with the church through the school, my children were all enrolled in a Catholic school. As well, I was involved with the Filipino civic group and Lions International.

Then here in Brisbane, this will be my sixth year with the Chaplaincy, my term will end by the end of this month. Of course with all these years of association with the church, I lost 'my way' once in a while but somehow the Good Shepherd was always there for me, reminding me of that first seminar.

My sincerest thanks to all the people that I worked with, those people involved in publishing our newsletter, past co-ordinators and officers of the Chaplaincy and the current members of the Pastoral Council, who make time and effort in service to the community. I would like to say my profound gratitude to our former chaplains, Fr. Dom Flores, SVD and Fr. Ben Macajes, SVD, who shepherded us, the Chaplaincy, during its infancy. To our current chaplain, Fr. Marce Singson, a promising young priest, that he may be able to re-invigorate our faith, unite us and guide us to integrate with the local church. My special thanks to Sister Neco Esguerra, her pre-Chaplaincy pastoral works with the Filipino community, her wisdom and vision that contributed a lot in the formation of the Filipino Chaplaincy. She served the Chaplaincy as Pastoral Associate since its formation until now.

As a Christian community, we are indebted to all these people in so many ways, we need to say thank you and give them praise and respect. They deserved it.

I know I am getting older, everyone is getting older everyday, if six-zero is old by poet Virgil's definition in his famous verse, so be it, I want to make a point. **"When a man grows old, he becomes a 'laudator temporis acti' a praiser of time gone by."**

Goodbye!

We need Lay Leaders

The Annual General Meeting and Election of the Chaplaincy will be held on 24th June 2006, Saturday, 10:00 a.m., at Filipino House, 69 Nathan Rd., Runcorn.

As a Christian community each of us has the responsibility to participate in this important event of our Chaplaincy. The Vatican II Council Decree on Apostolate of Lay Leaders, exhorts the laity to take a more active role in the governance of the Church.

The Vatican II Council also proclaimed the equality of all workers of the church: "The chosen people of God is one: 'One Lord, one faith, one baptism' (Eph.4, 5) All share a true equality with regard to the dignity and the activity common to all faithful for the building up of the body of Christ (Lumen Gentium, 32)."

The Council's declaration erases any distinction of a two-class Church: the "holy professionals" (pope, bishops, priests, etc.) and the "worldly" laity. Thus when Jesus chose His apostles, the call was not addressed just to the few but to all who are baptised Christians. We are now given the opportunity to share our faith by evangelising and preaching the word of God which was regarded as belonging only to bishops, priests and religious. The old mentality wherein we the laity are expected just to say "amen" and "to pray, pay and obey" is gone.

Let us put into practice the Vatican II Decree on Apostolate of Lay Leaders. Let us take active role in the Chaplaincy. We need to help each other, take turns in sharing the leadership. We must continue the work, we need to sow more seeds **we need lay leaders.**
- Art Pagaduan

"Love begins with a smile, grows with a kiss and ends with a tear. The brightest future will always be based on a forgotten past, you can't go on well in life until you let go of your past failures and heartaches".

When you were born, you were crying and everyone around you was smiling. "Live your life so that when you die, you're the one who is smiling and everyone around you is crying".

Something Positive About Filipinos

Here's something very positive written by a foreigner named Steve Ray, about Filipinos. Steve Ray authored many best-selling books, among which are, "Crossing The Tiber" (his conversion story), "Upon This Rock" (on the papacy), and just recently "John's Gospel" (a comprehensive bible study guide and commentary). Steve is also currently filming a 10-video series entitled, "Footprints of God". The first two videos are out: "Peter, Keeper of the Keys", and "Mary, Mother of God" (now available in the Philippines).

STEVE RAY'S OPEN LETTER TO THE FILIPINO CATHOLICS:

We stepped into the church and it was old and a bit dark. Mass had just begun and we sat toward the front. We didn't know what to expect here in Istanbul, Turkey. I guess we expected it to be a somber Mass but quiet and somber it was not - I thought I heard angels joyously singing behind me. The voices were rich, melodic and beautiful. What I discovered as I spun around to look did not surprise me because I had seen and heard the same thing in other churches around the world. It was not a choir of angels with feathered wings and halos but a group of delightful Filipino Catholics with smiles of delight and joy on their faces as they worshiped God and sang His praises. I had seen this many times before in Rome, in Israel, in the United States and other countries. Filipinos have special traits and they are beautifully expressed as I gazed at the happy throng giving thanks to God. What are the special traits which characterize these happy people? I will share a few that I have noticed-personal observations - as I have traveled around the world, including visits to the Philippines. **FIRST**, there is a sense of community, of family. These Filipino Christians did not sit apart from each other in different isles. They sat together, closely. They didn't just sing quietly, mumbling, or simply mouthing the words. No, they raised their voices in harmony together as though they enjoyed the sense of unity and communion among them. They are family even if they are not related. **SECOND**, they have an inner peace and joy which is rare in the world today. When most of the world's citizens are worried and fretful, I have found Filipinos to have joy and peace - a deep sense of God's love that overshadows them. They have problems too, and many in the Philippines have less material goods than others in the world, yet there is still a sense of happy trust in God and love of neighbor. **THIRD**, there is a love for God and for his Son Jesus that is almost synonymous with the word Filipino. There is also something that Filipinos are famous for around the world - their love for the Blessed Mother. Among the many Filipinos I have met, the affectionate title for Mary I always hear from their lips is "Mama Mary." For these gentle folks Mary is not just a theological idea, a historical person, or a statue in a church. Mary is the mother of their Lord and their mother as well, their "mama." The Philippines is a Catholic nation - the only such nation in Asia and this wonderful country exports missionaries around the world. They are not hired to be missionaries, not official workers of the church. No, they are workers and educators, doctors, nurses and housekeepers that go to other lands and travel to the far reaches of the earth, and everywhere they go they take the joyous gospel of Jesus with them. They make a somber Mass joyful when they burst into song. They convict the pagan of sin as they always keep the love of Jesus and the Eucharist central in their lives. My hope and prayer, while I am here in the Philippines sharing my conversion story from Baptist Protestant to Roman Catholic, is that the Filipino people will continue to keep these precious qualities. I pray that they will continue loving their families, loving the Catholic Church, reading the Bible, loving Jesus, His Mother and the Eucharist. As many other religions and sects try to persuade them to leave the Church, may God give the wisdom to defend the Catholic faith. As the world tempts them to sin and seek only money and fame and power, may God grant them the serenity to always remember that obedience to Christ and love for God is far more important than all the riches the world can offer. May the wonderful Filipino people continue to be a light of the Gospel to the whole world!

In the congregation he is one of the brightest and gifted young priest so after his ordination he was sent to Rome for four years to study the Bible. He has established a reputation not only an expert of the Holy Scriptures but also he has the gift of the tongue - a very charismatic, eloquent speaker - a characteristics of a good teacher and a homilist. He is also a good singer. So, he was assigned by his superior to give seminars and lectures of the Bible all over the country. Over the years his apostolate become a household name. So that at the beginning of each year his calendar of activities for the whole year is already full. He was invited to deliver a special lecture to commemorate the anniversary of the founding of Catholic Chaplaincy. His coming is well announced so the attendance to the church was full.

For his lecture he chose the biblical story of Ananias and Sapphira. The story lesson he wanted to put across concerned the practice of lying. So he illustrated his lecture using the two biblical characters who were struck dead when they told a lie to God (Acts 5:1-11).

"Remember how Ananias and Sapphira sold some property and lied about the sales?" Asked the priest in a rhetorical fashion. "They kept part of the proceeds and lied to God. For this both husband and wife were immediately struck and fell down dead."

The priest scanned the crowd to ascertain the electric effect and he continued. "However, nowadays God no longer strikes people dead outright otherwise where would I be?"

The crowd howled in complete enjoyment at the apparent self-admission of human weakness. The priest paused as the crowd inside the church savoured the candid deprecation.

But the priest was not yet finished with the thought. He continued, "I will tell you where I would be. I would still be lecturing here but to an empty church!" The congregation laughed even more loudly.

"Today, I want to give a lecture on the topic of lying," he intoned in all seriousness. "But before I proceed to my main topic, I want to cross-check something. Those of you who read the Book of Matthews in the New Testament, please raise your hands."

Almost the whole congregation raised their hands with pride and enthusiasm.

"That's great," said the good priest. "I am really proud of all of you. Now who of you have read the Book of Luke, Chapter 25?"

Again, the whole crowd raised their hands with gusto.

"That is good," commented the priest with all seriousness. "That also proves that you need this lecture on lying because the Book of Luke has only 24 chapters and there is no such thing as Chapter 25."

Upcoming Events

17 June - Annual Filipino Pilgrimage Marian Valley, Canungra. Assembly time 10:00 am, Rosary 10:30am, Holy Mass at 11:00am followed by the procession of three icons of Mother of Perpetual Help, San Lorenzo Ruiz and Black Nazarene from the main chapel to our shrine. Fellowship follows under trees near the shrine.

18 June, 2:00pm - Corpus Christi Procession. Eucharistic procession, rosary, prayers and benediction at Nudgee Junior Twigg St. Indooroopilly.

23-25 June, YFC Mega Youth Camp at Camp Alowah, Ipswich. Contact Noel & Evelyn de Jesus 32883201/0416047499.

24 June, Annual General Assembly and Chaplaincy Election of Officers The Annual General Meeting of coordinators and officers of different Filipino groups and election of new officers will be held at Filipino House, 69 Nathan Road, Runcorn at 10:00am.

2nd July, Sunday, 11:30am Holy Mass. Sacred Heart Church, 50 Fairway Dr. Clear Island Waters, Gold Coast. Contact Maryann Boehme tel 55356243

15 July, Spiritual Nourishment Talk for all married couples from Fr. Marce. All are welcome to a monthly spiritual nourishment from Fr. Marce Singson every third Saturday of the month to be held at the Lay Canossian Centre, 169 Seventeen Miles Rock Road, Oxley from 10:00am (sharp) to 11:30am. Next session will be on August 19th. Sponsored by Marriage Enrichment Movement.

27 August, Sunday, 2:00pm Multicultural Mass at St Stephens Cathedral, Brisbane. Everyone is welcome.

Your prayers are asked to the recently deceased - Roger Samera and Jose Villar Rebuquiao. May they now share the joy of the risen Christ. Please accept our sympathies to their families.

Adorers of the Holy Eucharist Prayer Group - Adoration/Benediction officiated by Fr. Marce every THIRD FRIDAY of the MONTH, at St. Paul's Catholic Church, Jean Street, Woodridge from 7:30-9:00 p.m.

Every FOURTH FRIDAY of the MONTH - Bible seminar with Fr. Marce Singson from 7:30 - 8:30 followed by Holy Mass and fellowship at Ernie and Chat Alcantara's residence at 44 Lake Road, Slacks Creek. Contact persons: Ernie and Chat Alcantara - 3808 3720

AFCOM Choir sings every fourth Sunday of every month at St. Flannan's Church Beams Road, Taigum. Bible Study - once a month with Father Marce as our facilitator and a mass to conclude (mass of course is optional). First Friday Novena- Open to everyone but with a fixed schedule for the year within AFCCOM members & Friends. Christmas Carolling to raise funds for our less fortunate brothers and sisters in the Philippines every year on going for the last 14 years. Recipients of this funds as follows: a) Hospicio De San Jose. b) Canossa Sister (Tondo Manila) c) Mother Theresa (Tayuman). Contact Rudy Marquez 0408 484486.

Bay Singers sings every fourth Saturday at 6:00pm mass and every fourth Sunday mass at 7:30am mass at Christ the King Church, Deception Bay and every second month 9:30am mass at St. Eugene Church in Burpengary. Contact Marietta Savage Tel. 32032661

Cenacle Group, meets every first Saturday of the month from 1:30pm Rosary followed by Holy Mass at 3:00pm at St Martin Catholic Church, Eight Miles Plains. Contact Nancy Spriggins 32197636

Communion of Reparation Mass and all night vigils every first Friday and first Saturday of each month. Confession, adoration, Holy Mass, and rosary at (a) St James Church, Coorparoo from 7:00 pm till 4:00am (mass). Enquiry 32168395; (b) Sacred Heart Church, Brighton Rd Sandgate 8:30pm till 7:15am, Enquiry 32614456 (c) St Carthage Church, Beaconsfield St. Gordon Park from 7:30pm, 5:0am mass. Enquiry 0403828074.

Couples for Christ meets every fourth Saturday of the month from 2:00-5:00pm for the general prayer meeting and 6:00pm mass at St. James Church, Coorparoo.

El Shaddai DWXI PPI prayer group meets every Sunday at St Patricks's Catholic Church, Tobruk Street, Beenleigh. Contact person Claribel Tunggol - Tel: 3711 9379

Note: Please accept our sincere apologies for any error or inaccurate detail for individuals/organisations that may have been overlooked in this publication.

Gold Cost Filipino Choir sings at Sacred Heart Church, Clear Island Waters, Gold Coast, every first Sunday of the month 11:00am. Contact Maryanne Boehme Tel. 55356243.

Holy Trinity Prayer Group - prayer meeting every second Sunday of the month from 10:30 a.m. onwards at the Parish Hall of St. Paul's Woodridge Catholic Church, Jean Street, Woodridge. Sings three Sundays a month at St. Paul's Church and Maryfields Chapel in Kingston. Contact persons: Ruth Palmani - 3808 4685, Adela Eastell - 3208 2639, Tess Vethecan - 3427 3331

Ipswich Chaplaincy monthly mass is being held every fourth Sunday of the month at 12:00 noon at the Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church, Eastern Heights. Contact Thelma Woodman Tel. 54267139

Mabuhay Singers sings mostly in any multicultural events and every second Sunday of the month Mass (5:00pm) at St. Flannan Church, Taigum. Contact Terry Manso & Betty Tindoy Tel. 38652024.

Marian Choir sings every third Sunday of the month at Cannosian Sisters Chapel, Oxley at 10:00am. Contact Belen Bajar 38791735.

Maximilian Kolbe Filipino Choir sings every third and fourth Sunday at 9:30am mass every month at St Maximilian Kolbe Church, Marsden. Contact Sid Aloquin Tel 32007602.

Our Lady of Fatima Filipino Choir sings at, Our Lady of Fatima Church, Acacia Ridge at 9:00am mass every third Sunday of the month. Also sings at Canossa Chapel, Oxley every fourth Sunday of the month at 10:00am mass. The annual Rosary Crusade during the month of October is the main project of the group. Contacts Efren & Nora Altez 32737089 / Mardi Britt 37113893

Our Lady of Lourdes Multicultural Choir, sings at 10:30am every fourth Sunday of the month at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Sunnybank. They also serve at Canossian Sisters Chapel every second Sunday of every month at 10:00am. Contact Lorie Rivera Tel. 32724373.

Rosary and Novena to our Mother of Perpetual Help at St Paul's Catholic Church, Jean Street, Woodridge from 6:30 - 7:30 pm. Every first Wednesday of the month: Rosary - 6:30 pm followed by Holy mass at 7:00 pm then Novena to our Mother of Perpetual Help - Contact person: Tess Vethecan - 3427 3331 or 0422 378 113

St Bernardine's Filipino Choir sings every third Sunday of the month, 9:00am mass at St Bernardines Church, Browns Plains. The yearly Flores de Mayo is the group's major event every last Saturday of May. Contact Arman & Lucy Abolencia Tel. 38000487.

Ang Binhi newsletter is published every two months. Please email articles to ealtez@bigpond.net.au for inclusion in next publication.