



ANG BINHI

Ang Binhi" (The Seed) is the official newsletter of the Catholic Filipino Australian Chaplaincy of Brisbane

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ANNUAL FILIPINO PILGRIMAGE 2007

Six buses transporting Filipino pilgrims arrived at the Marian Valley for the annual pilgrimage held on June 30...one bus from Hervey Bay, two buses from Caboolture, one bus from Ipswich, another one from Gold Coast, and another bus from Acacia Ridge...plus of course some individuals and groups and families who came by private cars.

The pilgrimage kicked off at 10:30am by the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and holy rosary. Three priests heard confessions for the pilgrims. At 11:00am was the solemn concelebrated mass. The Gold Coast choir lifted the spirits of the pilgrims by patronizing Marian Tagalog songs. Officers of the Brisbane, Gold Coast, Ipswich and Caboolture chaplaincies did the offertories in kind. Procession of the three icons (Black Nazarene, Mother of Perpetual Help and San Lorenzo Ruiz) from the Marian Valley Church to the shrine followed after the mass. Upon reaching at the shrine, the pilgrims paused a deep moment of silence to allow individuals to whisper silently their spiritual wish to God. Then the chaplain imparted a special prayer and blessing to the pilgrims.

We went back to the side of the church of the Marian Valley where we laid down all our foods on the ground for a shared-lunch together. Our pilgrim day was also the birthday of Fr. Columba, the superior of the Marian Valley. He turned 39. Thanks to the Gold Coast Filipinos who brought along with them a birthday cake. And so we started our meal with the blowing of the birthday cake candle by the celebrant as the pilgrims sang a birthday song.

It was a very smooth-flowing celebration from the beginning to the end. Fr. Columba estimated the number of pilgrims to be near 500, including other small number of ethnic communities who joined the spiritual journey with us. One of the unique picturesque that I observed in this year's pilgrimage was the many new faces of Filipinos (not newly-arrived from Philippines) who participated in the event. I therefore would like to THANK those who joined the annual spiritual journey despite that cold and windy day. GOD KNOWS YOUR REWARD!

MAINTENANCE OF OUR FILIPINO SHRINE IN CANUNGRA

Our Shrine at Marian Valley needs someone to care for it to clean its interior part in a regular basis and to maintain the plants and the cleanliness on its surroundings. I have addressed this need to Fr. Columba, Fr. Gabriel and Bro. Luke. With the approval from the Brisbane Chaplaincy Officers and the priests at Marian Valley we decided that Bro. Luke will look after the maintenance of our shrine. He will do it every Monday, all year round. Our chaplaincy will just give a donation to the Marian Valley for the maintenance. This agreement takes effect in June 2007.

From now on, then, three persons are handling the three keys of the shrine: Adel Cos (coordinator), Fr. Marce (chaplain) and Bro. Luke (care-taker). Any individual or groups who wish to open the shrine to pray must log on at the logbook provided by the chaplaincy through Bro. Luke: indicating the date, time, name and signature of the one who borrows the key.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to Russel and Pavier Milne and Nelda for the job well done and for their sacrifices in maintaining the cleanliness of the shrine since its birth in 2005.

- Fr. Marce Singson



Procession, Annual Pilgrimage to Canungra, Marian Valley 30th June 2007



Catching up with family, friends and meeting new friends.

GK Starts first orchard community in Moncada, Tarlac

Source: GK News, Moncada News and from personal travel in Moncada, July 2007

Gawad Kalinga has added another feather on its cap. The Commander Willie McCool Gawad Kalinga site in Barangay Baquero Sur, about 5 km southwest of the town of Moncada, Tarlac has become the 751st site in the country and the first orchard community as well. The Gawad Kalinga site here in Moncada is the first to be constructed within a mango orchard. Commander Willie McCool, pilot of the space shuttle Columbia which disintegrated upon entry in the earth's atmosphere in February 1, 2003. Willie married a Filipina, Lani Rambayon who gave him three sons, Cameron, Chris and Sean. His mother-in-law, Mrs. Atilana Rambayon a Guam based Moncadenian, donated one hectare of land. Seventy-nine (79) houses are to be built in the one hectare lot which is home to 51 mango trees.

"Gawad Kalinga is most welcome here in Moncada, a place of beautiful people, said Mayor Lita Aquino. GK does not only provide housing for the poor but renewed positive perspective in these families lives", and added that the mango trees could serve as additional livelihood to the poor residents of the community. Mrs. Atilana Rambayon, a Gawad Kalinga volunteer, said that the land would make a great remembrance of his son-in-law and with her age, she is "on a pre departure flight and added," hindi ko naman madadala sa langit itong lupa ko kaya iwan ko na sa mga tiga Gawad Kalinga".

In July 2006, groundbreaking ceremony was held, present were British National Dylan Wilk, Mr. Tony Meloto and Wife, Pioneers of Gawad Kalinga. "Commander McCool should always be remembered here in this village, may he serve as an inspiration to all your children, maybe this community will produce the first Filipino astronaut." the Englishman said.

A Memorandum of Agreement was also signed between the Local Government Unit of Moncada and the Gawad Kalinga to take care of the donated land and its surroundings.

Meanwhile, in a related story and in an amazing turn of events, the Gawad Kalinga National Coordinators randomly assigned kind benefactors Tony and Marietta Pascua (who were then looking to sponsor homes for any GK village) to build in Moncada, Tarlac.

In God's amazing providence, it was discovered that Tony Pascua was one of those who worked on the Columbia Space Shuttle while it was being constructed in the 1980's. In a surprising twist of fate, Tony together with his wife sponsored 50 GK homes without knowing that the land in which their sponsored village will rise belonged to the mother-in-law of the pilot of the same space shuttle that Tony worked on early in his career. Indeed, God has carefully planned the events like a puzzle falling into place at His perfect time.

Finally, Commander Willie McColl's dream of a 'borderless world' where people from all over the world will 'live as one in peace' is about to realised right here at his own GK Legacy Village here in Moncada, Tarlac, my beloved hometown.

NEW DRESS CODE FOR CHURCHGOERS IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF MANILA

In June 2007, the archdiocese of Manila has come up with the official guidelines of a dress code for churchgoers. The guidelines were issued so that the Catholic faithful from the parish priest down to the ordinary parishioner would be aware of the appropriate clothes for Holy Mass and other church services. The new church law of the said archdiocese does not specify the correct attire for a churchgoer, but reminds the faithful to be garbed in reverence, propriety and decency as befitting a liturgical celebration. It has to be mentioned that some priests in the Philippines, even in Manila, would refuse to give holy communion to improperly attired churchgoer.

A woman wearing a spaghetti dress, a dress showing too much of her cleavage or any tight-fitting dress, should be given a warning to dress properly next time. When she goes to receive holy communion, she may be given a shawl to cover herself by anybody in charge of the liturgical service or any concerned parishioner.

Among those listed by the archdiocese of Manila as proper attire for going to Mass were: collared shirts or T-shirts, jeans or slacks, polo or long sleeve shirts for men, and collared, long sleeved blouses, dresses and long gowns for women, Corporate attire or office or school uniforms were also described as acceptable for church wear. Church prohibited inside the church are: caps, jerseys or undershirts and shorts for men, and spaghetti-strap or tank tops and other sleeveless blouses, plunging necklines and skimpy shorts and skirts for women.

The dress code issued by the archdiocese of Manila is a mere guideline and violators will not be instantly ejected from church premises, but will be warned to dress properly next time. The archdiocese of Manila covers the areas of Mandaluyong, Pasay, Makati and San Juan.

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) has expressed approval for the implementation of the dress code during mass.

Today, there is an increasing number of faithful who come to church to attend mass or any liturgical celebrations dressed in a way that disrespects the sanctity of the church and sacredness of the celebration. I do believe it is now high time to remind the faithful to dress properly whenever they face God in His house, the church. If there are dress codes at schools, in public and in private offices and in military, the more there should also be a dress code in facing our God in the church.

Fr. Marce Singson

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

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For chaplaincy enquires please contact Elle 0432 324 774 or email chaplaincy_secretary@yahoo.com especially to those who want to receive newsletter & updates of chaplaincy activities online.

Ode to fathers

(Dedicated to all fathers on FATHERS' DAY) By: Doreen Werda

God created man, and the first man was Adam, From Adam's fall a man must toil, To bring home bread tilled from the soil.

God said to Abraham, "You shall be a father of many nations," In Genesis 17:4, "Increase and multiply and have domain in all my creations."

The parable of the father and the prodigal son, as taken from Luke 15:24, "For this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found." A father's love is forgiving and soon forgets the pain.

St Joseph, the foster father of Jesus, the head of the Holy Family, Is a patient carpenter and a model of humility.

In our tradition as Catholics, we address our priests, "father", before their Christian name, For they represent God by being holy, not using God's name in vain.

I thank God for my own father; he was my first religion teacher, A man of discipline, and a great preacher.

May God bless all fathers, their offsprings and forefathers, Remain faithful as husbands and providers; That one day as one family, we will join in heaven, with God our heavenly Father.

HAPPY FATHERS DAY!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Chaplaincy Monthly Mass - 11:30 am, every third Sunday of each month at St. James Church, 165 Old Cleveland, Coorparoo.

Chaplaincy Dance Night - 8th September, 6:00pm, Chinese Catholic Community Centre, 80 Nemies Road, Runcorn. (Ticket \$10 each)

Free Mass Wedding - 20th October, 10:00am, St Matthews Church, 180 Bryants Road, Cornubia. Contact Fr Marce 0407-035622

Rosary Crusade at Our Lady of Fatima Church, Acacia for the month of October (details to be announced)

PHILIPPINES TO HAVE SHRINE TO MARY TALLEST IN THE WORLD

The Philippines, the only Catholic nation in Asia, has had a groundbreaking for the Shrine of Montemaria, dedicated to "Mary, Mother of the Poor," at the southern part of Batangas City bay area, facing the famous Verde Island.

The Statue of the Shrine of Montemaria will be 102 meters high higher than New York City's Statue of Liberty (96 meters high) and Rio de Janeiro in Brazil which has a Statue of Christ the Redeemer (100 meters high). The Shrine of Montemaria in the Philippines is therefore the tallest in the world.

The pilgrimage site is five-hectares of land. The pilgrim site will be able to accommodate as many as 2,000 pilgrims, will honor the massive shrine together with a Montemaria oratory of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a cathedral-like complex to be built along the slope of the mountain. In the complex will be a Rosary Garden, Way of the Cross, Eucharistic and Adoration Chapel, St. Joseph Chapel, Divine Mercy Chapel, columbarium and retreat houses for pilgrims.

The enormous Statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary will be able to be seen from the ships passing through a major shipping lane called "Verde Strait" where as many as 200 ships pass daily.

-Fr. Marce Singson

The Parable of the Professionals

By Art Pagaduan

As was his habit, St. Peter sat at the entrance of heaven. He liked to interview each arrival from earthly life. He was particularly interested in knowing what the person had done for a living. This would give him an idea of good deeds done as a basis for deciding whether to allow the entrance or to remand the new arrival to the lower section where flames burned all day long.

The new batch of arrivals consisted mostly of professionals. The first man approached St. Peter with confidence. "What did you do on earth? And why should I accept you into heaven?" asked St. Peter. "I was a doctor. I attended to the sick and the wounded. I also prevented diseases by making people healthy through immunisation and other public health measures. I always responded to the call of the people." "Enter heaven," St. Peter intoned solemnly.

"Next, please. What did you do on earth? And why should I accept you in heaven?" "I was a lawyer and I defended the accused and the condemned. I was a guardian of truth and a champion of law and order. I guided and counselled people to settle disputes. I was always at the service of the people." Proceed to the gate," the Saint commanded.

"Next, please. What did you do on earth? Why should I accept you into heaven?" I was an engineer on earth. I constructed houses for the people to live in. I built skyscrapers for offices and other needs of the people. I spanned rivers by constructing bridges. Man has made advances through my works. I was active partner in the progress of the people." "Go past the gates into heaven."

"Next, please. And what have you to say to yourself?" asked St. Peter. "I was a teacher, I taught all of them." "Enter heaven and in addition, here is a halo and a pair of wings," said St. Peter to the elated teacher.

P.S. Last month, Rose and I have a short visit in our hometown, Moncada, Tarlac. After the Mass, at St Raymund Catholic Church, fellowship followed and I happened to meet my Grade 5 teacher, Miss Nieves Mendoza. It gives me a great pleasure to see her again, inspite of the passage of time (50 years), she could still recognised me and likewise. They say that the most gratifying friendship or relationship are those forged when we were young, in primary or high school. They have a certain kind of purity in them. To Madam Nieves, thank you for being my Grade 5 teacher and I am sure St. Peter will allow you to enter heaven, with a halo and a pair of wings. God bless you.

The Ipswich Chaplaincy mass is held every fourth Sunday of the month, venue is at Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal (OLMM), Robertson Road, Eastern Heights at 12:00 noon, and fellowship after. For more information, please contact Thelma Woodman on 5426 7139 or 0439 728 267.

Please note our CHAPLAIN's new mobile number is 0431 042 603, for enquiries please contact Fr Marce Singson or email msingson@bne.catholic.net.au

By Art Pagaduan

The **Multicultural Mass** at St. Stephen's Cathedral on August 19th was a great success. The new joined Brisbane and Ipswich Chaplaincy Choir represented the Filipinos during the mass. I was so elated by the blending of different voices from male and female which brought into a perfect harmony. The singing of the Filipinos was not too loud and was also not low. It was perfect voice projection of a huge crowd at the cathedral. While I was at the altar yesterday, I always felt proud everytime the Filipino group sang. Yes, we really can make it!!!

The Ipswich Chaplaincy is so unique because the officers are also the lead singers everytime we have monthly mass in the area.

I am deeply indebted to the Filipinos of Ipswich for their active participation at the multicultural mass. I also would thank Adel, Vic and Josie, Terry, Juliet and Cynthia for their wonderful cooperation to putting all things in order. I thank in a special way, Walter Fitzpatrick...his presence has boasted the security and confidence of the Filipino choir at the cathedral.

Well done. I do believe GOD was so happy of what we have done at the cathedral yesterday. It was therefore worth the effort. Once again, MARAMING SALAMAT SA LAHAT! - - Fr. Marce

Filipino receives Order of Australia Medal

Boystown Logan's youth worker (Job Placement, Employment & Training Program) Ruth Palmani was awarded the Order of Australia Medal on the occasion of the Queen's birthday on 11 June for service to multiculturalism and the Filipino Community in Southeast Queensland. Ruth wishes to share the honour with the Filipino Community in Brisbane. Congratulations Ruth!



SIMON JOY ANDA APPEAL. Thank you to individuals and organisations who responded to this appeal. Simon Joy is a two year old boy from Lopez, Quezon, Philippines whose undeveloped twin is growing on his back. He needs financial assistance for the operation to remove his twin attached on his back. For donation please deposit to Simon Jay Appeal account 064-433 10830299 not later than 30 September 2007.

CONDELENCES: Your prayers are asked for the soul of Eligio Jumayao (Coopers Plains), Corazon Umerez (Inala), ? Marquez (Kallangur)

A group of married couples were all dead and waiting to enter Paradise, God appeared and said, "I want the men to make two lines: One line for the men who were true heads of their families and the other line for the men who were dominated by their women. I want all the women to report to St. Peter."

Soon, the women were gone and there were two lines of men. The line of the men who were dominated by their wives was 100 miles long, and in the line of men who truly were heads of their family, there was only one man.

God said, "You men should be ashamed of yourselves. I created you to be the head of your families. You have been disobedient and not fulfilled your purpose."

"I told you to be the spiritual leader in your family. Of all of you, only one obeyed. Learn from him. Tell them, my son, how did you manage to be the only one in this line?"

The man replied, "Lord God, I don't know; my wife told me to stand here."

To all fathers or 'head of the family', regardless which line you are in, Happy Father's Day!

A Protestant identifies with Mama Mary

Compiled by Art Pagaduan, Source: Time Magazine 21-03-2005

WHEN non-Catholics are converted to Catholic doctrines and practices, they tend to become better Catholics than Catholics themselves.

This is the case of Mary Burks Price, manager of pastoral-care education at a Louisville, Kentucky, USA, hospital, whose story is cited in Time magazine's feature article of March 21, 2005 entitled "Hail, Mary" written by David Van Biema.

Raised as a Baptist, Burks Price knew the denominational limit: Avoid spiritual contemplation of Mary since Catholics had turned her into a graven image. But in 1987, at a Christmas Eve service two years after her ordination as a minister (yes, women in some Protestant faiths are ordained priests), Burks Price experienced a "surge of identification" with Mother Mary with the birth of her special child and the unexpected death of a close friend. She had had a difficult pregnancy. And now, cradling her 4-month-old son in a back pew of the church she attended in Louisville, she felt for the first time that Mary's pregnancy must have been as difficult as Jesus' birth.

Then in 1998, a close friend died in a plane crash. Burks Price fled to a rural retreat center run by a local Catholic convent and late one night went walking, "sobbing and praying and asking why." She found herself standing before a tall marble statue of Mary next to a barn. "Her hands were outstretched, and her face was looking down on me with this great compassion," says Burks Price. "I realized that she knew what it was like to see her son die on the cross, to bear that sorrow and grief. I felt she was giving me a window into the compassion God had for me in my own experience." Burks Price is still a Baptist, but her office is filled with Mary's: Porcelain statuettes, laminated prayer cards, icons. She keeps a rosary for Catholic patients and sometimes, she says, "I know [the prayer] better than they [Catholics] do."

The article's author David Van Biema says Mary Burks Price was attracted by what may be the most meaningful Marian image: Love and compassion, at birth and through death, that Protestantism never officially repudiated but from which it has been estranged almost from the start. Burks Price's had experienced Mary's attribute as humanity's merciful mediatrix. This serves to fill a kind of vacancy for Mary as a special pleader for us to Christ as the stern arbiter on Judgment Day.

The growing appreciation of Protestant brethren of the Blessed Mother is a welcome development. It is hoped that it will draw Protestants and Catholics closer together in spirit of ecumenism, breaking down centuries-old barriers among Christian believers. After all, aren't we all children of one spiritual mother Mama Mary?

On September 8, the Catholic Church celebrates the birth of Mama Mary.

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