



ANG BINHI



"Ang Binhi" (The Seed) is the Official Newsletter of the Catholic Filipino-Australian Chaplaincy of Brisbane

Correspondence to: P.O. Box 1081 Sunnybank Hills Qld 4109

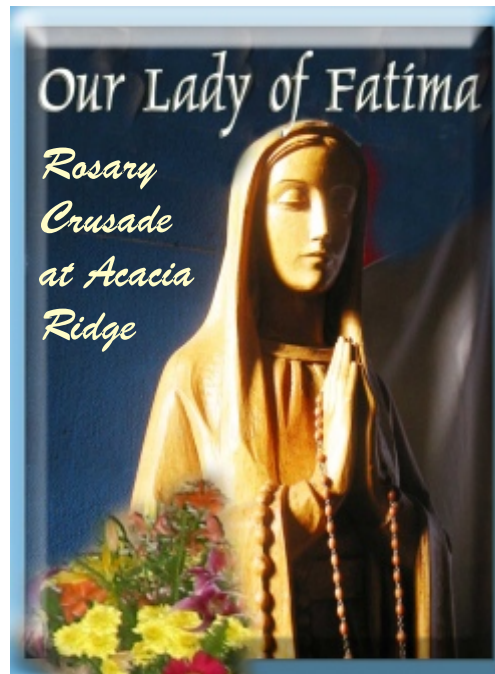
VOLUME NO. 10 ISSUE NO. 9 SEPT-OCT. 2005

PASTORAL COUNCIL

Coordinator: Art Pagaduan
Asst. Coordinator: Adel Cos
Secretary: Cynthia Hadden
Asst. Secretary: Julie Mohr
Treasurer: Vicky Bulaong
Asst. Treasurer: Juliet Blackwell
Pastoral Assoc.: Sr Necy Esguerra, FdCC
Chaplain: Fr Mars Singson

CONTRIBUTING STAFF

Articles: Fr Mars Singson
 Art Pagaduan
 Ben Bulaong
Photos: Rose Abundo
Layout Design and Photos: Efren A. Altez



Brisbane to host 'ADORE 2006'

From January 19-22, 2006, Brisbane will be the centre of the young faithfuls in Australia as it hosts "ADORE 2006".

'ADORE' is a yearly Youth Eucharistic Congress being organized by the Mary Help of Christians Crusade (the youth sector of the Alliance of the Holy Family International), under the spiritual guidance of the religious order of the Oblate Apostles of the Two Hearts (OATH). Although this will be the first time for 'ADORE' in Brisbane, it has already been done and still going on in the Philippines, and in many states in the USA. In Australia, 'ADORE 2004' was held in Melbourne, and 'ADORE 2005' in Sydney last January.

'ADORE 2006', hopes to enrich the young peoples' knowledge of the Eucharist. It also endeavours to provide the ideal setting for both adoration and spiritual nourishment to be nurtured and instilled in the hearts of the youth **the future Church.**

This four-day-Conference will be held at the Main Auditorium of the Brisbane City Hall. Bishop Joseph Oudeman will officiate the Holy Mass at the opening of the Conference. Some of the distinguished speakers to deliver inspirational talks during 'ADORE' include: (cont. Page 3)

MONTH OF THE HOLY ROSARY... WHY OCTOBER?

Pope Leo XIII was the first to speak of a "Rosary Month." He published no less than sixteen Encyclicals and Apostolic Letters on praying the Rosary and ordered that it be said daily in parish churches during October. In October 7, 1571 the Christian forces in Rome, Venice and Spain defeated a large Turkish fleet in the Gulf of Lepanto, near central Greece. The pope at that time was pope Pius V (now St. Pius V) attributed this naval victory to the intercession of the Blessed Virgin through the recitation of the Holy Rosary. In thanksgiving to this event, the same pope declared an annual feast under the title of "Our Lady of Victory." In later years, his successor, Pope Gregory XIII, changed the title feast to "Our Lady of the Holy Rosary," as we have it now. October is therefore chosen to be the month of the Holy Rosary because of the historical event in 1571.

Tradition tells us that the Blessed Virgin appeared to St. Dominic in 1206 after he had been praying and doing severe penance of his lack of success in combating the Albigensian heresy. The Blessed Virgin praised St. Dominic for his valiant fight against the heretics and then gave him the Rosary as a mighty weapon, explained its uses and efficacy, and told him to preach it to others.

The Rosary is CHRISTOCENTRIC, setting forth the entire life of Jesus Christ, his passion, death, resurrection and glory. If we consider the power of praying the Holy Rosary as seen in its effects, we find a great abundance of proofs in history as regards its wonderful value. Many favors are granted to private individuals through its devout recitation.

Today, if we try to pause for a moment of silence and listen to the signs of the times: suicide bombings, on-going killings and violence, hurricanes, floods and landslides, earthquakes, quarrels and hatred among leaders of nations...the world looks gloomy and turbulent! And so today, when dangers are far greater than those in ancient Turks in 1571 threaten not only Christianity but all civilizations, we are urged by our Blessed Mother to turn again to the praying of the Holy Rosary for help..., then we have greater confidence that we will be delivered from the dangers of this world.

DISCLAIMER: The views expressed by the authors and contributors in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Chaplaincy. While reasonable efforts to ensure that no misleading claims are made and the contributing staff have tried to make the information as accurate as possible, they accept no responsibility for any loss or inconvenience sustained by any reader of this newsletter.

From the Chaplain

WILL THEY REST IN PEACE ON ALL SOUL'S DAY?

One of the distinctions of our Roman Catholic faith is our whole day special annual remembrance for our departed ones. Originally, our commemoration for the dead comes from the ancient pagan festival of the dead. The pagans' belief is that: the souls of the dead would return for a meal with the family. That is why candles would be planted on the pathway to the house or in the windows to guide the souls back home. I still remember when I was still a kid when my *lola* (grandmother) telling me to plant as many candles as possible from the gate of our house to its main door, and to open all windows and doors that souls may enter and eat the food we prepared at the altar. I was always scared planting candles which has to be done at 6:00 in the evening when darkness fills the sky. Today, this is still the practice in some provinces in the Philippines.

Albeit the festival of the dead was originally a pagan practice, yet as early as the second century. Christian commemoration included not only food but PRAYERS for the dead, and was, in later years, accompanied by the celebration of the Holy Mass. In the beginning, the third day after burial and the yearly anniversary of death were the preferred days for commemoration; later the seventh and thirteenth day after burial were added, and in many places the fortieth day. So here we see that the commemoration for the dead was not celebrated on the second of November nor it was an annual communal festivity. It was a family affair.

The idea of dedicating one day a year to a commemoration of all the faithful departed came from Seville in Spain through Bishop Isidore (died in the year 636) who ordered his monks to offer Mass for the souls of the departed on the day after Pentecost, that is, Easter Monday. But the year 998 saw the inauguration of All Souls' Day, for that was the year in which Abbot Odo of Cluny in France (died in the year 1048) ordered all the monasteries under his authority to celebrate a festal memorial of all the faithful departed. Abbot Odo's authority, by the way, covered almost all monasteries in Europe. This famous monastery in Cluny chose to move their commemoration for the dead to November 2. This commemoration quickly spread through France, Spain, England and Germany. It was accepted in Italy, especially in Rome only in the thirteenth century. The day purposely follows after All Saint's Day (November 1) in order to shift the focus from those in heaven to those in purgatory. While the feast of All Saints is a day to remember the glories of heaven and those there, the Feast of All Souls reminds us of our obligations to live holy lives and that there will be purification of the souls of those destined for heaven.

It is sad, however, that in some parts in the Philippines today the celebration of All Souls' Day is a bit commercialized. During this feast, many cemeteries in the country are not anymore places of silence to pray for the dead. People start to stay overnight in the cemeteries already on the 1st of November and making fun by bringing their stereo and karaoke and TV, with matching food and wine and liquor thus making noise and sometimes trouble (for those who are drunk). Will our dearly departed rest in peace on All Souls' Day?

- Fr. Mars Singson

My Way

By Art Pagaduan



The month of October is the month of the Holy Rosary. The Filipino community and the Chaplaincy commend the Our Lady of Fatima Choir of Acacia Ridge for organising the daily praying of the Holy Rosary in their parish church for the whole month. A Holy Mass will highlight the culmination on the 31st October to be celebrated by our Chaplain, Fr. Marce Singson.

When we pray the Holy Rosary we remember the life of Jesus and his mother, Mary. I always thought of Mary's response, her 'availability' to what God wanted. Mary's availability is simply the availability of presence. Mary was simply there at the Incarnation, in Bethlehem, in the temple, under the Cross.

Speaking of 'availability,' one person who is always available to help whenever or whoever needs his skill and talent whether from the religious or civic groups he is always there to lend a helping hand. He is always available, a paradigm of exemplary community service. He recently received the Queensland Philippines Business Excellence Award for Outstanding Community Service. The award was initiated by the Australian-Filipino Chamber of Commerce of Queensland and the Brisbane City Council. The recipient of the award is no other than Efren Altez, our graphic designer of Ang Binhi newsletter. We must be proud of him.

You remember the Maleny protest few months ago? There was a story untold by the press about a local protester who climbed up a tall tree and put a rope around his neck and tied it up with a big branch and ready to hang himself if they continue the construction of a big supermarket which will endanger the life of the platypus in the area. They call the police, the local politicians but all failed to get him down.

The people call the parish priest to intervene. So the priest went. In front of the tree, the protester have a full view of what was happening although he could barely hear what the priest was saying, he interpreted the non-verbal. The priest started his blessing, raised his right hand vertically up then down (*you, up there, come down*), then the priest swing his right hand horizontally to the left and to the right (*or else we cut down the tree*). Then there was the sprinkling of the holy water, and then smoke comes out from the incense (*this priest is going to burn me alive, I better come down quick*). He got the message alright.

Basically priests are good communicators. And we are blessed because our chaplain, Fr. Marc Singson is a good communicator. One of his special skills is giving retreats and seminars not only to lay people but also to religious people. So to all religious groups out there if you need someone to intervene to help you know more about God, call our Chaplain.

One sign of getting older, they say, is telling the same old story over and over again. Since we started this Chaplaincy Disco Night, about five years ago, I always, without a missed say thank you to all people who in one way or another help the success of this event. And the just concluded event is no exception.

On behalf of the Chaplaincy, thank you especially to all who were present and also those who were not present but bought the ticket anyway. Thank you to Our Lady of Lourdes Choir, (they can sing, cook, and sell) who prepared and sell the food, profit goes to the Chaplaincy of course. Thank you to all who donated food as well. To the Chinese Community for their financial donation, to all who donated the door prices we thank you. Thank you for the presence of tennis players from Caboolture area and also the Matador Tennis Club members. Thank you to the donor of trophies. Thank you to those who help at the gate, thank you to those who help in the physical preparation and decoration of the hall. Thank you to our emcees, Rose Abundo and Ben Bulaong. Thank you to all and see you again next year.

Feature: SAINT LORENZO RUIZ



(Last of a series)

The Trial and Death:

Lorenzo went through this ordeal. But, he was adamant; he remained steadfast to his faith. He said: "I am Christian and this profess until the hour of my death. For god, I shall give my life. Although I did not come to Japan to be a martyr and because I could not stay in Manila, however, as a Christian and for God I shall give my life. So, do with me as you please."

Lorenzo's declaration of faith led him to the torture chamber, then to the "gallows of the pit". When he was brought to the judges, he made a sort of biographical confession: "I am a Filipino, son of a Chinese father and a Filipino mother. I am married and have two sons and one daughter. I could not stay in Manila because I had a quarrel with a Spaniard. I came with these priests without knowing where they were going to..."

The judges would like to know if Lorenzo would change his mind. "If we grant you life, will you renounce your faith?" Lorenzo answered without hesitation: "That I will never do, because I am a Christian, and I shall die for God, and for him I will give many thousands of lives if I had them. And so, do as you please."

Lorenzo was meted the death sentence on Sept. 27. He was led to the place of execution. He was hanged from a gallows, his feet tied to the upper horizontal beam and his head downwards. The mouth of the pit was closed with boards, so that only the remaining part of the body and the legs were visible.

When he died, like the other prisoners, Lorenzo's body was set on fire and the ashes and soil under the bonfire were thrown into the sea. That was Sept. 29, 1637.

Epilogue: Of the 16 Nagasaki martyrs who were declared saints, three were laymen: Lorenzo of Manila, Lazaro of Kyoto and catechist Domingo Kakuseke, also a Japanese. The rest were either priests or religious brothers and sisters. The Philippines can now look with pride upon a man who gladly preferred death to denial of faith. Christianity has been in the country for more than 400 years and it was only this year that a Filipino had been acclaimed saint. May he inspire other Filipinos to live and die for, not simply profess and proclaim the Christian faith. There are just too many preachers around us. We badly need sincere witnesses like Lorenzo. Indeed, it is hoped that the blood of Lorenzo will be the seed of total evangelization in our country.

The parable of the lion cat

THE cat had a grand illusion. He actually believed he was a lion. He acted like one and studied every behavior of the lions to be as credible. In time, he began to mix with the real lions. Somehow, he was able to be accepted. His actions fitted the norm of the other lions. He walked in the same gait. The color of his fur resembled the cubs. In fact, he played with them without being noticed as a cat. He enjoyed this new-found status. After a while he was even able to suck the milk of the mother lion. For with the cubs, one could not tell the difference with this cat. He then decided to turn his back from his own kinfolks and the feline kingdom. "I am a cub, not a cat," he proclaimed. "From now on forget about me. I will live with the lions. Then I can be great and strong. Not like you cats around. So docile and without courage. I now belong to the great and mighty lion kingdom. We are the king of the forest and lord of all animals. Good-bye, I shall never return or be a cat again ever." He left in a haughty manner befitting a real lion.

So from then on, he himself forgot his real roots. As far as he was concerned, he was now a lion. And the lion kingdom all accepted him as one to them. He was trained to leap and attack like a true lion. He learned to eat raw meat and began to enjoy it. Smelling other animals posing danger became second nature. By wrestling with the other cubs, he learned to claw and to rip open the enemy with a swing of his paws. The cat was never more happy and fulfilled. He began to pity other cats. And even despised them for their gentle nature. "You are only good as pets," he jeered the other cats. "We catch mice," they defended themselves. But it was true, the lion was the more superior animal. In strength and stalking abilities.

The cat turned cub was constantly trained by the adult lions. In moving quietly to surprise the enemy. Where to bite for mortal effect. How to run swiftly through the wind. And he passed them all.

Finally, the cubs were herded to foray into the real jungle. Each was to be let loose. The object was to kill any animal other than the lion family. The eager cubs scampered excitedly into their first major venture. Alone and without the watchful eyes of their parents. To do as they were painstakingly trained. They were all a credit to the clan. For each returned in the afternoon with a catch. Bloody and hanging by the bite of their mouths.

As a fitting climax to the successful hunt, each was called upon to drop his dead catch in front of the chief lion surrounded by all the adult lions. And as though to proclaim the feat, each had to make a loud roar. All roared like a thunder. When the cat's turn came, the roar did not form. Instead, a distinct MEOWW! For he was after all a cat. With that the lions devoured him.

Message: There is nil to trace spiritual significance of the above story but the social significance is so great, the social application truly intrudes into our way of life, we pretend to be or not to be.

MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT MOVEMENT

Couples are invited to its 12th Marriage Enrichment Seminar on Saturday, Nov. 26th at Lay Canossian Centre, 169 Seventeen Miles Rock, Oxley from 8am to 6pm, concluded by a mass by Fr. Marce Singson. No cost - morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea will be provided.

(Cont.) Brisbane to host 'ADORE 2006'

Most Rev. Bishop Julian Porteous (Auxiliary Bishop of Sydney), Most Rev. Bishop Geoffrey Jarrett (Bishop of Lismore, NSW), Rev. Fr. Bing Arellano, Spiritual Director of the Alliance of the Holy Family International (renowned author of spiritual books and host of a regular program on the Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN). Special presentations will showcase international talents, such as: Mr. Doug Barry (founder of RADIX (USA), a Catholic Ministry utilizing drama, music, comedy and history), Mr. Chucky Ibay (a blind-from-birth concert pianist from USA).

One of the highlights of this Eucharistic Congress is the procession of the Blessed Sacrament, from the Brisbane City Hall (passing through some streets in the City) to St. Stephen's Cathedral. There will be Adoration and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at the Cathedral after the procession.

"ADORE 2006" promises four (4) days of Holy Joy! It will be a "REAL AND AWESOME ENCOUNTER WITH CHRIST" as quoted by previous "Adore" participants. So, Brothers and Sisters, don't wait till January 2006, ring now 0423 344 701; 0423645913; 0432788 086 to register in this event of a lifetime. - by Ben Bulaong

Prayers to Recently Deceased: Antonio Celesto, Milagros Hernandez, Margarita Padua.

Wedding Anniversaries: Boy & Ethel Batol, Rico & Del Urbano, Arnold & Melanie Aman, Art & Margie Maano, James & Jean Mills, Jess & Fona Salcedo, Erwin & Leslie David, Milan & Marissa Kardum

Church kids

Jesus' Dad's Name: A Sunday school teacher asked her class, "What was Jesus' mother's name?" One child answered, "Mary." The teacher then asked, "Who knows what Jesus' father's name was?" A little kid said, "Verge." Confused, the teacher asked, "Where did you get that?" The kid said, "Well, you know they are always talking about Verge n' Mary."

Kids in Church: 3-year-old, Reese: "Our Father, Who does art in heaven, Harold is His name. Amen."

A little boy was overheard praying: "Lord, if you can't make me a better boy, don't worry about it. I'm having a real good time like I am."

After the christening of his baby brother in church, Jason sobbed all the way home in the back seat of the car. His father asked him three times what was wrong. Finally, the boy replied, "That preacher said he wanted us brought up in a Christian home, and I wanted to stay with you guys."

I had been teaching my three-year old daughter, Caitlin, the Lord's Prayer for several evenings at bedtime, she would repeat after me the lines from the prayer. Finally, she decided to go solo. I listened with pride as she carefully enunciated each word right up to the end of the prayer: "Lead us not into temptation," she prayed, "but deliver us some E-mail."

One particular four-year-old prayed, "And forgive us our trash baskets as we forgive those who put trash in our baskets."

A Sunday school teacher asked her children, as they were on the way to church service, "And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?" One bright little girl replied, "Because people are sleeping."

Six-year-old Angie and her four-year-old brother Joel were sitting together in church. Joel giggled, sang, and talked out loud. Finally, his big sister had had enough. "You're not supposed to talk out loud in church." "Why? Who's going to stop me?" Joel asked. Angie pointed to the back of the church and said, "See those two men standing by the door? They're hushers."

A mother was preparing pancakes for her sons, Kevin, 5 and Ryan 3. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake. Their mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson. "If Jesus were sitting here, He would say, 'Let my brother have the first pancake, I can wait.'" Kevin turned to his younger brother and said, "Ryan, you be Jesus!"

A father was at the beach with his children when the four-year-old son ran up to him, grabbed his hand, and led him to the shore where a seagull lay dead in the sand. "Daddy, what happened to him?" the son asked. "He died and went to Heaven," the Dad replied. The boy thought a moment and then said, "Did God throw him back down?"

Nov. 2, 7pm - All Soul's Day Mass, Our Lady of Fatima Mass, Acacia Ridge. Contact: Adel & Monina Cos - 37119604

Nov. 27, Sunday, 11:00am - 1st Sunday of Advent, St. Joseph Church, 177 Currie St. Nambour, Contact: Juanita Forman 55468334 and Imelda Brian

Dec. 3, Saturday, 1:30pm Holy Mass, St. Martin's Church, Cnr. Logan & Chester Rd. Eight Miles Plains Contact: Nancy Spriggens 32197636

Dec. 4, Sunday, 11:30am - Holy Mass, Sacred Heart Church, 50 Fairway Dr. Clear Island Waters. Contact: Mary Anne Boehme Tel. 55356243

Dec. 10, Saturday, 11:00am - Holy Mass, Christ the King Church, 54 Thompson St. Deception Bay. Contact Marietta Savage Tel. 32031645

Dec. 10, Saturday, 7pm - Holy Mass, Guardian Angel Church, 198 Bay Tce. Wynnum. Contact: Grace Moon Tel. 3396 1157

MISA DE GALLO

Dec. 15, Thursday, 7pm St. Joseph & St. Anthony Church, 5 Eldorado St. Bracken Ridge, Contact: Boyet & Doris Diaz Tel. 32614105

Dec. 16, Friday, 7pm St. Williams Church, 67 Dawson Pde. Grovely. Contact: Philip & Rose Abundo Tel. 33550292/Noel & Minda Wright Tel. 33550062

Dec. 17, Saturday, 7pm St. Bernardine Church, 25 Vergulde Rd. Browns Plains. Contact: Arman & Lucy Abolencia Tel. 38000487

Dec. 18, Sunday, 3pm St. Stephen's Cathedral, 249 Elizabeth St. Brisbane. Contact: Art & Rose Pagaduan Tel. 32735921 / Sr Necy Esguerra Tel. 0401 367 236

Dec. 19, Monday, 7pm Star of the Sea Church, 53 Passage St. Cleveland. Contact: Darcy & Amy Higgins Tel. 38246569

Dec. 20, Tuesday, 7pm St Peter & Paul Church, 25 Main Ave. Balmoral. Contact: Adela White Tel. 33999940

Dec. 21, Wednesday, 7pm St. James Church, 165 Old Cleveland Rd. Coorparoo. Contact: Jenny Philipps Tel. 3843 0393

Dec. 22, Thursday, 7pm Holy Cross Church, cnr Anzac Ave & Chealsa St. Kippa-ring. Contact: Bernie Gasper Tel. 3285 6796

Dec. 23, Friday, 7pm Chinese Catholic Com. Centre, 80 Nemies Rd. Runcorn. Contact: Ben & Vicky Bulaong Tel. 3216 8395

Dec. 27, Tuesday, 7pm Holy Cross Church, 28 Chalk St. Wooloowin. Contact: Pat & Doreen Werda Tel. 3357 4745 / Cliff & Vivian Bratby Tel. 33577872

**To all community leaders: Please plan your activities around this timetable to avoid overlapping and to ensure a good attendance in all our chaplaincy activities.*

Prepared by: Sr. Necitas Esguerra, FdCC Pastoral Associate In consultation with: Fr Mars Singson, OSB (Chaplain)

