



Koinonos

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Season of
ORDINARY
TIME

Not that Kind of Ordinary

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When *Ordinary* is not *Ordinary*

The church is in the season of Ordinary Time. A Catholicism expert once wrote, "Ordinary Time is called 'ordinary' not because it is common but simply because the weeks of Ordinary Time are numbered. The numbered weeks of Ordinary Time represent the ordered life of the Church. For Catholics, Ordinary Time is the part of the year in which Christ, the Lamb of God, walks among us and transforms our lives. There's nothing 'ordinary' about that! (Source: <http://catholicism.about.com/od/holydaysandholidays/f/What-Does-Ordinary-Time-Mean.htm>)

This issue is about making everyday moments count. Those things that we think are common and ordinary are really miracles, elements of a big plan that our big God has for our lives. Think of the men and women of old, like Joseph, who was a slave before he became a governor. Think of the men and women God uses today to make Him known: A woman named June called to care for her mother in her old age, two teachers who were called to participate in the transforming work of God in their students; an ordinary Bible study group in Taguig doing extraordinary work for His people; a small group of believers making a difference in Pililla, Rizal, mission trips for the restoration of God's people in the provinces, parents taking quality time to raise their children - these are just some of the many miracles in the church! They are living proofs that Christ walks among His people! There is absolutely nothing "ordinary" about that!

A favorite scripture comes to mind. *Psalm 90:12- Lord, teach us to number our days, that we may present to Thee a heart of wisdom.* To "number our days" means to put into order our lives, setting our priorities, and using our days (hours, minutes, and seconds) wisely. It is counting what matters, those things that will transform us into what God has made us: bearers of His image and likeness. We are actually, undeniably, irrevocably, absolutely, unbelievably like HIM! We are called to order our days. We are to present to Him a heart of wisdom.

Ordinary Time is far from ordinary. It is the time when God continues His transforming work in the lives of His children. It is the time to know Him and make Him known.

The Editorial Team

Not That Kind of Ordinary

by
Fr. Gary and Marilie Thurman

In the Church Calendar, we begin the year with the expectation of Advent, and then comes the joyous celebration of Christmas and Epiphany. The intensity of Lent is followed by the powerful proclamation of resurrection during Easter, which is capped by the dynamic Feast of Pentecost. But for the remaining months of the year there is no catchy title, no event-based seasonal name, no peculiar or out-of-the-ordinary happening on which we can base all our plans and schedules. In fact, it all seems rather ordinary; so much so, that's what this time of year has been named: Ordinary Time. That doesn't really seem like a phrase designed to rouse one's senses, does it? But wait, be not deceived! As you see on the cover of this issue, it's not that kind of ordinary!

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The Way It Is

The prayer of my heart from the beginning of my calling has always been to be able to impart only what God wants imparted and speak only what He wants spoken.

What He wants proclaimed is the gospel, the good news of His kingdom. That was what Jesus proclaimed and its coming was what He taught His disciples to pray for and to proclaim themselves. This is the reason I came up with a signature ending to my homilies, teachings, and writings, namely, the very title of this article; not to have something for me to be remembered by, but hopefully to have something for people to live by. I constantly rely on God's wisdom alone to be able to accomplish this every time I talk or write about this kingdom of His and the life He wills for us to live. More importantly, I entreat His grace and mercy that with faith, hope, and love, I may be able to first receive and apply, and then proclaim His holy gospel. The way it is in the kingdom is that God in Christ Jesus reconciled the world to Himself, not counting men's sins against them. That is the beginning of a story and an experience available to anyone who would care to accept the invitation. This experience is eternal life, which Jesus defined in John 17 as knowing the only true God and His Son whom He has sent. This knowledge is of the biblical kind which is way beyond the cerebral; a knowledge that would involve intimacy and an investment of time and the entirety of the heart for it to be full. This same knowledge is what we should have in mind when we give of ourselves in fulfilling the mandate given to us as expressed in the Cathedral of the King's mission - to know God and to make Him known. The second component of the statement is a natural consequence of the first. Genuinely knowing God naturally means sharing His heart of compassion and so desiring that others also know Him and avail of His mercy and everlasting love. To put it apophatically, we cannot know God and not have a burning desire to make Him known. I pray we never depart from a consuming zeal to make His goodness known. When constantly lived out, this actually is eternal life. Emphasis is put on constancy because eternal means precisely that - you don't take a break from it, walk away, resign, or retire. It's a 24/7, going-without-ceasing kind of commitment that doesn't know the meaning of divorce. It means you are in it for life (CEC for Life - get it?); because this kingdom knows no end and its glory knows no bounds. Aside from the chronological aspect, eternal life is also characterized by a quality of commitment. This quality is proportional to quantity - the quantity of heart put into it. In order to live this life to its fullness, we have to heed what Jesus called the first and great commandment and the second that is like unto it - to love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your mind, and to love your neighbor as yourself. He promised that if we obey the commandment, we will live. It is in His kingdom where the Lord commanded the blessing of this life. It starts and never ends in it. That is the good news and that is what I proclaim. I honestly cannot come up with any other way to end this article than how it really should end - by saying that that's the way it is in the kingdom of God.



Ariel P. Santos

THE MOST REVEREND BISHOP ARIEL CORNELIO P. SANTOS

Language is in a constant state of flux, change, and adaptation. Whereas the English word "ordinary" has come to mean something mundane, typical, and unspectacular, that was not the original root meaning of the word, nor was it the intended meaning of those who originally assigned the phrase to this time of the year. The true meaning of the word is "according to a fixed order." (Order referring to "design", rather than "command") Even in Ordinary Time, with no high-profile events to dictate our readings and prayers, every scripture passage and collect is already set, according to a fixed order. You can know today what the Gospel Reading will be on the thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time in the year 2089, because it's all according to a fixed order. (It will be Mark 12: 38-44, by the way.)

Order (design) is important to God. What parent, upon observing the condition of their children's room, has not quoted the scripture, "God is not the author of confusion", or "Let everything be done decently and in order"? Psalm 104 expresses this love for order very clearly. The Lord has created the earth according to His order, so it would not move out of place. The sun and moon operate according to a fixed order. You can tell the exact time the sun will rise in a certain place - centuries from now! He made a place, a fixed order, for mountains, waters, vegetation, and every kind of animal life, including man. In that order God provides for each one, from their food to their very breath. And not only are our situations and circumstances given order by God, but so are the very lives we lead; for "the steps of a good man are ordered (designed) by the Lord." (Psalms 37: 23, KJV)

This word "order" is the same root word used for "ordain," because God uses the Sacrament of Ordination to help set the Church in order. But again, it's not that other kind of ordinary! A lot of things, Ordinations included, happen in Ordinary Time that are not ordinary at all, at least in the ancient sense of the word. Consider: Ordination is probably the least celebrated of all the seven Sacraments. Unlike the others, most Christians never even receive it personally. And yet, every Consecration (essentially a pumped-up Ordination) or Ordination ever celebrated in the Cathedral of the King has occurred in Ordinary Time, either the post-Epiphany or post-Pentecost version. The most unordinary Sacrament happens most often in Ordinary Time.

A lot of unordinary things happen in Ordinary Time. Church history reveals many miracles, things not at all ordinary, which happened in Ordinary Time. For instance, the Roman Emperor Constantine received a vision in the sky of a cross with the words, "In this sign conquer" on October 28, 312 AD - right in the middle of Ordinary Time. This led to his conversion, and eventually to the conversion of the whole Empire. Extraordinary!

The famous Miracle of the Sun occurred near Fatima, Portugal, on October 13, 1917. Around noon on a rainy day, the sun appeared to turn into a spinning disk that spiraled toward the Earth. This is not a thing the sun does ordinarily. In fact, the church added this happening to its list of official miracles in 1930. But again, notice the time: was it in Easter, Christmas, or even Lent? No, it was Ordinary Time.

Another very extraordinary event in the history of the Church, a significant act whose effects are still felt greatly to this day, was Martin Luther's nailing of the ninety-five theses onto the door of the Wittenberg Church in Wittenberg, Germany. The date? October 31, 1517. Some say that he sent the theses to his archbishop on that date, and nailed them to the door of his church a couple of weeks later, but that's still before Advent. It's still Ordinary Time.

And why not? As the psalmist goes on with his litany of all the things of God that are arranged in perfect order, he mentions something, or rather Someone, Who has been known to break traditional and ordinary boundaries quite frequently - the Holy Spirit:

"You send forth Your Spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the ground." (Psalm 104: 30)

Whether the time is ordinary or momentous, whether the season is joyful or somber, any time is the time in which the Holy Spirit moves in the hearts and lives of God's people; restoring, reconciling, reviving, and renewing. Ordinary Time is a great time to be refilled with His fire and passion, with his evangelical zeal and His love for mankind. Ordinary Time is a fantastic time to draw closer to God, to become more intimate in our relationship with Him, and to make our personal times of prayer with Him a very ordinary (occurring very frequently, or even according to a fixed order) thing.

And there's nothing ordinary about that! **K**

Love Across Oceans and Islands

God Blesses Us When We Honor our Parents

A Testimony by June Dungca



Three years ago I left our beloved country Philippines to join my dearest Nanay and other siblings based here in the United States of America. It was a big leap of **FAITH** for me to leave the comfortable life I was enjoying back there. I had to resign and retire from the job that, in great abundance, supplied practically everything I needed, and said good-bye to my friends at work and at church. Indeed, the time had come for me to settle down in another country where everything was NEW!

Where I am now is the outcome of the years I spent in seeking God's favors in my life: praying for His will be done. **Philippians 4:6-7** was just one of the many scriptures God showed me. **"Have no anxiety about anything, but in all things by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, continue to let God know what you want. And the peace that passes understanding shall keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus"**. God has given me that **HOPE!** I just learned that God requires an attitude of heart-felt thankfulness in order for us to receive His continued favors in our lives. And to this day, I truly hold dear this scripture in my heart, ever mindful that with Him nothing is impossible.

In the past three years of adjusting to the way of life here, God has continued to comfort

me with His **LOVE**. Things are different now. I no longer enjoy the abundance I used to have when I was still back home. I get by with the savings I have. Some loved ones and great friends are now thousands of miles across the sea. I no longer have the luxury of time to spend with them. I miss my trustworthy and able helper to whom I owed a well-kept home. Those were some of the benefits of the kind of life God had favored me with back home. In the natural it is difficult to live by faith and say God will provide. But I cannot live in the past. I need to move on and trust God! Other things may have changed in my life, but not my God! He is still the same God who loves us! He answers our prayers! I am thankful for His fatherly love. He taught me with grace to accept things as they are, to be content with what I have, and to trust Him for all my concerns and needs. Again, He showed me this truth in **Philippians 4: 11-12**. **"I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what is to be in need, and I know what is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want"**. God's Word sustains me to this day. Holding on to His promise, I learned and I know how it is to be abased and I know how it is to abound. In both situations, I am contented and thankful, for He alone satisfies my need.

I am not moved nor disheartened, whatever my circumstance is. I let God know what I want, what I need. My heart overflows with thanksgiving, for God has not forsaken me! Almost two years ago God confirmed the purpose of my coming here - I wanted to spend more time with my mother; that I may be able to serve her in her old age. Back then, when she was 85 (she's now 87), the need arose for someone to supervise her moving around the house, and to attend to her personal needs. Someone has to stay home with her; she is not to be left alone in the house. I needed not seek the Lord about it further, for I already knew the answer. To the surprise of my family, I volunteered as the care provider for my mother. That was so as to not to disrupt the work schedules of my siblings who have families and financial obligations to take care of. Oh, how I love to take care of my Nanay! So I stopped looking for a job, turning down offers that required my being away from home for more than 5 hours. I took it both as a privilege and an opportunity to be able to take care of her, and prove my love for her and for God. But we cannot out-give God with our giving! For who would ever think that here in America, to provide care for your aging parent would be financially compensated! The county pays me for the caregiving services I provide for my Nanay! Indeed, God blesses us when we honor our parents!

I know God is not finished with me yet. For now, I am content until He brings another change in my life. In whatever circumstance this change may bring I will be contented, and thankful from the heart, believing that it shall give glory to His Name! **K**

You Cannot 'Microwave' a Child

by Fr. Roberto Jorvina

(For this issue, we have requested Fr. Roberto Jorvina to share about a topic that is very significant to the times. He has often emphasized the importance of the family togetherness, and the need to take time to raise children in the ways of God.)

Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men, but as wise, making the most of your time because the days are evil (Ephesians 5:15-16)

Instant meals, quick chow, fastfood ... We live in an extremely fast-paced world, accelerating at a rate that shapes and molds the lifestyles of people. Each day, we move to the rhythm of this concrete jungle called the city, shuffling at a feverish pace. Young and old take to its tempo. Everyone is in constant motion.

In order to sustain this routine, we have many things at our disposal and at our convenience. We crave for the instant, the quick result. We have been made impulsive consumers: we want what we want, and we want it now! The virtue of patience has been stowed away into the past. Any process that requires a waiting time is frowned upon.

In our own homes, even in the quiet domestic setting of the families, gone are the days where time was a commodity that everyone had in abundance. There was no need to rush. Families spent time together. Prayer times... play times... Mealtime was something to look forward to. It was an activity that transpired for several hours beginning with mother and daughter planning meals, cooking, baking together. The dining table was hallowed because it represented a place where everyone gathered around and a time when every member spent with each other.

But times have changed. Parents and children rarely get together for an extended meal. Everyone is in a rush to get out. After all, there were deadlines to meet, voluminous work to complete, appointments to keep, school work and office demands to accomplish.

And it is not limited to mealtimes at home. This frantic, frenetic attitude of this modern age is most evident in the way parents raise their children today. We cannot microwave a child.

We are called "to train up a child in the way they should go." This training presupposes having quality time together. God has designed relationships to be built on communion, fellowship, and intimacy. These are conditions that thrive in times of proximity and interaction. Parental authority and child discipline are only tools and means that we have in order to achieve the goal of godliness in a person's life. These tools are to be used in the manner prescribed by the Heavenly Father, from Whom every family on earth receives its name.

Let us not be alarmed at the demeanor of young people today. They are only the product of the manner of training (or lack of it) which we have provided them. As adults, we need to first engender within ourselves the virtue of spending time, first with God as our Heavenly Father, and then with our family, which is the first arena where we display the fruit of that time spent with Him. There are no shortcuts; there are no quick fixes. We go through the process God has designed. It is a means that He knows is best for us and for our children. This process involves time – in quality and in quantity.

Our times are in God's hands. (Psalm 31:15). We need to let our faith in God help us and teach us to number our days in order that we may present to Him a heart of wisdom. We cannot delay our times with our children any further. Now is the time.

Let us spend it together. **K**



Diocesan Anniversary

by Alicia Mandocdoc

Shalom! “Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!” Yes, there was such a great spirit of rejoicing in the air as the Cathedral of the King celebrated the 22nd Anniversary of the Diocese of Manila and Northern Luzon last July 31, 2016 at TCU, Taguig. Familiar and new faces from different Parishes were welcomed warmly, especially within the Mass during the Peace, with hugs and kisses being exchanged among the brethren. Bishop Ariel announced that we shall be conducting this celebration, which marks the anniversary of our being received into the communion of the CEC (Charismatic Episcopal Church), annually from now on.

The affair was graced by members and clergy of other parishes within the Diocese such as Fr. Jasper Villegas of the Parish of the Holy Family in Novaliches, Fr. Ambrose Espolon of the Parish of St. Augustine in Cavite, Fr. Renato Villavicencio of the Parish of St. Andrew in Muntinlupa, Fr. Leo Yanguas, of the Cathedral’s Mission Church in Pasig, Fr. Joy Gadia of the Cathedral’s Mission Church in Pililla, Rizal, and Dcn. Arnel Nuñez of the Cathedral’s Baguio Mission Church. Present also were our beloved guests: Bishop Dick Alcaraz of the Diocese of the Visayas, Bishop Raymundo Abogatal (with his wife Nennette) of the Diocese of Northern Mindanao, and Bishop Paul Villavicencio (with his wife Alice), of the Diocese of Southern Luzon. After the Mass, food was served to everyone as we continued to share on this joyful celebration. **K**

First Clergy Couples Fellowship

Love is in the Air!

by Alicia Mandocdoc

The first Clergy Couples’ Fellowship was successfully held last Aug. 20, 2016 at the LFMA grounds. In attendance were the bishop and priests and deacons who came with their wives in matching casual attire. Some couples came with “Mr. and Mrs.” T-Shirts with prints that complemented each other, as “TwoGether,” “The Real Thing,” “I Have the Best Husband /Wife Ever.” Deacon Ritchie and Chat Jandayan won the prize for the best matching attire.

The husband-and-wife teams of Deacon Vero and Sis Ting Librojo, Deacon Jun and Lani Miguel, and Deacon Ben and Emee Abalajen have prepared a very hilarious but meaningful program with many games played and theme songs sung by the couples to each other, bringing back memories of the first time each couple fell in love with one another. It was such a fun, crazy, and memorable time that each couple who were in attendance awaits more opportunities to spend precious moments together with other couples. This brings encouragement, inspiration, joy and expectation for the next couples’ fellowship. It was a great time to loosen up, unmask, and be so happy together because LOVE IS IN THE AIR! **K**



LOVED. FOUNDED. ENABLED.

By Grace Jorvina

Youth from the different Parishes of the Diocese of Manila gathered on July 31, 2016 for an afternoon of worship and fellowship. The gathering started off with a mini “Talent Show” wherein each Parish had a representative who showed off some talent. Afterwards was the chill praise and worship session led by Migs Banal and the Praise and Worship team. Youthful voices and shouts of praise echoed in the mighty halls of the TCU Auditorium. After the songs and praise, Dcn. Ritche Jandayan shared about how the youth are **LOVED** by the Father, **FOUNDED** in the Son, and **ENABLED** by the Holy Spirit. It was really a fun-filled afternoon.

As one of the youth members, I was so blessed and stoked with everything that happened – the worship, the teaching, the ambiance, the presence of my fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. It just goes to show that, yes, we may come from different parishes, but we are one family.

Indeed, we proclaim that CHRIST IS ALIVE IN EVERYONE!κ



IN THE FULLNESS OF TIME: God's Mighty Work in Pililla Mission Church

by Father Felicio Gadia



The church is called to bring the good news of the Kingdom of God into a spiritual encounter within the aspirations and challenges of its culture. As such, the church must be a visible instrument of the sovereign hand of God that reaches out to its community. It is our mission to share the Gospel even to the remotest parts of the land. Truly, the harvest is plentiful, but the challenge to us as Christians is to respond to this mission, this higher calling that we all have from God - to become His instruments of making His Kingdom visible here on earth. People are yearning to have such a communion with God and with fellow believers. This is something that we witnessed when we revived the mission church in Pililla, Rizal after the previous one ceased to function. As a result, people who once tasted the joy of having church fellowship began to thirst for it again, praying in their hearts that one day such ministry work would again be active in their community. And God, being faithful to complete the good work He began, answered their prayers. On August 16, 2015, the Pililla Mission Church was birthed.

Never did I imagine that God would lead me to become the vicar of this church. Before I was appointed here, I was praying to God that if ever I would be assigned to a certain locale to do priestly ministry, I wanted it to be in a secluded place, somewhere far from the city. I was thinking of being assigned far up north where my roots can be traced, but unknown to me, God was already preparing me for His wondrous plans for my life.

It was one Sunday when Dcn. Pepito "Junior" Consunji approached me and expressed to me his desire to revive the mission in Pililla. He said that it was his heart's desire to do so, and that he was willing to make his property in that area available so the people could gather to celebrate Mass and worship the Lord together. At that time it was also an answered prayer for me, as I was seeking for direction from God and asking Him to lead me to where He really wanted me to be. After praying about it, Dcn. Junior and I began to plan things out. Planning did not take too long; it only took one week to settle everything before the first Mass in Pililla was held. Because Dcn. Junior was really passionate about starting a mission there, we already had most of the vessels needed for that first Mass. I remember him telling me that he was only expecting around six families (20 attendees) to attend on the first Sunday we had Mass there, but to our surprise, 54 individuals showed up despite

*"The harvest is plentiful,
but the workers are few."
- Luke 10:2a*



the unpleasant weather that day. Everyone there knows that whenever it rains in that area, the road gets really muddy. Traveling on foot from place to place is really a challenge. But that wasn't a hindrance to the people in celebrating the Holy Mass with us.

That Sunday, we witnessed the burning desire of the people to gather once again to be the Church of God. It was the start of many wonderful things that God has done in the lives of the people in Pililla.

After a few Sundays, Dcn. Edgardo Garcia joined our mission work. He led the worship ministry of the church. He arranged the songs for the Mass, formed a choir which consisted primarily of children, played the guitar, and led the people in worshipping the Lord through music every Sunday. Eventually he was joined in this ministry by Bro. Mark Bandalaria. Mark trained the children in the technicalities of music and taught them the purpose of worship and how it differs from a mere performance. Eventually we were also joined by Fr. Leo Yanguas, who administered the anointing of oil for healing to the people. Dcn. Ben Sevia paid a visit for the training of the altar ministers and gave them important pointers on how they ought to conduct themselves while serving. In October last year, Bishop Raymundo Abogatal officiated one Sunday Mass. There was a typhoon that day, but still the people showed up. His presence brought comfort to the people who were

Through the different activities we had in the church, we have taught valuable lessons to the people. In December, we observed Simbang Gabi (Advent Hour). It was an event that the people were anticipating, because it has always been part of their tradition. Our hearts were glad to see their participation. Having no electricity in the area was a real challenge for them to travel from their homes to the church at dawn. Nevertheless, most of them still came and celebrated with us. Such have been the moments that really moved me. Seeing the commitment of the people gave me so much enthusiasm to serve the Lord through this church. We had our first Christmas party here.

During Holy Week, we had the washing of the feet. The people learned from it the lesson of humility and servanthood. We have also performed house blessings, teaching people that God must be the center of every home. In April, we conducted a mass Baptism for children. In this we taught the people that surrendering ourselves to God and being a part of His Kingdom is an important aspect of our lives. We also had dental-medical missions in the church, supported by our fellow family members from the Cathedral of the King and Life Formation Mission Academy. People were checked to see if their health remains in good condition. Those who had eyesight concerns each received eye glasses. Mayor Dan Masinsin was also one with us in our desire to improve the lives of the people in that area of Pililla. He promised assistance to the people by providing them with an agricultural livelihood program. Just very recently, Youth Ministry members of the Cathedral of the King had their 'immersion' activity, in which each of them have been assigned to live with a family for a couple of days. Through this activity, the youth understood better what the people go through on a daily basis.

going through some challenges at that time. In November 2015, Patriarch Craig Bates and his wife Sis. Cathy, along with Bishops Raymundo, Ricardo, Paul, and Ariel, visited the members of the Pililla Mission Church. It was an encounter that really touched the hearts of the people of Pililla.

To help the faithful understand better the Word of God, we now conduct Bible studies every Thursday and Friday, as well as prayer meetings every Wednesday and Thursday. Indeed, God's faithfulness is made manifest through these activities. The people feel the love of God deeply through all these ministries. Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brothers



to dwell together in unity, serving the Lord and serving one another. On August 24, 2016, we celebrated the first anniversary of the mission church. The Mass was officiated by Bishop Ariel Santos. Parishioners from the Cathedral of the King were also present. After the Mass, the children showcased their God-given talents in singing and dancing. We had feasting and fellowship. We had much to rejoice over, as God has been very faithful to us the entire year! In just a span of one year, we have seen how God has mightily worked through this church. Many lives have been touched, and we aim to reach out to more and more people as we continue to share the good news of God. We are excited for what God has still in store for this church. We are ever grateful to God for the family of Dcn. Junior Consunji who has selflessly given of their time and resources to make this mission possible. I pray that God would continue to bless their family in all aspects. Truly God makes all things beautiful in His time. Take heart! Everything that we are going through in life has a purpose. We may not always realize it, but God is always at work.

Starting a mission church is never easy. There are challenges along the way, but this is something that God is calling us to do. I fervently pray that God would continue to touch hearts to start doing missions. There are a lot of opportunities for us to become vessels that God can use to advance His Kingdom. If you are reading this right now, I challenge you to seek God and pray that He may use you for His glory. The harvest is, indeed, plentiful. And God is calling us to be active workers in His Kingdom. As for this mission church in Pililla, we give all the glory and honor to God for His awesome faithfulness and love. We serve an extraordinary God Who works in extraordinary ways. Continue to pray for us as we fulfill this calling we have from God. Greater things are yet to come! God is with us! **K**

The fiftieth chapter of the book of Genesis shows us a scene of eleven grim faces staring down anxiously at the floor. All attention was focused on the man enthroned in front of them. They were huddled before one of the most powerful rulers in the world, one who stood beneath only Pharaoh of Egypt who had the authority to execute them. He was dressed in a fashion befitting his position as the Prime Minister of Egypt; he looked down on these humble Jewish herdsmen as they stooped before him. He had a long history with these men. It was a history of pain and suffering and rejection, and the memories were vividly etched into his mind. They had wronged him greatly in the past. They had done great damage to him from a human perspective, but now the tables were turned, and he had the ability to enact severe retribution against them. They were, in fact, his brothers who had betrayed him, and this Prime Minister of Egypt was none other than Joseph, the one betrayed. At this time in their family history, their father Jacob was dead. They had already buried him.

Now these eleven were bowing before their brother. They knew who he was; they knew the history. It was vivid to them. And they begged him for mercy. They were frightened because they wondered Joseph might finally seek revenge for the severe cruelty that they had enacted against him decades earlier; although for the last seventeen years he had been kind to them.

Reuben, the oldest of the brothers, had blamed himself for what happened to Joseph. Judah, another of the brothers, felt the heavy burden, the stinging weight of guilt. He was the one who initially suggested that Joseph be sold into slavery. But all of the brothers, with the exception of the youngest one Benjamin, had been involved in essentially an unthinkable act of treachery; they were all guilty. The presence of their father may have held off the revenge of Joseph; at least that was their thinking. Now that their father was gone, their crimes had finally caught up with them.

Let us go back to the beginning of the story in the thirty-seventh chapter of Genesis. It all started with a family feud. "Jacob loved Joseph more than all his sons." Because he was the son of his old age, Jacob made him "a varicoloured tunic." We don't know for certain that it was a multi-colored robe, but we do know it was symbolic of family favoritism. It is one thing to have one out of twelve as your favorite; it's something else to make him wear something around all the time that symbolizes that favoritism.


Joseph's ten elder brothers were his half-brothers. He kept having dreams. Dreams are common among people, but his dreams were just outrageous dreams, in all of which implied his brothers bowing down and paying homage to him. They viewed him as spoiled rotten, an overfed ego gone too far. The Bible never ascribes pride to him, and it doesn't tell us why he felt he needed to tell them these dreams. Perhaps he believed that they were given to him by God, and he needed to do his duty in reporting them to his fellow family members. But whatever his motive was, they fed the hatred and the bitterness that was set on a course against him.

The half-brothers wanted Joseph out of the family. They planned to kill him but Reuben rescued Joseph. They stripped him of his the vari-colored tunic and threw him into a pit. He was sold to some Ishmaelites for twenty shekels of silver. He pleaded for his life, but the brothers wanted him gone permanently from their lives. **He was seventeen years old. His whole world had flipped completely on its head. Betrayed by his brothers, all the joys of home and the security of his father's love had been violently ripped away from him.**

GOD MEANT IT FOR *Good*

by Deacon Garry Salguero





Joseph was taken down into Egypt and Potiphar, an Egyptian officer of Pharaoh and the captain of the bodyguard, bought him. This is another sad incident in the life of Joseph. Sold once, sold again. Joseph was bound once more and became a captive in prison because of Potiphar's wife. Joseph was saved from death a second time, for the crime that he was accused of was punishable by death.

Now fast forward thirteen years. Through some interesting dreams from bakers and cupbearers and Pharaohs, dreams of gobbling birds and skinny cows and fat grain, Joseph got a chance to interpret the dreams of someone else for a change, and he made the most of it. Because of his interpretations and his wisdom, he became like a father to Pharaoh, and to Egypt. **He went from the jailhouse to the palace.** In a moment, all of Joseph's experiences had been reversed. **Thirteen years earlier he had come to Egypt as a slave. Now he had become the second most powerful man in the land.**

Two sons were born to Joseph. He named the first Manasseh, for he said "God has made me forget all my trouble and all my father's household." But then his half-brothers, seeking food, went down to Egypt and stood before Joseph, and it all came back to him. All his brothers bowed down to him, exactly as his dreams had indicated. Although they didn't know who he was, he knew who they were. He gave them some tests to see if they would give up their younger brother Benjamin as easily as they had him. They wouldn't. **They were changed men, even as Joseph was.**

Eventually Joseph revealed himself to the eleven. They couldn't answer, for they were dismayed at his presence. But he spoke to them, "Do not be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life." God used Joseph to preserve the family of Jacob. They returned to Canaan and brought all their livestock, property, everything they had acquired, to Egypt. Jacob and all his descendants - his sons, his daughters-in-law, his grandsons, his daughters, his granddaughters - came with him to Egypt. When they got to Egypt they had a big family reunion, and they were given the land of Goshen.

Seventeen years later, when Joseph's brothers realized their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong which we did to him?" So they begged of Joseph, "Please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of

your father." He wept when they fell down before him with the words, "Behold, we are your servants" - just as his dreams had said they would.

What would be his response: anger or mercy? Joseph said, "Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God? But as for you, **YOU MEANT EVIL AGAINST ME BUT GOD MEANT IT FOR GOOD.**" There was no vengeance. There was no hatred. There was no animosity. Joseph treated his brothers with mercy, lovingkindness, and undeserved favor. He understood that what his brothers had done to him was evil. But though they meant it for evil, for his destruction or his death, God meant it for good, prosperity, wealth, and success. He understood that God was at work, in control, and could be trusted for the outcome. **Joseph saw the goodness of the Lord in the most terrible, dreadful, and appalling situations and actions of man.**

We might not see the full picture of what God is doing through the difficulties, the suffering, the pain, the iniquities, and the injustices of life. But we must never miss the profound and foundational truth that God is using all of it for His glory and our ultimate good. The big picture that Joseph saw was the purpose of God which was so vast, all encompassing, and far-reaching as really to be staggeringly amazing.

We may not always understand what is happening to us, but the Lord is always in control. It is important for us to know not only our purpose, but to know that God has control over our life and destiny, and to realize how all of history is ordered to the ends which God has ordained. God is making all things work together for good for the accomplishment of His great plan for man.

He intended that the trials of this one very unlikely hero be for the good of his family and even of the nation that would come out of his family, and through that nation, for the good of the world. God did this to preserve their lives so there would be a nation called Israel: the witness nation, the nation from whom the prophets would come. The nation to whom would be given the Scriptures. The nation from whom the Messiah would come. The nation through whom the world would be blessed. As the Lord told Jacob, "I am God, the God of your father, do not fear to go down to Egypt, I will make of you a great nation there." And that's what God did. Remember the words of Joseph: "**YOU MEANT EVIL AGAINST ME, BUT GOD MEANT IT FOR GOOD.**" **K**

Taguig Community

By Lani Miguel

“But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.” 2 Timothy 3:14-15

Our Church has encouraged us gather as a community. Our community in Taguig has been very faithful in our monthly meeting on the 2nd Sunday of the month; rain (with floods) or shine, we meet. The parents and young adults are always excited to share their testimonies of God's faithfulness in their lives, spent years in our ministry to our Church. But there seemed to be a challenge: our children sleep or play around in the compound as they do during Sunday Mass.

This has become a big burden to our community father. When we asked the youth why so, we were given an answer: *“Hindi po namin masyadong maintindihan kasi malalim po iyong ibang Ingles.”* I was speechless. When I shared this to the parents in our community, they were speechless also. Then we realized that as parents, this is our job to do something about it. The young people are part of the future of our Church and they have to learn God's principles while they are still young.

We decided to gather our children every Saturday afternoon to discuss the gospel for the following Sunday. Little by little, we began to see changes. They no longer sleep during Sunday Mass and community gathering. They have started to share their thoughts and experiences like challenges in the school and how they were able to conquer all those challenges. They have learned to prioritize Church work and activities. But the best of all is, they have started to share God's Word with their playmates and cousins. I don't know how they did it. Probably, the banana cue and ensaymada with orange juice did the trick. Kidding aside, we all believe that God is the One who is at work in our community. After two years, we found ourselves surrounded with little children of different ages.

The parents and young adults gathered again to evaluate the situation and with one mind we decided to make the Bible study in our area open for everyone. We group the attendees into four: 1 to 7 years old, 8 to 12 years old, youth, and adults. It has been seven years since we started our Bible study. As a community, we experienced a lot of challenges already, and these challenges drew us closer to one another. This is the Year of Jubilee for us. We all believe that He who began a good work in us will continue to perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.

To our dear readers: If you want to see the work of God in our community, you are all welcome to visit us. We hold our Bible study every other Saturday, 5pm at #66 Sto. Nino Ext. St. Zone 4, South Signal Village, Taguig City. Please include us in your prayer as we need a bigger place for our Bible study. **K**



Bishop Ariel Santos' Parochial Visits

by Alicia Mandocdoc

As a shepherd, a bishop is to give support and encouragement, and spend quality time with the parishes in his diocese. It is customary that he does this at least once a year. Our bishop makes it a point to do it twice a year – once during an anniversary or feast day and again during a regular Sunday.

In January, he was at the Parish of the Holy Family in Novaliches. It was also during the first quarter of the year that he visited the Parish of St. Augustine in Cavite, and the Mission Churches of Pasig and Baguio. Apart from these, he has also supported activities in the other dioceses. In April he spoke at the convocation of the Diocese of Northern Mindanao upon the invitation of Bp. Raymundo Abogatal. He officiated a wedding ceremony in the Mission Church of Baguio on June 25.

On July 24, he celebrated mass at the church in Muntinlupa (and is scheduled to go back there Nov. 30 for the feast of St. Andrew, the parish's patron saint). He was also present during Bp. Paulino Villavicencio's 18th Consecration anniversary at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in San Pablo, Laguna last August 6.

Last Aug. 13, the bishop celebrated Mass in the Mission Church of Pililla, Rizal for their first anniversary. He is scheduled to visit the Church of the Holy Name in Hong Kong at the end of September. All these things are a part of the Cathedral of the King rising up and growing into the fullness of the manifestation of God's Kingdom on earth. **K**

Prison Ministry

by Alicia Mandocdoc

Our growing Prison Ministry, headed by Dcn. Lito Robles, has been ministering to the inmates of the Correctional for Women for sometime now. After the sharing of the Word, the prisoners are encouraged to share their testimonies on how they have experienced the love of God in their lives. After this Dcn. Lito and Dcn. Nestor Ison would minister healing to those who are sick, as well as to those who would want to be prayed over.

They would end up their meetings with merienda and giving of gifts which would meet their personal needs. On special occasions like Mothers' Day or birthdays, the inmates celebrate and seem to forgot their problems and situations. The inmates always look forward to their fellowshiping together as they eagerly awaited the group on their meeting days.

With current innovations and developments in our country's correctional system, we as a church continue to pray for the women who are behind bars, that they may continue to experience the love and justice of God in many ways, and know Him as a loving God. May this Kingdom work move forward in their lives! **K**



Mrs. Lolita Lucas

A Tale of Two Teachers



Mrs. Rosalinda Jacinto

Once upon a time, there were two teachers. They were no ordinary ones. They were called the little twin stars, the best friends, the Ilocana sisters in Christ. If one was proficient in English and was a walking thesaurus, the other was a Math wizard, a living calculator who could amazingly compute grades mentally! No matter what the weather, each of them showed up faithfully for Morning Prayer and classes, striving to submit lesson plans and grades on time, doing their best to make sure learning and transformations take place in their learners' lives. Together they formed an amusing pair; they were often known to shift their conversations to Ilocano when they did not want their inquisitive, curious, nosy students to figure out what was going on.

The two maestras both knew that they were called by God to be teachers. They responded. They came, they taught, they formed lives. They used their talents for God's glory! Both could sing and dance, both could cook, and in between, there was the crocheting, the sewing, the decorating.

A Pangasinense by birth, Lolita Aquinde Lucas had lived a very simple life in the province. In college she took up civil engineering at the University of Santo Tomas. She has extra units in Sanitary Engineering and an MS in mathematics. She eventually worked as a licensed engineer, and then answered the call of God to teach at Christ the King Academy (which eventually came to be known as Life Formation Mission Academy.) Ma'am Lolit took up courses in education and eventually earned her professional teacher's license. Starting in 1999 she taught Mathematics and Sciences to various generations of students. She has had her 'indecimaner' moments, but she is most remembered for those times when she went beyond the classroom walls to minister to her students, as when she kept a young lady company one late night while waiting for her mother to come home, or when any of the learners had a need for prayer. She had been known to help students who were in need of food, school things, medicines, and especially tender loving care. She was also a benevolent provider of fresh produce and delish Ilocano dishes to her co-workers. As if her workload at the school is was not enough, she actively served as a trained counsellor for the church.

Born in Lepanto, Mankayan, Benguet, Rosalinda Sokkong Jacinto, lovingly known as Ma'am Rose, was a college graduate from St. Louis University. With units in Education and in graduate school, Ma'am Rose could have gone abroad, but she chose to serve in the school community where students dubbed her the 'immortal one.' For good reason. From the time she got widowed, with twin boys and her youngest studying in CLA in Pasay, she was part of the group of teachers who supported the vision of the school to train up the youth in the way they should go. She had been with the school community since 1989, having invested a great part of her life in the school. As a licensed teacher, she was a grammar teacher for the most part of her best years at CLA/CKA/LFMA.

Through the years, in spite of challenges in raising their own children virtually alone, facing health issues, low or no teachers' allowances, and the need to upgrade their professional skills, both teachers had learned to set aside personal goals and desires, just so they could be effective ministers to the next generation. They set aside their own wishes and dreams so that their learners could fulfill theirs. It was to their own fulfilment and yes, to their own hurt. As teachers, they learned so many lessons. Who could have known the feeling of anxiety brought on by not knowing how to pay for their children's schooling, or food, rent, and utilities? But they still went to teach anyway, even if all they had was transportation fare! They built tremendous faith, as they witnessed how the Lord provided, then and now! Who knew that they were often hurt when students talked back or blatantly showed disrespect, just because they were "too legalistic" and/or "impossible?" Who knew how they felt when students laughed about their strong accent and odd English? Who knew what went on in their hearts and minds when parents condescendingly questioned their ability to teach, or the way they managed their classrooms? The two teachers did experience those moments, but they definitely knew Whom to call in moments like those. They knew their God. He never forsook them, even if sometimes they thought He did. The Lord was with them all the time, all those years!

Today, they are able to do the things they weren't able to do when they were still teaching. Ma'am Lolit now lives a quiet life in Pangasinan, but she admits that she misses her Cathedral family, Sundays at the church, the ministry. Ma'am Rose is able to spend more time with family, especially her grandchildren. Occasionally they are able to get together with Cathedral and LFMA friends.

This tale of two teachers did not end when Ma'am Lolit and Ma'am Rose retired in 2016. Their stories go on in the lives they have touched through the years. For sure, they will continue to have a place of honor in the record of memories of the Life Formation Mission Academy family. They will always have a place of respect in the church family. The students they had before are mostly professionals now, and Ma'am Rose and Ma'am Lolit feel so heartened to know that the very young lives that were entrusted to them before are doing well these days.

Cathedral of the King and Koinonos take the joy in the privilege of honoring two women who have invested a great part of their lives in the formation of the young. To those who were under Ma'am Rose and Ma'am Lolit in times past: now is the time to keep them in your hearts through prayers, thank you's, gifts of love, well wishes, and words of encouragement and good cheer. After all, this tale of two teachers is not only about Ma'am Rose and Ma'am Lolit. It is a tale of generations of love and service in God's timeline. It is about the extraordinary work of God in two not-so-ordinary women of God. Thank you po, Mrs. Rose Jacinto and Mrs. Lolit Lucas. May the Lord continue to bless you and keep you all the days of your lives. K

How to Play Paper Boat Race in the Rain and Not Get Sick

by Dr. Maribel Develos

The rainy days are finally here! After almost everything had been withered by the blazing sun from unclouded skies, the dry parched land is now being covered by green vegetation. After the El Nino phenomenon we just experienced, I welcome this rainy season as I welcome a friend whom I haven't seen for ages. When I was a child I thought that rain was amazing, comforting, and fun. I thank my parents for giving me happy childhood memories. I have a lot of good memories to look back to, and my favorite is whenever my brothers and I played paper boat race in the rain. During the rainy season, we made little paper boats and set them in the gutter in front of our home. I close my eyes and recall the elated feeling I had whenever raindrops touched my face and my body became drenched with muddy water. The best part of it was the warm shower and cup of hot chocolate drink that mom would prepare for us.

While it may be fun to play in a little rain, there is a need for everyone to be discerning. Unsolicited or not, we often hear this phrase from concerned people, *"huwag kang magpabasa sa ulan dahil lalagnatin ka."* Likewise, it is not uncommon for us to hear some of our officemates or schoolmates say *"nagkasakit ako kasi naulanan ako kahapon."* It is true that many people get sick during the rainy season, but getting wet by the rain is not a direct cause of common infectious illnesses such as colds or flu. So, when you do get the flu after getting wet in the rain, try not to "blame it on the rain... yeah, yeah." Studies have shown that it is not the rain itself, but the cold temperature, low humidity, and chilling that are associated with increased occurrence of respiratory tract infections. Breathing cold air causes cooling of the upper respiratory tract temperature, which may favor the replication of certain viruses that cause the common cold. Cooling of the upper respiratory tract also results in subsequent drying of the outer lining of the respiratory tract, which in some individuals may lead to epithelial damage, which make them more susceptible to infections. Chilling or acute cooling of the body can also result in constriction of the blood vessels in the nose and upper airways, which weaken the immune system and convert a mild infection into a more severe viral infection.

Our behaviors also contribute to the spread of infections. When it's raining outside we stay indoors and tend to be in closer contact with each other. In this scenario, the likelihood of passing germs is much higher, as viruses are spread more easily in cold temperature and dry air.

Take note that infectious diseases are caused by disease-causing germs such as bacteria, viruses, fungi, and protozoa. These diseases may be passed from person to person. Sometimes the disease is passed through another medium, for example, by drinking contaminated water or eating food infected with bacteria. Some diseases are also passed from an animal carrier, such as mosquitoes, to humans. The most important thing to remember when the monsoon rains start pouring is to protect ourselves and our loved ones against these germs. The Department of Health has warned us of the "WILD" diseases that are common during the rainy season.

WILD is an acronym that stands for Water-borne diseases, Influenza, Leptospirosis, and Dengue.

Water-borne disease commonly results during bathing, washing, drinking, food preparation, or consumption of contaminated food. These include typhoid fever*, cholera, diarrhea*, and hepatitis A*.

Influenza, on the other hand, is a viral infection that attacks the respiratory system and is commonly called the flu. People with flu can spread it to others up to about six feet away. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website, flu viruses are spread mainly by droplets made when flu-infected people cough, sneeze, or talk. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby, or possibly be inhaled into the lungs. A person might also get flu by touching a surface or object that has a flu virus on it and then touching their own mouth or nose.

Leptospirosis, meanwhile, is a bacterial infection transmitted by rats and vermin through their urine and other body fluids. Those who wade through contaminated floodwaters are commonly infected. The bacteria can enter the body through eyes, nose, mouth, and most commonly the skin, especially if the skin is broken from a cut or scratch.

Dengue is caused by a virus that is transmitted between people by mosquitoes. In order for transmission to occur, the mosquito must feed on a person who is infected by the dengue virus. After entering the mosquito in the blood meal, the virus can be transmitted to another human through the bite of the infected mosquito. The rainy season is optimal for breeding of these mosquitoes, and this is why we hear news of a lot of dengue outbreaks during the rainy months.

So, before you play paper boat race or dance in the rain with your loved ones, it is always best to strengthen your immune system first through regular exercise, proper nutrition, and adequate sleep. Consider also being immunized to provide additional protection from these WILD diseases. Vaccines* against typhoid fever, rotavirus, hepatitis A, influenza, and dengue are available. Vaccines help the body's immune system produce antibodies that lead to immunity against certain infectious diseases. I know some of us may have apprehensions about having their children immunized but it is best to discuss your concerns about immunization with your trusted healthcare provider. The most important thing to remember is that we rely upon God and God alone to sustain us and give us good health and long life.

And finally, make it a habit to practice the following everyday preventive actions to hinder the spread of germs.

Happy dancing, and may the best paper boat win!**K**

Everyday Preventive Actions that can Help Fight Germs, like Flu

- **Try to avoid close contact with sick people.**
- If you or your child gets sick with flu-like illness, stay at home for at least 24 hours after the fever is gone except to get medical care or for other necessities. The fever should be gone without the use of a fever-reducing medicine.
- **While sick, limit contact with others as much as possible to keep from infecting them.**
- **Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze.** Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- **Wash your hands often with soap and water.** If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub.
- **Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.** Germs spread this way.
- **Clean and disinfect surfaces and objects that may be contaminated with germs like the flu.**
- If an outbreak of flu or another illness occurs, follow public health advice.

Cover your cough and sneeze!



Use a tissue to cover your coughs and sneezes



Sneeze or cough into your sleeve if you do not have a tissue



Clean your hands often





GREETINGS FROM MAGDALUYO FAMILY

**Greetings to
Cathedral of the King!**

**God has given us His Word,
and His promises still stand.
God brings His promises to
fulfillment. Our trust in His
faithfulness grows. We can
rest in His goodness.**

**God is good all the time!!!
Let us continue to journey
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