

Peace in our Lives

... a moment with Fr. Jerry Orbos

The last Community Celebration was one of the most “boisterous” we’ve had so far. While we were left laughing every now and then, it was full of reflection as well. For those who know our priest-celebrant Fr. Jerry Orbos, SVD, it is his trademark to use humor to drive home a point and derive profundity from examples of simple moments.

And that’s what he has been espousing all along. Our lives are filled with many blessed moments that we should recognize and bring us to prayer and gratitude. And these moments need not be grandiose or dramatic. The simple fact that we woke up and are now able to hear mass, “waste time with the Lord” (in Fr. Jerry’s words), should make us pause and give thanks to Him. More often than not, we take the fact that we’re alive for granted.

We at times have so many concerns that we tend to lose our focus on Christ. We should always see Christ in our family, in other people, in our work. We should always be aware of the big picture – there is a God who loves us and will always be there for us. Fr. Jerry dares us to go back to being simple, to not always take ourselves too seriously. He dares us to be happy even in the face of trials. He proposes a prescription that may help us have peace in our lives: we need to have a **HEART** check-up.

Do you have a **H**umble heart? A humble heart is full of humility. When



one’s heart is humble, one tends to be good not only to others but also to one’s own self. The ability to forgive is an offshoot of a humble heart. And the greatest act of forgiveness is to forgive one’s own enemies. This will not only lead to peace in one’s heart but peace to other people as well.

Do you have an **E**arnest heart? An earnest heart is full of sincerity and honesty, and many will agree with Fr. Jerry’s observation that lack of these traits, especially honesty, is the country’s

biggest problem. It is easier for a person with an honest heart to find peace, contrary to the many negative feelings of a dishonest heart. Oftentimes, it is envy that leads to dishonesty, and an envious person will be hard-pressed to find peace.

Do you have an **A**ffectionate heart? During the early part of the Mass, Fr. Jerry mentioned that married people will get priority in getting to heaven... because they have already been in hell

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The July 4 Community Celebration was a family affair, complete with special games and fellowship activities for all. The community also welcomed the newly-encountered couples of ME Batch 97 (upper right, with Shepherds Benz and Vina Dimanalata) and the families who attended the June Family Encounter Weekend (lower left, as they prepare to sing for the community).



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while on earth. This was Fr. Jerry's humorous way of expressing admiration for married couples. He emphasized that being married is our mission from Christ, just as being a priest is his mission. We should not be afraid to always express our love to our spouses, children and parents, and also to other people who matter in our lives as well. Fr. Jerry then asked us to go around and express such love to other people in the congregation. In a simple test which led to some sheepish smiles, Fr. Jerry asked when was the last time the wives received flowers from their husbands.

Do you have a **R**ejoicing heart? We should be in the habit of giving joy, not killing joy. We should strive to create a happy atmosphere not only at home but in other places, such as at work. We should always have the courage to do good things to other people. It is ironic

that people sometimes angrily shout at other people but lovingly talk to animals. In other cases, we love things and use people rather than the other way around. Life is too short not to rejoice over the many blessings that we have received and to surrender to God our concerns, rather than needlessly worrying ourselves to death over them. Remember the lilies of the fields and the birds in the air?

Do we have a **T**ender heart? Or do we have a heart that bears grudges or resentments? To a person without compassion, it is easy to find that everything is wrong. We should ease suffering, rather than be the cause of suffering to other people. We should promote peace rather than be the cause of discord, or, in Fr. Jerry's words, be the cause of "rest in peace" to others. Among Koreans, the standard greeting is to ask, "Are you at peace?" or say "Go in peace" when bidding goodbye.

We should do well to emulate this, but only with a tender heart can one give these wishes with sincerity.

Fr. Jerry's talk was replete with other gems that go straight to the heart; not due to lack of knowledge but more because we have ignored obvious things. Fr. Jerry is known to be a devotee of Mama Mary and, in honoring her and the other Mama in his life, he calls his mother everyday. Who among us can say the same? Fr. Jerry further says we should receive the Eucharist not with a frown on our faces but with a smile. For don't we say "happy are we who are called to His banquet?" And taking the Eucharist is both a "dine-in and a take-out" experience, in the sense that we should not leave the Mass in Church but bring it outside the Church as well. Only then can we have peace in our hearts and be the instruments of peace to others.

Lito & Jet Quimel, Exodus BCGG

To be true and prophetic disciples of Christ in today's power-and-money-hungry world, we may think that we need to be as materially and financially equipped as many, if not most, leaders in government, business, and the professional world. All kinds of expensive equipment, machines, internet, e-mail, cellphone and screen-world communication are a must. More and more virtual reality modes of interaction are taking the place of real human contact. Eye-to-eye, face-to-face, and human touch communication are becoming less and less a priority, contrary to God's design for humanity and human relationships. The latter are becoming more and more detached and dehumanized.

faith, in both the healer and the healed. In God's own time and way, faith heals.

I cannot help but single out three examples of true and prophetic discipleship of Christ in their own personal, quiet, and unpublicized ways. They are unknown to the general public, so let them remain anonymous.

Here is an ordinary male employee in a big government agency. He is a faithful and loving husband to his wife and father to his three growing children. Over and above this, he is very diligent at his work in the government agency, and admired for his moral integrity. Quite a number of times, he was offered some "lagay" by persons who wanted their papers facilitated in a hurry, but he has never succumbed to the temptation of accepting their bribes. "Ang



qualified teachers would leave our country to go abroad for higher salaries, what would happen to our youth? They are our hope for tomorrow." This woman loves her country and her countrymen enough to live and die for them. No less than a prophetic apostle of Christ indeed.

Let us go to a third, sent by the Lord as a twosome, like the original apostles of Christ. They are a loving and faithful couple who have been married for 25 years. They are a constant source of role-modeling for their three children aged 20, 18, and 16. The couple operates a bus company, which they consider as a direct service to the community, especially the poor, who cannot afford to own private vehicles. They have around 30 employees who are well-paid, with generous benefits and bonuses. As a consequence, the monthly profits for this couple and their family are just enough for their own livelihood and their children's educational needs. They are likewise actively involved in their parish as part of a team that conducts value-formation programs for couples and families. Their three children are part of their parish youth program and are also apostolically active.

The government employee, the school teacher, and the family I have described above are no less than contemporary apostles of Christ in their own simple and quiet ways. And there are many more like them all around the country. So there is indeed hope for the future. Together with the Moral Force Movement, let us join hands in our renewed people power against those who are greedy for power and money without a conscience. Through our own nationwide Passion, the Lord is accompanying us toward our people power Resurrection.

Walking Sticks

Sunday Homily - July 12, 2009
Ruben M. Tanseco, SJ



Today's Gospel incident (Mt. 6: 7-13) brings us back to what is God's way of communing with us and of making Himself known to others through the human person. When Christ first sent His apostles to bring God's word and life to others, we read: "He instructed them to take nothing for the journey but a walking stick..." (v.8). To bear witness to Christ in word and deed, your person is what matters most of all. Your love, compassion, forgiveness, faith, simplicity, and wisdom. Then, together with this is your generous sharing of your time, talents, and treasures.

This was how Christ shared Himself with others. He personally cured the sick, like the daughter of Jairus, the woman with a hemorrhage, and many others. He drove out unclean spirits, and brought the dead back to life. Personally moved with compassion, He miraculously multiplied the loaves and fishes to feed the hungry thousands. In all this was the power of

mali ay mali, at laging nagmamasid ang mahal na Panginoon, na kasakasama ko sa aking trabaho." This he would say, even as some of his co-workers would tease him as "tanga." But believe

it or not, many others have been inspired over the years to follow his quiet example. Whether he is aware or not, he has been spreading the word and life of Christ in his own person. Being more than having.

Another source of inspiration for our readers is this unmarried female teacher in her forties, who has been teaching full time in a public high school for the last 15 years. She is very intelligent and highly-admired year after year by her students, whom she loves with great compassion, as she does her own family. Her classroom is nothing less than a second home to her. There are occasional problems and pains, including her low salary and problem students, but she always manages to go through them in a proactive way. Every now and then, a relative or friend would ask if she has considered applying for a teaching job abroad for a much higher salary plus benefits. She admits that she has, but she would always come up with the same conclusion: "If more and more

EDITORIAL

August 1, 2009

Early this morning, Cory Aquino passed away, and we let her go with sadness, gratitude, deep faith and the fervent hope that with her passing, what God has given our country through the FIAT of her political career and personal sacrifice, not be finished, past history, one blaze of glory, then the closing of the book.

Flashback. For the sake of our children, our younger members and their even younger children, let us remember.

1972... the declaration of Martial Law, under the pretext of an imminent communist plot, the orchestrated dismantling of all democratic institutions of the country and methodical arrest of all opposition, the shutting of all newspapers, the forced sale of major corporations for one peso, the concentration of power in the hands of one man and his elite circle, the suspension of elections, all government officials forced to turn in their resignations, then, reappointed! Now they owed their jobs to one man, and not to the electorate. Imagine the mind set of those government officials and employees.

I remember the manipulation of elections, the first plebiscite held in my neighborhood. All adults were gathered at the clubhouse, a government representative asked us to decide if we approved martial law, agreed to suspend the constitution, to dissolve Congress. We were asked for a show of hands, yes or no. Around us stood men in military uniform, their armalites slung over their shoulders. Hindi naman pointed at us, but very visible, very present. Only one man voted no, the publisher of the Manila Times.

With the poor, the manipulation was even more *bastos*. One nun told me she was present at one barangay meeting (can't remember the term, but it wasn't called "barangay" then) and the gathering,

mostly *kahig-tuka* daily wage earners, if they had a job at all, were asked how many were in favor of a rice subsidy. Of course they all raised their hands, and the next day, the photo appeared in international news captioned as the poor voting yes to Martial Law. Fifteen years later, the memory still had the power to drive her to fury - "*ginagamit!*", and her life, ministry and death with the poor is witness to how anger at injustice can be used by God to minister to His people and to the country where He has planted us.

And so absolute power began to corrupt absolutely. Initially, the country did well economically, but it is very difficult to sustain economic growth when unjust relationships divert profits to the pockets of a few, and the poor subsist on a minimum wage that is just enough so that they can work, while the big guys keep all the profit from their labor. By the early eighties, the country was on a binge of borrowing, and when Ninoy Aquino was assassinated in 1983, the economy stopped, and the middle class found themselves sliding into near poor, and the upper class were jolted by the reality that they too were in the same boat. The beginnings of mind, heart and gut understanding of the plight of the poor, the realization that what we are feeling has long been the experience of the other.

And then, the dictator announced a snap election supposedly paving the way for new leaders, confident the opposition was not united, but God showed us otherwise and gave us Cory, Ninoy's asthmatic widow whose sole credential was her integrity and commitment to God's people. The majority of the people wanted change, and their will was upheld. In one of the dirtiest and most dishonest and most violent elections ever held in our country, she won by the power of the people who not only registered to vote in the highest turnout ever, who joined NAMFREL to make sure their vote was counted, and when cheated, protested in a way the world and the dictator were served notice.



That was 1986, and this is 2009.

Again we mill about, discouraged, disillusioned, pessimistic, even bitter, overwhelmed by the extent of graft and corruption that pervades every level of government. What has changed? Seemingly nothing, not even the 1986 election code that was so blatantly biased, its provisions making it so easy for the incumbent to win – especially if he/she cheated.

And no perceived leader of deep faith and high moral character who can unite us, who has a track record for the delivery of service, who could inspire our disillusioned and tired people to try once more. This is the time to remember that yes, once before, God gave us a leader when there was none. And we organized to elect her into office.

And now, we are invited once more to organize, identify and vote for leaders who will deliver service cleanly, effectively, and with deep humility. Let us take the first step and take a good hard look at the Moral Reform Movement endorsed by the CBCP and our Magis Deo leadership, and join other like minded hearts and souls who desire to do what more must be done, and behold, God may surprise us again.

Thank you, God for the gift of Cory, who through her life and death, continues to remind us that it is YOU who wants leaders who will serve.

COUNCIL CORNER

Rey & Lucy Mella
Praxis Head and Council Overseer

What is PRAXIS all about?

A few years back, after having been with the community for several years, we never really quite understood what Praxis really meant nor what it was all about. For some time, we assumed we understood what it meant, until we got involved.

Recently I read this quote from somewhere, “Quit griping about your church; if it was perfect, you couldn’t belong.” I am glad I got involved rather than be on other side, complaining and not doing anything about it.

Just so our community members get educated on what Praxis means and what the Praxis Ministry is all about, we are printing the following information. This should also allow you to appreciate what our community practices are.

What is Praxis?

Praxis means “*practice*” and the Praxis Program aims to help BCGG members “live out” or “*isabuhay*” what have been learned from spiritual formation programs and from the day-to-day faith experiences of community life.

Through the setting up of structures, processes, and instruments, the Praxis Program helps members grow in their awareness of God’s presence in their lives, deepen their loving relationship with God, and become contemplatives-in-action.

Mission

Synergy in Magis Deo members’ efforts to fully follow Christ and integrate His gospel values in all areas of their life at home, at work, and in the community.

Core Responsibility

The overall pastoral care of the Basic Christian Growth Groups (BCGGs) as the basic cell unit of the Magis Deo Community.

- ❖ Implements the Magis Deo Group Praxis Program.

- Faith sharing through the use of the Spiritual Conversation Process
- Adaptation of Albert Nolan’s book *Jesus Today*
- ❖ Sets up structures, processes, and instruments to encourage BCGG members to live out Ignatian spirituality:
 - being caring and empowering in their relationships with people,
 - discerning in life’s choices and decisions,
 - finding God in all things, and
 - choosing and acting for the greater good and serving where the need is greater.
- ❖ Ensures the effectiveness of BCGGs:
 - as focal point in the spiritual growth of its members,
 - for helping integrate the Community values and practices in all areas of the members’ individual and community life, i.e., concrete ways of exemplifying the 4 S’s (stewardship, simplicity, sharing, and service) and preferential option for the poor.
 - for enhancing the effectiveness of BCGG heads as role models of these values and practices.

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- ❖ Conducts sectoral activities to promote integration of BCGG members into the bigger Community, and secure their support, commitment, and participation in Community programs.

Beginnings

The call to “live out” Gospel values has been present from the start of Magis Deo. The early prayer groups had the privilege of being personally shepherded by Fr. Ruben and used the prayer guide book *Growing Together with Christ*. The challenge to practice Christ’s teachings was always there.

When the number of prayer groups grew from the initial three, a BCGG ministry was created in the early 1990s under the helm of Bobby & Marcia Balderas. In the late 1990s, the Mark Link series of books served as prayer guide for the BCGGs, setting the rhythm of praying Scripture in a contemporary way.

Vision 2000 was the *first* book of the series based on the common Lectionary readings for Sunday (Gospel B Cycle) and weekday Gospel.

Mission 2000 was the *second* book based on the common Lectionary readings for Sunday (Gospel A Cycle) and weekday Reading I, Year II.

Action 2000 was the *third* book based on the common Lectionary readings for Sunday (Gospel C Cycle) and weekday Reading I, Year I.

Challenge 2000, the *fourth* book, was a daily meditation program based on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius.

Bible 2000 was the *fifth* book based on the Old and New Testaments.

In the year 2000, a directed, targeted Praxis Program was formalized by Ed & Claire Palma with the creation of the Praxis Ministry. Specific modules on strengthening the 4 S’s in members’ lives were used to guide BCGGs. Prayer guide

Homily of Fr. Adolfo Nicolas, SJ

The following is the concluding section of the homily preached by the Superior General of the Society of Jesus, Fr. Adolfo Nicolas, S.J., at the Eucharist celebrated on July 12, 2009 at the Ateneo de Manila High School Covered Courts, on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the return of the Jesuits to the Philippines. The prayers and readings of the Eucharist were drawn from the Mass for the Feast of St. Ignatius. In a few simple and deeply personal sentences, Fr. Nicolas powerfully lays bare the heart of Ignatius' life and continued challenge to us, who dare to call him our patron and father.

And the final word of Ignatius has always been: *Give it all or go your way.*

There is a poem of the Sufi mystic Rumi that says – and I paraphrase:

*“This is the festival of love.
Give it all.
Or look for another festival.”*



I am sure Ignatius could have made this poem his own if he had known it.

When I was elected General, I felt this was the last chance the Lord was giving me to finally ‘Give it all.’ I never contemplated the possibility. As the day approached and I began to see that things could get complicated, I was convinced I could easily decline and withdraw.

But when the hour came, I could not flee. Even now I am not sure I did the right thing accepting. But I felt deep down in my heart that this was the last call. You take it, or miss the flight of your life. It was time to give, time to love and serve, time to be grateful for everything received, time to give back, or rather, to let the Lord take back.

But this is not only relevant for the dramatic instant of being elected General. This is the call we all go through every time we approach the Lord with an open heart.

We might decide not to listen or to go on singing our own song. But the Lord is there giving, calling and waiting for us to say the final YES, the Ignatian YES, the YES that will finally make a difference.

One hundred fifty years is a good time to become aware of the fire that has kept the Province alive and creative and warm. But it also the time to realize that Lord is giving us another 150 years – on the condition that we say wholeheartedly the Ignatian YES and are willing to die as many times as our predecessors did... for the sake of the life of the Filipino people, of Asia, of the world.

Our imperfection, visible or invisible (although never invisible to our own selves) is our title of pride, as Paul would say. It is the best vehicle to share with people the ever life-giving goodness and mercy of God. We are not servants of a calculating and mean God, but of the life-giving God who can give life even to dead bones.

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books included Mark Link's *Meditations for the Millennium*, a series of prayer journals focusing on Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and God the Father; and offered a message of hope and love.

Then, Gospel readings for the day were used as prayer guides, using the *Companion Scripture Diary* and supplemental readings like Fr. Abesamis' *A Third Look at Jesus* and Albert Nolan's *Jesus Before Christianity*. *The 12 Little Things* by Alex Lacson was adapted as supplemental guide to instill love of country.

In 2003 the geographic interface program was started. This period was an opportunity for further growth as persons and as a Community united in vision and mission.

By 2004, came a period with stronger emphasis on prayer for a deeper, more personal relationship with Jesus. Up to the present, the book *Sacred Space* has been helping members increase their awareness of God's presence in their lives and has brought about a stronger community centered on God. Supplemental reading is Nolan's *Jesus Today*.

Organizational Structure

The Praxis Ministry consists of **21 BCGGs** grouped into **three sectors: North, Central, and South**. The sectors are led by their respective Sector Heads with the following functions:

- ♥ overall pastoral care of BCGGs in the North, Central, and South sectors, respectively.
- ♥ plan, implement, and evaluate activities for their respective sector BCGGs to enhance their integration

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Surprise!

John & Mayette Caisip, Isaiah 66-Ignatians BCGG

God's unconditional love was the introduction of Fr. Ramon Bautista, S.J., our Spiritual Director at the Annual Ignatian Retreat we attended last July 2009.

The retreat overwhelmed me and on the first night, God touched my heart and before I knew it, I was already in deep prayer, unmindful of my flowing tears. Yes, the Lord is a God of surprises, mercy and everlasting love. After all the trials and hardships we have gone through, the difficulties that we are experiencing and those that are yet to come, we know that He is there and that He will never let us down.

The loss of a daughter, a son who nearly died because of dengue, another one struck by epilepsy, and then the worst came – John and I lost our jobs. It was like we were inside a very dark room, left there to struggle, but God was with us, He was the one who switched the lights on, threw the confetti and shouted, **“Surprise!”**

Help and grace poured unto us, coming from relatives and from people who barely knew us, yet they unselfishly gave their support without expecting

something in return. All these because God loves us, because we never lost our faith and trust in Him. He is the God of mercy to everyone, worthy or not, He is there to guide us, and make us aware of His presence. He shows us His unconditional love through people willing to offer their help and comfort.

After the retreat, I realized that if you truly surrender and entrust yourself to the Lord, then everything will be handed to you, well, not on a silver platter, but with something that will fit you better.

Today, life is much lighter compared to six years ago; John has found a decent job, Mr. Dengue and his two brothers are studying well, Mr. Epilepsy just finished college and has recently been accepted by a good company (this, by the way was another surprise we got right after the retreat), and the memory of the angel we lost is now living through her little sister.

Yes, the road we travel today is dark and full of struggles; but all we have to do is to put our faith in Him, patiently wait for the lights to be switched on, and hear Him shout, **“SURPRISE!!!”**

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into the bigger community and develop their effectiveness as small praxis groups.

Composition of Sectors in 2009 (BCGGs and Shepherd Couple)

North Sector

1. Agnus Dei – Cathy Rafael
2. Archangel Gabriel – Doy & Becky Dizon
3. Beatitudes – Mon & Alice Go
4. Isaiah 66 – Monchet & Mary-lou Albert
5. Magnificat – Nilo & Lou Sta. Maria
6. Mustard Seed – Philip & Malu Panlilio
7. Exodus – Jet & Lito Quimel

Central Sector

1. Corinthians – Apin & Chie Llamas
2. Micah 6:8 – Rey & Nitz Eslava
3. Psalm 46/Samaritans – Leony & Mia Parada
4. Sirach – Danny & Charito Dimayuga
5. Thessalonians – Art & Grace Santos
6. CIA/Wisdom – Tony & Bambi Narciso

South Sector

1. Cana – Joey & Maricel Suarez
2. Emmanuel – Gene & Leony Escosia
3. Genesis of David – Ike & Josie Llamas

4. Jeremiah – Clyde & Pachot Abapo
5. John – Fil & Maryanne Alfonso
6. KKK – Benjie & Fely Santiago
7. Philippians – Rudy & Lyn Ebarido
8. Mount Olivet – Ed & Sol Macalalad

Praxis Ministry Head: Rey & Lucy Mella (Cana BCGG)

North Sector Head: Mon & Alice Go (Beatitudes BCGG)

Central Sector Head: Jun & Mila Sison (Corinthians BCGG)

South Sector Head: Anchit & Sally Chua Chiaco (John BCGG)

(We thank and acknowledge Philip and Malu Panlilio for providing the information about Praxis. They were the Praxis Ministry Head last year, 2008.)

God's Graces at the 12th Suyuan in Olandes, Marikina

Philip & Malu Panlilio
Council / Mustard Seed BCGG

Jesus is indeed a God of consolation. When we least expect it, the more He provides. Again, He was very generous at our BCGG's apostolate in Olandes, Marikina. Even if we cannot seem to count His ways, let us just cite some of the many bountiful graces He had bestowed on the most recent Suyuan in Olandes.

Grace No. 1: **Bountiful Harvest** – God sent 19 couples for the Suyuan held on 12 July 2009 at the Nativity of Our Lady Parish in Olandes, Marikina, after overcoming the challenges of recruitment.

Grace No. 2: **Rediscovery of Oneself and Love for Each Other** – As the participants shared, the Suyuan provided a medium for them to rediscover themselves, their strengths and weaknesses, and especially the couples' love for one another. "Magaan ang feeling," as they would put it. "Balik-romansa at pagbabago." "Puwede pa pala mangyari ito; akala ko wala nang pag-asa." "Pumagitna na naman si Hesus sa aming mag-asawa."

Grace No. 3: **Forgiveness and Renewal** – Even with the hurts and pain, there is hope for healing the couples' wounds, making a fresh start, and rekindling a deeper love for each other with God's help.

Grace No. 4: **Conversion** – One born-again couple-participant decided they want to be baptized in the Catholic faith and receive the sacrament of matrimony.

Grace No. 5: **Spirit of Community** – Auxiliaries in the persons of Suyuan graduates shared themselves in house-to-house recruiting, manning the registration, organizing the food distribution, taking care of the children, reminiscing



their own Suyuan with Pocholo and Merly Cea's sharings, and helping in the follow-up meetings.

Grace No. 6: **Generosity** – Mustard Seed members shared themselves differently – their time in coming to the Suyuan and offering prayers, their treasure in nourishing the Suyuan participants and auxiliaries, and their talents in cooking, responding to the children's needs, taking pictures, committing to the reunions, and acting as resource persons for specific topics in the regular Suyuan Sunday meetings.

Grace No. 7: **Re-Awakening** – Jesus revealed Himself again to us through the persons of Suyuan graduates, calling us to give more of our time to this class as they needed us most, for they were like lambs without a shepherd. As one Mustard Seed member observed, the graduates need more personal follow-up and caring so they will grow in the community of Suyuan graduates.

Yes, Lord! And thank you for the instrument of Suyuan!



Clockwise, from top:

1. *Suyuan graduates and auxiliaries, with Mustard Seed Shepherds Philip & Malu Panlilio, Suyuan presenters and sharers Pocholo & Merly Cea, and Suyuan/BEM Committee Head Tita Cathy Rafael (Semper fi!). It is heartwarming to see the encountered ("suyuanned"?) community in Olandes growing steadily, and actively recruiting more couples.*
2. *Fr. Lito Rocero, Parish Priest of the Nativity of Our Lady Parish, welcomes the graduates and gives an inspirational talk.*
3. *Ron and Yola Madera (with 7-month old RJ) kiss at their graduation. A blessed couple, a blessed family!*
4. *Merly and Pocholo have conducted way over a hundred Suyuans.*

Reflections on AIR 1 2009

Myrna S. Serranilla, Mustard Seed BCGG

"A shepherd fell on a cliff. As he fell, he reached out and grabbed onto the branch of a tree. He was halfway between heaven and earth, so to speak. All he could do was to hang on for dear life. He looked up shouting: 'Is there anybody up there who can help me?' From the top he heard a voice saying: 'I am here. Do not be afraid.' The shepherd asked: 'Who are you?' 'I am the Lord,' the voice replied. 'I'll do anything you say, if only you will help me,' he cried. Then the Lord said, 'Let go.' The shepherd was silent for a long while. Then he called back, 'Is there anybody else up there who can help me?'"

This is one story among many which Fr. Mon Bautista shared during our Annual Ignatian Retreat that hit me bull's eye.

The 1st Truth from the Spiritual Exercises is "God's unconditional loving." The term "loving" that Fr. Mon used really struck me. The image that flashed across my mind was that of a God who loves me despite my sinfulness... a God who is acting in my personal history... a God who is intervening... "isang Diyos na patuloy na gumagalaw sa buhay ko."

Fr. Mon gave us some sort of a checklist to know if we are realizing this Truth in our lives. As he went through the list, I listened intently. I was curious to know whether I had truly interiorized the 1st Truth in my life. Fr. Mon stressed that *"TRUST reveals how deep or shallow your interiorization of God's unconditional loving."*

I looked at my life. Can I say that I trust this God of mine? I am anxious over a lot of things (our health, our finances, the future of our children, growing old). I hang on to my securities as that shepherd who hung on to the branch... trying to take control of my life... being in charge... being self-sufficient. Obviously, I am found lacking in trusting my God ("kulang sa pagtitiwala sa Diyos").

This lack of trust is making it most difficult for me to cross over to "ENTRUST" ("ipa-ubaya sa Diyos"). The story of Abraham and Isaac drove home this point. The sacrifice of Isaac was an act of total entrustment. Abraham believed that "God will provide." The strong message for me was to take the leap of faith... to let go of the 'branch'... to venture into the unknown. There is no one else up there to help me. Either I entrust everything to God or I remain stuck in my anxieties, fears, and worries.

The final *coup de grace* was Fr. Mon's sharing of how his father died and how his mother came to the point of entrustment, the miracle of surrender. That's when That's when my defenses broke down. I came face to face with my self. Tears fell as I listened. I realized the shallowness of my interiorization of God's unconditional loving.

During the Eucharist, I asked the Lord for his forgiveness. I begged him to grant me all the graces I would need to live the 1st Truth.

The Truth(s) About AIR 1

Joy Uy-Tioco and Suni Rodriguez



The Magis Deo Annual Ignatian Retreat (AIR 1) simply titled “God’s Love” was held July 17 to 19, 2009. Auxie and Committee Chair for Deepening Formation, Suni Rodriguez’ report centers around three truths defined at that weekend.

Truth 1: Fr. Mon Bautista, S.J. after an absence of four years, was our Spiritual Director, and he focused on the most fundamental truth of our existence: God’s Love. Our God is a God of surprises!

Truth 2: Thirty-nine Magis Deo members from Mustard Seed, Exodus, Ignatians, Sirach, KKK and Mt. Olivet, responding to God’s call, braved the stormy weather of Friday, July 17. The strength of their determination and desire paved the way to this deepening, and truly, their relationship with Him was showered with abundant graces from above.

Truth 3: Participation was unconditional and generous, the retreatants, many relatively new in the community cooperative, their silence truly making it possible to pray deeply and honestly. The retreat closed Sunday noon with participants immersed in deep awe of God’s unconditional love. Beautiful SFEs (Shared Faith Experiences) closed the last session with water flowing gently through the eyes from the heart. The retreatants experienced the truth of what Fr. Mon said Friday night “... your cooperation and personal investment will directly affect the fruits of your retreat ...”

Thank you, Fr. Mon, for directing us to a renewed experience of these three truths! Following are some sharings gleaned from the post-retreat feedback sheets:

[After the AIR, retreatants were asked to pray and reflect on these questions:

- *As we close this retreat, can you name two or three gifts, graces, fruits you have received that you would like to thank God for?*
- *What made the deepest impact on you?*
- *As you re-enter your daily life, in what way can you nurture the fruits of this retreat so they truly become food for your spiritual journey, the pabaon for yourself and those around you?]*

God has given me an opportunity to just soak in his immense love and this is enough to carry me through I feel empowered to carry on whatever mission whenever He calls me.

Knowing my weaknesses, my falling into sins of the flesh, material acquisition, my inadequacies... despite all of this “kabulukan” I have an assurance of God’s unconditional love.

Fr. Mon’s sharing of trust/entrust and surrender to God’s will, especially on the Images of God made a deep impact. I was taught and raised in “Fear of God.” This is really radical change – my realization of God’s

unconditional love for me in spite of my shortcomings. The “silencing” exercise also gave me the chance to talk to God and lay down my pain, sorrow, suffering, joy and happiness. The calmness and serenity I felt... the Lord allowed me to realize that He was with me all along, that He shared my “ups” and “downs.” HE IS REALLY GREAT, AWESOME AND MASTER.

I am most thankful for the realization that I am truly “God’s favorite” ... (but) when I meditated, the biggest surprise is that I now realize my greatest gift is my life and my relationship with God... My spouse, who is very important to me, is a blessing, but only as a part of the biggest blessing which is my life and my relationship with God.

I received a deep sense of being loved by God, a great sense of gratitude to God for so many blessings. The biggest impact were the talks on God’s unconditional love, and confession.

Knowing God’s love is unconditional strengthened my faith in God... There is a call from God for us to listen to Him in order to open our hearts and learn so much more about Him and become closer to Him.

I can hardly recall the last time I forgave a person who hurt me... during this retreat, I appreciated the sweetness of forgiving and how it healed me especially during the Sacrament of Reconciliation. It reminds me that I too, have sinned. “Radical change happens when radical crisis exists” – this introduction made an impact on me because having a physical illness did change me... Now I can see things clearly, how fragile I am and how I should lay down my defenses and submit myself to God.

The deepest impact on me, nakilala ko ng malalim ang Diyos sa buhay ko. I learned a lot regarding unconditional love. If you really want to practice the Ignatian way, just help others without asking for anything in return, and trust people.

Thank you God, for the gift of my husband’s presence in this retreat. Thank you for the grace of knowing and feeling the presence of my sweetest Jesus, telling me His satisfaction as I express and share the things He had taught me in the past. A confrontation with myself brought about by an incident in the retreat: I realized I was unable to put into the right perspective the actuations of others because of the seeming attack on my own belief, and so I pray... My sweetest Jesus, forgive me for my shortcomings. Grant me the grace to polish my understanding that I may become the person you wish me to be. I will be going back to the regular humdrums of life totally affirmed that my sweetest Jesus is pleased with everything I’ve done, be they significant or insignificant to me or to other people.

I’ve received the gift of reconciliation and also the grace of enlightenment. Enlightenment of truths, faith, who and what God is in my life. Also, enlightenment about my role as a Christian – a Filipino Christian. I can now set my goal of becoming a good



Christian, my Christian vocation – as a father and priest of the family; as a professional (in pharmacy); and become a role model for new members of the community.



I am grateful for the gift of family – my family has given me purpose and direction in life. For the gift of the Magis community, for providing us with the program and inspiration to continue pursuing and doing things together as a couple, learning together and having opportunities to serve. (For realizing ...) that it is my lack of humility that prevents me from seeing and appreciating the so many little and big blessings of the Lord.



2009 Magis Deo Bowling Tournament

Cesar Pareja
Agnus Dei BCGG

On a mist-filled Sunday morning last July 12, 2009, fifteen community members participated in the Magis Deo Bowling Tournament at the E-Lanes in San Juan, Metro Manila. It was a welcome respite since at the end of June, we were still apprehensive whether we could proceed with the tournament with only 10 members indicating their intent to join. On that fateful week before the tournament, the Socials Committee met and decided that the tournament would proceed as planned.



Tatic Castillo, Portia Eustaquio and Marivic Pareja, top bowlers of the Ladies' Division, bring home the bacon.

Marivic and I asked our friend from San Miguel to donate prizes and she again did not disappoint us. Ed Castillo (Cana) Team Captain and Coach of the Magis Deo Bowling Team also promised to donate prizes. We trekked to Divisoria to buy the other items for the event. As always, our trip to Divisoria not only allowed us bonding time, it also gave us the opportunity to discover bargains (be it for the house, office or school) that made us feel like giddy children with new toys in hand. Marivic also burned telephone lines with Evelyn San Pedro (Cana BCGG), finalizing plans for the tournament, and to get insights for Couples' Night in September. My wife was bursting with energy -- planning activities always gives her a new "high." Her hyper-activeness can be

very contagious and I found myself also getting more excited as the tournament date got closer.

While the turn-out was not quite as we expected, the bowlers and their spouses, children and friends made up for it with cheers



Tony del Rosario and Ed Castillo prepare to roll the ceremonial balls.

and "friendly alaskahan" among the teams. All members of the Socials Committee were on hand and contributed their valuable assistance for the event's success. The teams were organized via drawing of lots and soon thereafter five teams, each with three players, were ready to compete.

After the invocation delivered by Eli Prieto (Genesis), Tony del Rosario (John) and Coach



Tony del awards the Yellow Team (Benz Dimanalata, Team Captain Boy Alli and Cesar Pareja) the Tournament Championship trophy.

Ed Castillo literally started the balls rolling when they made the ceremonial roll to launch the tournament. The contest was highlighted by the antics of the players, especially Mike Magpayo (Sirach) who was competitive in every aspect of the word.

The Yellow Team captained by Boy Alli (KKK) with Benz Dimanalata (Genesis) and I as members, emerged as the Tournament Champion with a final score of 1,574 pinfalls. The Pink Team composed of Team Captain Dondi Gonzales (John), Eli Prieto and Apin Llamas (Corinthians), was First Runner-Up with 1,327 pinfalls.

The Yellow Team also garnered the highest score for a single game with 559 pinfalls. Boy Alli, who must have been abundantly blessed by the Holy Spirit that day, dominated the event by winning the individual awards for High Single (244 pinfalls) and High Series (638



The Pink Team, First Runner-up: Eli Prieto, Team Captain Dondi Gonzales, and Apin Llamas.

pinfalls). Dondi Gonzales had the most number of strikes (14) for the Men's Division. For the Ladies' Division, Tatic Castillo (Cana) won the High Single award with 186 pinfalls. The High Series award went to Portia Eustaquio (Genesis) with 473 pinfalls and my ever-dearest Marivic won the award for most number of strikes (8).

In retrospect, Marivic and I believe that being given the chance to handle the tournament can only be considered as one of God's gifts to us. While most members of the Socials Committee have been long-time friends, we met and made new friends like Miles and Evelyn San Pedro -- hardworking, dedicated and down-to-earth individuals who are assets to our community. Evelyn and Marivic are now also text mates and phone pals. We thank God for our newfound friends.

South Sector Outreach South Sector Launches 2nd Values Formation Program

Aida del Rosario and Sally Chua Chiao
John BCGG

As the original focus on shelter matures in a Gawad Kalinga village, livelihood and values formation become even more pressing. With this in mind, the South Sector launched a second Values Formation Program for GK Aya in Multinational Village, Parañaque. This 10-session program, scheduled every other Sunday morning from 9 am to 12 noon starting July 26 to November 22, 2009, targets around 50 residents from the GK village. Each session consists of a talk on a core value, gathering participants into several small sharing groups, and then reporting by group to the entire assembly.

Each BCGG of the South Sector sponsors a session, provides the speaker(s) from within the BCGG, while the other members facilitate the sharings on the values discussed, and serve simple snacks. This formation program is a program of Couples for Christ for their GK sites. CFC had asked Magis Deo to help promote this, hence our participation in instilling community building values among the residents.

The first session (entitled “Values Orientation”) was held last July 26 and was ably handled by the Philipppians BCGG under the leadership of Rudy and Lyn Ebarido. Rudy and Frank Reyes handled the presentations, with Benz and Vina Dimanalata, Magis Outreach Couple for GK Aya, assisting. The group sharings were facilitated by Lyn Ebarido, Djarn Pestaño, Julie Torres, and presenters Rudy and Frank. South Sector Head Couple Anchit (with his trusty camera) and Sally Chua



Clockwise, from top left:

1. Frank Reyes and
2. Rudy Ebarido are the resource speakers for the first session.
3. Tony del Rosario encourages and gives business to two young ice drop entrepreneurs.
- 4., 5., 6. GK residents take to heart and actively participate in the group discussions and sharings.
7. Vina Dimanalata is flanked by CFC Volunteers in charge of GK Aya. At left is Bro. Jack Enriquez; with name tag is Bro. Mon Isip.



Chiao, and Tony and Aida del Rosario provided overall assistance. The Dimanalatas’ teen-age daughter Abby, who was much-awaited by GK children in last year’s sessions, again made herself available and kept the children busy and happy.

In the group discussions, the GK participants focused on the following values they felt are critical in community-building: *pagiging makaDiyos, makatao, mapagmahal sa kapwa, mapagbigay, matulungin; pakikipagkapwa-tao; pagkakaisa; “palabra de honor” na maaring pagkatiwalaan*. These values need to be demonstrated *sa isipan, sa puso, at sa gawa*.

The planned content of the 10 sessions are:

- Values Orientation
- The First Christian Community
- Bayanihan – A Call to Be a Hero
- Kalinisan at Kagandahan
- Kaayusan
- Kalusugan
- Kasiyahan
- Integridad
- Stewardship/Simplicity/Sharing
- Partners in Nation Building

SPIRITUAL TIDBITS AND HUMOR

Rey Mella, Council / Cana BCGG

The Family Breadwinner

In a recent prayer meeting, I shared that I spend most of my time in three key areas of my life: work, family and community. Not equally of course. Being the family's main breadwinner, I do spend a big percentage of my day at work. I get off early so I can exercise and also be home for dinner. Family time is at dinner time and weekends. My time with the community would be some evenings and some weekends. In order for me to accomplish more on my priorities and to be more productive, I walk or play table tennis with my wife to combine exercise and family time. I get my family to the community activities to combine time with community and time with my family.

My daughter Fiona had a different concept of what a breadwinner is all about. On Fathers' Day, she wrote on the greeting card that she and her two siblings gave me, this postscript, "Try to be a breadwinner sometimes, joke only." I found this rather intriguing especially since in her main greeting, she wrote that she loved me very much and that I am the "best father she's ever had." I let it pass and a few days later, I told my wife about it and asked her to find out what Fiona meant about my trying to be a breadwinner.

This is what she found out. Fiona's teacher taught them that fathers are the breadwinners, that they hold the money, and that they are the leaders of the family. In our family, since my wife holds the purse and handles all our finances, Fiona sees this and witnesses day to day events like my son and I asking for money for our baon and for things we want to buy. Also, whenever I try to watch TV and my eldest daughter comes, she takes over and decides what to watch. In most times, I let her and don't object and choose not to argue. Fiona sees this and thinks that her elder sister is more powerful than me. In her

mind, my asking for money and letting my eldest daughter decide and have control over the TV set means I am not the family's breadwinner. My wife and I were so amused and really enjoyed this episode. She explained to our loving daughter how things work in our family and why I let things happen the way they do.

Several days later, over dinner we asked Fiona to tell this story to her sister and brother. She was very ashamed and, still feeling embarrassed, with a cute smile she told the story in her own words, starting with what her teacher said and how she understood the term breadwinner. We all had a laugh. So, now, I have been formally reinstated as the family's breadwinner, in Fiona's eyes.

I could not find anything spiritual about this episode other than appreciate Fiona's simplicity of mind and interpretation of things as God's reminder to me to be simple-minded. There have been a lot of times when situations become complicated because of the sheer complexity of my mind. Also, I am reminded that being the breadwinner also includes bringing in the "bread of life" into the home. My role-modeling for my kids, spending a lot of time with them at play or simply being with them, praying and being in church together, are my ways of bringing the bread of life to my family. I believe this bread is as important as the bread I get from my work.

In winning his most recent NBA title with the LA Lakers, Kobe Bryant finally accomplished a major goal in his life: winning an NBA title without Shaq O'Neal, his main partner in winning three previous titles. While I was not conscious about it and did not really express and articulate the same goal like Kobe, I may have been like him in a

different way, that of wanting and trying to be successful without God. And, I actually was successful in many things throughout my life, without God. Or so I thought. I now know that I could not have won or been successful without Him. And, I won't make the same mistake. On the contrary, I will always want to win with Him. It makes more sense and makes things a lot more meaningful.

"If God is your co-pilot, swap seats!"

When interviewed on TV about his brother Michael, Jermaine Jackson said that Michael always gave his very best whenever he did something – singing, dancing, performing, etc. While I don't particularly like the other half of Michael Jackson's personality, I wish I could be like him in some way, like always doing one's best. Doing my best for His purpose, to serve Him in my own simple ways, to be more Christ-like in every situation, would be doing a Michael Jackson for my God.

Three traveling evangelists were talking about how they dealt with the offerings collected during their evangelistic meetings.

The first said, "I draw a big circle on the ground, then I throw the money in the air. Whatever lands inside the circle belongs to God, and whatever lands outside the circle belongs to me."

"Oh, I can do better than that," said the second evangelist. "I put a coffee can in the middle of the floor. Then I throw the money in the air. Any money that lands inside the coffee can belong to God, and I get to keep anything that lands outside."

Then the third evangelist grinned and said, "I've got you both beat. I just throw the money in the air, and whatever God wants, God takes!"

SCENES AND SIGNS OF FAITH

Clyde D. Abapo, Jeremiah BCGG

Appreciating God's Creations

Life is all about experience. The sum total of these experiences should point to our Creator. Before, like many of us, I just took things around me for granted. The only things that attracted me were the beaches I'd been to. However, through the years, I became conscious of the existence of God and His creations. My prayers and past experiences have taught me to understand how much God loves and cares for us.

Multiple births – Our handicraft business brings me to different places to source raw materials. One such trip was a long drive to Pangasinan. From Pampanga to Pangasinan, once can see the bounty of the rice fields and the awesome beauty of the mountain scenery. Coconut and other fruit-bearing trees punctuate the view along the way. Halfway into my trip, I made a sudden stop because a mother hen with her chicks crossed my path. I pondered for a while before proceeding. My thoughts led me to realize the reason why animals – pigs, fowl and fish – have multiple births in addition to shorter gestation periods. Fruits and vegetables are always available as well. Truly, God wants us to have an abundant and continuous supply of food.



Effortless activity – My ancestral house is about a hundred yards away from the sea. In the 50's, as a child I used to go swimming and had observed how fishermen made use of nets or hook and line to catch fish. During low tide,



especially in the early afternoon, a vast area of sea becomes available. The stretch is a few kilometers along the

shoreline and measures a good kilometer when the water recedes. Women and children enjoy their search for seashells. In my case, I brought along a metal scraper and a small basket tucked in my waist. By scraping the sand over and over, bivalve shells like clams, cockles and tellinus can be extracted. After an hour of digging and scraping over several areas, the harvest would net me two to three kilos of live and fresh shells. This experience brings forth God's wisdom in making food accessible.

Energy and Minerals – God did not limit His creation to life-sustaining food and living organisms. The earth is surrounded with air and endowed with sand, mineral ore and solid rocks. These non-living substances can be processed

and converted into useful and functional products. Mining firms and factories exist because of these raw materials. Power plants convert energy from fuel to machineries to come up with mechanical or electrical power intended for whatever purpose. Automobiles, airplanes, factories and electricity-generating plants

are examples. Various industries can make use of different sources of energy – from crude oil and coal as fuel, hydropower energy from waterfalls, geothermal or natural gas which produces high pressure steam to propel machines; nuclear energy from subatomic particles, solar energy, wind energy, biofuel or alcohols from plants and trees; and methane gas from decomposition of biodegradable waste. God has really made His creations with a purpose.

Man – The creation of man is the highest form of God's miraculous work. There is no greater appreciation and gratitude than my being born into this world.

Calendar of Activities: August - October 2009

August	Activity / Event	Venue	Sponsor(s) / Contact(s)
04	Sector & Ministry Heads Meeting 5	Magis Deo Office	Magis Deo 426-7191
07	Community Celebration	San Carlos Lay Formation Center Multi-Purpose Hall (MPH) - 3 rd Floor	Praxis Ministry Cana, Jeremiah North, South Central Sectors MEFP 426-4206
08-09	Shepherding Seminar 1 (Free)	CEFAM	MEFP 426-4206
11	South Sector Meeting 7pm	TBA	Anchit/Sally Chua Chiaco 807-8493
12	Council Meeting	Magis Deo Office	Magis Deo 426-7191
15	Life in the Spirit Seminar (LSS)	God's Love Catholic Prayer Community New Manila	Clyde/Pachot Abapo 838-8553/0922-8098768
16	Prayer Deepening and Introduction to Spiritual Direction 8am-5pm	San Carlos Lay Formation Center Multi Purpose Hall (MPH) - 3 rd Floor	Ted/Susan Concepcion 724-8019
19	North Sector Meeting 7pm	Panlilio Residence	Mon/Alice Go 444-3520
21-23	MEW (ME Class 98) P3,200/couple (Fr. Ruben Tanseco)	BLD Covenant House, Dasmariñas, Cavite	Ike/Josie Llamas 821-0639
22-23	Shepherding Seminar 2 (Free)	CEFAM	MEFP 426-4206
31	Launch: Moral Force Movement	TBA	Fr. Ruben Tanseco
TBA	Tree Planting	TBA	Carlos/Ruby Pizarro 435-8158
September			
01	Shepherds & Ministry Heads Meeting 3	Sanctuario de San Antonio Parish Office	Magis Deo 426-7191
04-06	ME 2 (P3,000/couple) – Fr. Tanseco	St. Scholastica's, Tagaytay	MEFP 426-4206
05 Sat	Community Celebration 4pm-7:30pm	San Carlos Lay Formation Center Chapel – 2nd Floor	Marriage Encounter Ministry Philippians, Mt. Olivet Anchit/Sally Chua Chiaco 807-8493
08	South Sector Meeting 7pm	TBA	Mon/Alice Go 444-3520
08	North Sector Meeting 7pm	Cathy Rafael or Marcia Balderas Residence	Magis Deo 426-7191
09	Council Meeting	Magis Deo Office	Leo Soliman 0927-2782383
10	Jun Sison Cup	Philippine Navy Club	Ting Yupangco MEFP 426-4206
11-13	Spiritual Deepening Retreat (SDR) P3,500/couple, P1,800/individual	Canossa Retreat House, Tagaytay	Ted/Susan Concepcion 724-8019
13	Spiritual Direction and Spiritual Conversations Workshop 8am-5pm	San Carlos Lay Force MPH Multi-Purpose Hall (MPH) - 3 rd Floor	Philip/Malu Panlilio 632-6598
18-20	Annual Ignatian Retreat 4 (AIR 4)	Sacred Heart Novitiate	Suni Rodriguez 0917-827-4750
19	Couples' Night	TBA	Apin/Chie Llamas 0919-854-5248
26-27	Shepherding Seminar 1 (Free)	CEFAM	MEFP 426-4206
29	Sector & Ministry Heads Meeting 6	Magis Deo Office	Magis Deo 426-7191
October			
02	Community Celebration	San Carlos Lay Formation Center Multi-Purpose Hall (MPH) - 3 rd Floor	Shepherds & Sharers Formation Ministry, Mustard Seed, Agnus Dei Anchit/Sally Chua Chiaco 807-8493
06	South Sector Meeting 7pm	TBA	Magis Deo 426-7191
07	Council Meeting	Magis Deo Office	Mon/Alice Go 444-3520
13	North Sector Meeting 7pm	Cathy Rafael or Marcia Balderas Residence	MEFP 426-4206
24-25	CPPJ Seminar – P500/person	CEFAM	MEFP 426-4206

August Birthday Celebrants

2	Ces Reynales	ME Class 91
9	Nilo Sta. Maria	Magnificat
	Dwight Deato	ME Class 95
10	Terry Abella	Mustard Seed
	Dante Galura	ME Class 91
	Laarni Briones	ME Class 95
11	Susan Concepcion	Archangel Gabriel
	Tony Yap	ME Class 91
12	Claire Palma	Cana
13	Lito Gonzales	John
	Pia Acevedo	ME Class 96
14	Francis Villaflor	ME Class 95
15	Zarah Gagatiga	Mt. Olivet
16	Clyde Abapo	Jeremiah
	Phil Tumaneng	Psalm 46-Samaritans
	Joey Eustaquio	Genesis of David
17	Josie Llamas	Genesis of David
	Shon Natividad	ME Class 95
18	Gina Eleda	Micah 6:8
	Maan Masungsong	ME Class 95
19	Harry Chua	Sirach
	Vina Arcenal	Isaiah 66-Ignatians
20	Marcia Balderas	Archangel Gabriel
	Philip Camara	ME Class 86
21	Fred Buenaventura	Kapatiran Kay Kristo
	Cesar Pareja	Agnus Dei

	Ariel Masungsong	ME Class 95
23	Jay Ng Sy	Agnus Dei
	Rolly Beltran	Genesis of David
25	Linda Santos	Agnus Dei
	Malou Caramat	Jeremiah
	Grace Moselina	Mustard Seed
26	Suni Rodriguez	Micah 6:8
28	Agnes Tumaneng	Psalm 46-Samaritans
	Henry Cornejo	ME Class 96
29	Jun Ona	Archangel Gabriel
	Nette Arceo	Beatitudes
	Danilo Collado	Mustard Seed
30	Sheila Joson	Sirach
	Alex Caramat	Jeremiah
	Leila Leccio	ME Class 90
	Mon Martinez	ME Class 95
31	Gaya Antonio	Mt. Olivet

August Wedding Anniversaries

3	Val & Joan Lugti	ME Class 89
8	Ramie & Mimi Santos	Psalm 46-Samaritans
9	Philip & Ching Camara	ME Class 86
10	Rudy & Lyn Ebarido	Philippians
14	Joey & Portia Eustaquio	Genesis-House of David
30	Francis & Eppie Villaflor	ME Class 95