



Hodie Christus
natus est!

Magis Deo Council Election 2009

Fr. Ruben M. Tanseco, SJ, our community Spiritual Director and recollection master for the Magis Deo recollection on November 28, 2009 started with a prayer by Sir Francis Drake (1577) entitled *Disturb Us, O Lord*. The prayer set the tone as Fr. Ruben explained that the recollection theme on Heroic Servant Leadership was not only to dispose the members for the election of the Pastoral Council members but also for all members to reflect on their own call to be Heroic Servant Leaders.

Christ epitomized the qualities of servant-leadership. The image of Christ the King still being portrayed by the Catholic Church as wearing a crown, holding a scepter and dressed in a robe should be debunked. Instead of being portrayed like an earthly king, Jesus' title should rather be The Universal or

Cosmic Lover whose power of love and not love for power is what we are celebrating on the feast of Christ the King. The Kingdom of God is really the family of God which shows God's solidarity with humankind and creation. In His solidarity Christ walks with us, lives with us, lovingly accompanying us in our journey.

The essence of Christ's kingdom can be gleaned from Matthew 25: 35-36, "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me." Thus Christ lived what he preached, out of love and compassion for every human person.

Having Christ as their role model, Magis Deo members are all called to be leaders whether they are in positions of



Fr. Ruben celebrates mass after the recollection, before the elections.

authority or not. Fr. Ruben emphasized that those who would be elected to the Pastoral Council are actually leaders of leaders, not lording over the members, but being servant leaders. Efren

Continued on page 2

New Pastoral Council Members

Clockwise, from top left:

Fil and Mary Anne Alfonso

Gene and Eve Bañez

Anchit and Sally Chua Chiaco

Benz and Vina Dimanalata





**November 28, 2009
Recollection
and
Pastoral Council
Election**



Magis Deo Council ... continued from page 1

Peñaflorida, the 2009 CNN Hero of the Year, is an example of a servant leader who has given hope to the Philippines. In his acceptance speech, Efrén urged everyone to “look inside and reach in your heart and be a hero to the person beside you.” In the book *Profiles of Courage*, there are many other examples of Filipino heroes (with a small h), people we have not heard of, people we don’t even know. Chris Lowney, author of *Heroic Leadership*, observes that “we are all leaders. We are leading all the time, well or poorly. Leadership springs from within. It is about who I am as well as what I do. It is my life, my way of living, an ongoing process.” According to him, the four pillars of leadership are: self-awareness, ingenuity, heroism and love. (*Editor’s note: See the separate article on these four pillars on page 15.*)

After his talk, Fr. Ruben invited everyone to reflect on the question: “At this point in my life, what MORE may the Lord be asking from me as a HEROIC SERVANT-LEADER: in my family, in my work world, in our Magis Deo Community, in our community-at-large?” Monchito and Tina Mossesgeld, outgoing Pastoral Council Chair Couple shared their own reflections on the question prior to the small group

sharing. The recollection ended with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

After lunch, the members proceeded back to the seminar room to vote for the four new members of the Pastoral Council. The election of the new members was supervised by the Election Committee composed of the outgoing Pastoral Council members – Reggie and Daisy de Guzman, Joey and Maricel Suarez, Monchito and Tina Mossesgeld. Tony and Aida del Rosario who are also members of the Election Committee were out of the country that day although they had assisted in all the preparations for the election.

Prior to the casting of the ballots, Monchito Mossesgeld requested all present to undertake the election process in a prayerful manner. He then led the group in a short prayer reflection. He read two passages from the gospel of John that characterized Christ’s leadership. The first described Christ washing the disciples’ feet, after which he directed them to do as he did. The second was part of Christ’s last supper discourse where he told the disciples, “This is my commandment: love one another as I love you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends... I have called you friends.”

Continued on page 10

The power of love, not the love of power. This is what we are celebrating today in the Person of Christ. Let us update our language and imagery of Christ. Let us remove that medieval crown from His head, those royal robes around His shoulders, and the scepter of power from His hand, because historically, the real Christ was the opposite of all that. He never wore a crown of kingly power, except that crown of thorns that His enemies placed on His head out of ridicule and jealous hatred.

The so-called “Kingdom of God” was a misnomer, a misrepresentation of reality, as we understand it today. It is

Cosmic Lover

Sunday Homily - November 22, 2009

Ruben M. Tanseco, SJ

really God’s loving and compassionate solidarity with mankind and all of creation that Christ taught and lived in His very person. The “Family of God” rather than the “Kingdom of God” would be the more accurate and historical description of what Christ lived and died for. Christ, the unconditional, universal lover – rather than “Christ the King.”

We, all of mankind, are the family of God, the family of Christ, the Risen One. And this does not mean only the formally baptized Christians, but all of humanity as created by God. Above and beyond our man-made human differences is our unity in diversity. This is the human family of Christ, the ever-compassionate Brother to each and every one of us. He is not seated on a throne up there with all the pomposity of medieval royalty. The Risen Christ walks, works, and lives with us, His brothers and sisters in the Lord. He lovingly leads and accompanies us

toward our Eternal Home, which is out of this world. So that in today’s Gospel reading, Christ insists: “My kingdom does not belong to this world... For this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.” (Jn. 18: 33b-37). We listen to His voice for as long as we live as He lived, the Cosmic Lover, not only in word, but in action.

“Come, you have my Father’s blessing! Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food. I was thirsty and you gave me drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me. I was ill and you comforted me, in prison and you came to visit me... I assure you, as often as you did it for one of my least brothers, you did it for me.” (Mt. 25: 34-40).

Christ fed the hungry, even to the thousands. He gave sight to the blind. He healed those who were possessed by unclean spirits. He cleansed lepers from their terrible disease. He cured that woman who was crippled for eighteen years. He touched the heart of that sinful tax collector. He forgave Simon Peter who denied Him three times. What led Him to do all this and more was His love and compassion for the human person. And He calls each one of us, His followers, to do likewise, within our own capabilities and resources.

It is in this context that I once again express my deep sadness and disturbance that so many of us Christians enjoy and support professional boxing. In this same column several years ago, I quoted no less than three well-known moral theologians (Fathers John Hardon, Richard McCormick, and Romeo Intengan, SJ) saying the same thing: Professional boxing is intrinsically immoral. Once more, in part, we quote:

“Boxing by its very nature is said to lead to serious and unjustifiable injury to those who participate in the sport. The knock-out itself is an



indefensible mutilation of the rational faculties because its purpose is to render the victim unconscious. But even more grave is the preliminary softening-up process, with deliberately inflicted external lacerations and damage to internal organs... Medical experts declare that no head blow is taken with impunity, and each knock-out causes definite and irreparable damage.”

Just recently, our Filipino boxer Z Gorres won a boxing match, but collapsed right after the game, and is still in serious condition with brain injury in a Las Vegas hospital. Even if he survives, that would be the end of his boxing career, and he has a wife and four growing children. The eldest is seven, and the youngest is just five months old! Even more recently, the Puerto Rican boxer Miguel Cotto lost to Manny Pacquiao, and Cotto’s bleeding, disfigured face on the front page of the newspapers was something to really contemplate on. Is all this humanly defensible, whether one is the winner or the loser? We cannot and should not rationalize by applying the moral principle of double effect. As a Christian nation, how can we celebrate and be proud of such a “victory”?

In faith, I am convinced that the human-divine Christ most strongly condemns professional boxing as inhuman and immoral. My fellow Filipino Christians – where do we go from here?

Be a force for good

Efren Peñaflorida was named 2009 CNN Hero of the Year besting nine other finalists from all over the world. Efren grew up in the slums of Cavite, was bullied in high school by street gangs, but resolved to improve the lives of street children in his neighborhood. At the very young age of 16, when many of his peers joined street gangs, Efren founded the Dynamic Teen Company which brings education to the streets in a *kariton* to teach basic reading and writing to street children. The Dynamic Teen Company now has 10,000 volunteers helping 1,500 children in Cavite. Efren said he will plow back most of the prize money of US\$100,000 to The Dynamic Teen Company and donate the rest to the Church. He will keep nothing for himself and will continue with his day job of teaching in a public school. Efren makes us feel proud to be a Filipino and inspires us to be a force for change and for good. What makes Efren's example so remarkable is that, according to Josefina Lichauco, unlike other outstanding leaders who have continued the good work of their families, "in the case of the young Peñaflorida, there was no silver spoon, there is no gilded throne, there is just a young man with a pure heart." When we feel overwhelmed by the enormity of the problems in our country, we can look to Efren's example of how one man can help others and inspire many more to do the same.

A few days after savoring the triumph of Efren, we were all horrified by the brazen carnage in Maguindanao of more than 60 unarmed civilians including women, journalists and lawyers. The group of women from

the Mangundadatu clan and their escort of journalists and lawyers were held up by 100 armed men on the way to filing the certificate of candidacy for governor of Maguindanao Vice Mayor Ismael Mangundadatu. According to one witness, the group was taken to a mountainous area where they were killed in the most cruel, brutal way upon the direct order of Andal Ampatuan, Jr. The murderers were burying their victims and their vehicles by using a mechanized backhoe, a property of the Maguindanao provincial government, when they fled the scene to escape from the advancing soldiers. This speaks of a group of people who believe that they are untouchable no matter how despicable and evil their crimes may be. To quote from Simbahang Lingkod Bayan's statement, the massacre "shows a people so blinded by bias and hatred that have transformed them into beasts, into indescribable evil. It shows a people with no sense of right and wrong, of values so corrupted, so compromised. A people without independent thought, not even personal belief or simply the capacity to choose between good and evil."

Efren Peñaflorida and The Dynamic Teen Company on the one hand, and Andal Ampatuan, Jr. and his private army on the other hand. What a stark contrast. Peñaflorida's humble, selfless service to the street children and Ampatuan, Jr.'s arrogance and thirst for power and control over Maguindanao. A force for good and a force of evil. Everyday we encounter these two forces perhaps in lesser intensity in our own environment, in our families and especially in ourselves. Our tendency

to reach out, to love, to be compassionate will always be in tension with our self-centeredness, our preoccupation with our own needs and our need for self-preservation at all costs. These tendencies either bring out the best in us or the worst in us.

As Christian Filipinos and members of Magis Deo Community, we cannot afford to stay on the sidelines, content to let others like Efren, or our leaders in Magis Deo to be in the front lines or worse, to succumb to our negative tendencies. Fr. Ruben reminds us once again to heed the Call of Christ the King, the "Universal Lover" and the ultimate "Heroic Servant Leader," to be heroic servant leaders in our families, our Magis Deo Community and the community-at-large. We must rise above our tendencies to be complacent, to stay in our comfort zones, or worse, to be discouraged in the face of indifference or blatant wrong-doing in ourselves and in others. Like Efren, we must actively fight, yes, fight the forces of evil in our hearts, in our families and in our community-at-large with our undying hope and unquenchable desire for good, by recognizing our God-given talents and using them to help the less fortunate, by sustaining our efforts and energy with a healthy prayer life and always by being aware of our own motives for doing good. St. Ignatius of Loyola tells us that Satan never sleeps and strikes at every opportunity even in the guise of good. We must be equally vigilant and say *yes* to Christ's call at every opportunity to serve others with a pure heart.

*Monchito & Tina Mossesgeld
Chaircouple 2009*

God's Graces in 2009 and Living the *Magis* in 2010

As 2009 draws to a close, where have been the areas of growth in *Magis Deo* which we can devote more time next year? Where have been the areas needing light? What were my personal contributions?

O Lord, we are full of gratitude for all you have given *Magis Deo* in 2009:

- ◆ grace of love and unity in our marriages and families, enabling us to reach out to others, especially the disadvantaged;
- ◆ grace of generosity for responding to the Ondoy calamity victims and survivors, and the needs of mission areas;
- ◆ grace of faithfulness and dedication to servanthood and discipleship, serving as example to many; and
- ◆ grace of commitment to the *Magis* vision and mission of new members and leaders.

Magis Deo has grown to be a *Community of Prayer*. The Community has evolved from having the desire to be close to God in the early nineties to having prayerful disposition, fidelity to daily prayer, and increased awareness and sensitivity to God's presence in life. It is not routine prayer but a prayer rooted on a discerning heart and a deep sense of dialogue with God. The Community's

focus on developing a close personal relationship with God has augured well. For the fruits of prayer are reaped in our loving relationships with our spouse, children, relatives, friends, co-workers, and strangers and in the manner we assist our brothers and sisters in our mission areas.

Being a *Community of Prayer* has not yet fully translated into a *Community of Action* in some areas:

- ◆ participation of members in Community activities
- ◆ keeping the desire burning for some BCGG members
- ◆ retention of ME recruits as full-fledged BCGG members
- ◆ commitment of some leaders to sustained servanthood

These areas seem to tell an old story, many may argue. But not really if we look closely. These areas present a new dimension in the changing landscape of our Community life. Both the internal and external landscapes of *Magis Deo* are rapidly changing. Internally, there is the emergence of "new" members and leaders, with declining participation and involvement of some "old" members due to personal constraints. The external environment has changed quite remarkably, i.e., difficult economic opportunities, climate change, social and political security, violence, governance, health

conditions, etc. On top of this is the 2010 elections.

The challenge of sustaining living the *Magis* is here before us now. Fr. Ruben exhorted the Community to wake up for the *Magis* is not being lived! He called on all of us to be heroes in our own small ways. Like Efren Peñaflorida. Each one of us has a hidden "hero" in oneself waiting to be unearthed.

While we all know fully well that living the *Magis* is a lifetime journey, we cannot sit and hold back as we need to meet the present challenge squarely. Each one of us has a stake in this Community if we want to witness it live for another 25 to 50 years. Surely, the Community's vision and mission will last but we who compose the Community have to act and do our share in making it alive! Especially, the Ignatian values which we all stood and died for, in one form or another, in our personal quest of following Christ.

This is a time of transition.

We beg the Lord for His grace of fortitude for helping us to sustain living the *Magis*, *the more*, in spite... despite... even if...

Let our blessings and gratitude in 2009 lead us to do *more* in 2010!

A meaningful Christmas to all.

Philip & Malu Panlilio
Vice Chaircouple 2009

As promised last March 2009, Fr. Manoling Francisco, SJ became our Spiritual Director for the November 13-15 AIR 4 attended by thirty-seven Magis Deo members. The retreat was a continuation of the March AIR which revolved around the themes of Jesus' Ministry, Passion, Death and Resurrection. Because of the size of the material (which actually compasses the whole of the reason for Jesus' incarnation and ministry) the March retreat ended with the death of Jesus on the Cross. Loath to end in death without touching the triumph of God's indomitable love, Fr. Manoling acceded to requests for another retreat – and

AIR on a Hill

Suni Rodriguez, Micah 6:8 BCGG

announced the topic: Easter and the Birth of the Church. Thus, the genesis of this fourth AIR, open primarily to the sixty-eight retreatants who had already prayed Jesus' ministry, passion and death in March. By the time November arrived, the topic had undergone another sea-change and Fr. Manoling retitled the retreat as: "The Resurrection: God's Indomitable Love."

This AIR 4 was cancelled in September in deference to Couples' Night (presently counted as the best attended offering in Magis Deo Community's roster of activities). The cancellation and the non-availability of Sacred Heart Retreat and Seminar Center proved to be a blessing in disguise, among which was the discovery of the Mornese Center of Spirituality at Pansol, Calamba, Laguna. Mornese is on top of a small hill. It is run by the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians (Salesian nuns). A retreat house and a youth development center, it is surrounded by its beautiful terrain. Only three years old, its new and comfortable facilities, rooms with individual

bathrooms, three very inspiring chapels and a roof deck where one could view the Laguna de Bay helped participants find their sacred space to dialogue with God.

Fr. Manoling's energetic delivery and passion for the topic was felt by all. He showed us a short film on the impact of the resurrection. The imperfections of the facilities (the speakers were muffled) contributed in a positive way because the retreatants made extra effort to LISTEN. In spite of the noise made by another group also using the retreat house that weekend, Magis Deo members were able to maintain an interior SILENCE. To quote a text message from Fr. Manoling, all the

Obstacles and distractions were changed to graced concentration, potential desolations into an outpouring of consolation.

Fruits of the retreat? Better knowledge and understanding surrounding the resurrection, transcend fear and negative feelings on death, understanding of restlessness and endless longings, better appreciation of the historical context of Jesus, gratitude for the gift of the resurrection of a glorified (!) body, affirmation of one's belief and hope of resurrection and looking forward to total union with our Creator. Thank you Lord for all Your gifts, and we look forward to hear Your call for our next vacation on a hill!



participants were "stars" – he was graced and inspired by the retreatants, and grateful to have been part of this opportunity to experience our God. Again we were witnesses to the generosity of God's love and the generosity of our retreatants' response.



AFTERTHOUGHTS

Zarah Gagatiga, Mt. Olivet BCGG

St. Francis Xavier, pray for us!

I am writing this a few days before the feast of St. Francis Xavier, the patron saint of missions and missionaries.

Xavier, like Ignatius, fell madly in love with God that he turned his back to a privileged life as a noble man. What in God's wonder and grace did Xavier discover that made him decide to pursue his apostolate and evangelize Asia? Perhaps I will never know since one's relationship with God is often unique and very personal. Maybe it can be gleaned in the literature that abound or in the many faith stories that litter the Internet. On the one hand, what I can take from Xavier's life is the perfect example of discernment. In the Ignatian formation, discernment involves a process of repetitive patterns of awareness and a constant deepening of prayer life.

Xavier had a healthy spiritual life that he knew what was God's plan for him. On top of that, he knew who God is and clearly saw His presence moving in and out of his life. Now that's what he got being Ignatius' BFF (Best Friend Forever).



This painting, done in the style of Jesuit brother and artist Andrea Pozzo, imagines the scene where two saints, friends, part ways to pursue their own missions: Ignatius the administrator sends Francis to bring the Gospel to unknown lands.

Cognizant of this spiritual tenacity of St. Francis Xavier, I am moved to re-examine my own relationship with the God I know. What a perfect way to do just that this Advent season. More than basking in the glimmer and glitter

of Christmas, I feel it necessary to attend an Advent recollection – to slow down after a year filled with stress, tears and weariness. This world and its many attachments have the power to wean me away from the God who loves me. The effect is pretty confusing. I still ask, most of the time really, what my life's mission is. It is easy to know what one needs and wants from this life. But what is God's?

I wonder what is God trying to tell me? What does God want me to do? Often, the answers to my questions lead me back to the strengthening of my prayer life for it is in prayerful silence where God reveals Himself. Sadly, I have consistently failed in this department. But I take heart because, as much as there are plenty of distractions in the outside world, God manifests His promise of eternal love in numerous ways; in prayer, in the scripture, in the preaching of the church, in the community I break bread with, in the lives of the saints.

Indeed, St. Francis Xavier's life story is a powerful testimony to the existence of a living and loving God. His spiritual journey gives me hope, faith and the courage to love despite my own flaws. I do not aspire to be a saint, goodness! Yet, his spirituality, his way of loving, his discovered mysticism is enough to guide me in my own spiritual quest.

Disturb us, Lord

Prayer of
Sir Francis Drake
1577

Disturb us, Lord, when we are too well
pleased with ourselves,
When our dreams have come true
Because we dreamed too little,
When we arrived safely
Because we sailed too close to the shore.

Disturb us, Lord, when
With the abundance of things we possess
We have lost our thirst
For the waters of life;
Having fallen in love with life,
We have ceased to dream of eternity
And in our efforts to build a new earth,
We have allowed our vision
Of the new Heaven to dim.

Disturb us, Lord, to dare more boldly,
To venture on wilder seas
Where storms will show Your mastery;
Where losing sight of land,
We shall find the stars.

We ask You to push back
The horizons of our hopes;
And to push us into the future
In strength, courage, hope, and love.

This we ask in the name of our Captain,
Who is Jesus Christ. Amen.

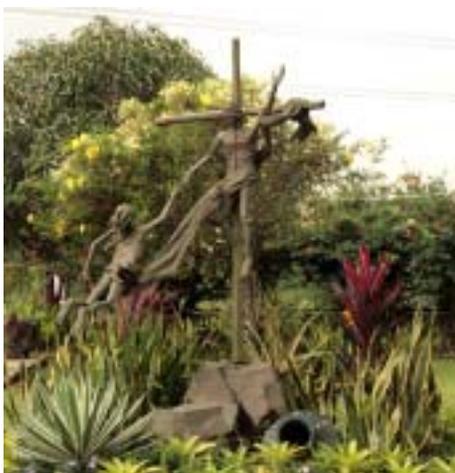
Proud to be ME (96)

Uriel Castillo, ME 96

In the middle of October, about six weeks before the forthcoming Marriage Encounter (Batch 99) weekend in November that we would be sponsoring, we of ME Class 96 had only seven (7) “almost sure” candidates or couple-participants. Thus we sought help from the Magis Deo community for recruits. After about two more weekend meetings, some of our prospects had firmly declined our invitation. I don't know if there had been an occasion where an ME weekend had to be cancelled for lack of participants but I



BLD Retreat House, venue of the MEW.



sure felt like ours was well on its way to that doomed fate. Still our class met and practiced for the ME weekend. We agreed to re-commit ourselves to recruiting one couple-participant each.

Come November 14 or the Sunday before the ME weekend, our situation remained very much the same. No new

recruits. The next morning, I received word from our shepherd that recruits were starting to come in. The Magis Deo community had delivered. The ME weekend would push through after all.

I read somewhere that when we are in a fix we should pray to the LORD and “set sail.” For me, this meant that after we ask for HIS help we should do our part and prepare to receive HIS blessing.

After praying to the Lord for the ME weekend to push through, and after asking help from Magis Deo, we continued to prepare no matter how bleak the situation looked.



Preparing roses for the graduating class.

On November 20, the Lord answered our prayer and blessed us with nineteen (19) couple-participants, five (5) single-participants and two (2) priests. While we have “set sail” with our earlier meetings and practice, the setting of the sail did not end there. Now, we have to keep the sail up and the ship moving lest we waste the Lord's blessing. Now, we have to get our participants through the ME weekend and towards a fruitful end.

Here I realized how great ME Class 96 is. The group consists of a handful of couples both old and older, bringing with them only their talents, skills and their overwhelming commitment to serve the LORD. It didn't matter who they were

or where they came from, they had a task to do and they unwaveringly did it for the LORD.

Some of us did the usual – from putting up road signs, banners at the entrance and posters inside BLD, to manning the registration table at the lobby. But there were those who got their hands sticky and dirty, and even risked losing a finger or two just so the participants would be treated to a



ME Class 99 with Fr. Ted.

ME 96 auxies, Shepherds Ted and Susan Concepcion, Cora Ona, and Tito.



refreshing treat of fresh buko juice as they arrived.

No work or task was too small or unimportant. Everything simply had to be done – from picking up pieces of paper or empty water bottles, to sweeping the floor, to taking out the garbage.

Neither was there any impossible or hard task for ME 96. Knowing fully well that the work at hand was all or nothing, some batch mates shunned sleep to finish the printing of directories. Totally distracted by the extent of the work, others gave up warm showers (anyway the cold water was a good waker-upper!). And then there were those who

manned the conference room and underwent the whole ME weekend course all over again, probably bracing their heads or propping their eyelids to look like they're wide awake. Still, others had to bear sitting in front of a blank wall accompanied only by a lonely calculator and a nearly empty cash box. An older batch mate voluntarily gave up a few of his insulin syringes so we could replenish the printer ink cartridges. Then there was Polly who answered directly to Father Tanseco. He was tasked to make sure that all the participants were always on time.

The dedication of ME 96 was simply overflowing. Even those who had to leave several times due to work or family kept coming back to help. And help they did.

Aside from our commitment and dedication, I guess sharing light moments among the batch kept everyone afloat. Jokes were cracked here and there and spontaneous laughter abound. Then there were instances when our newly discovered talents were put to the test or showcased – like emceeing, singing, dancing, draping curtains, flower arranging or creating refreshingly new and earth-friendly mood lights.

Of course, frustrations could not be avoided and tempers simmered at times. But in the end, no matter how tired we were, the firm handshakes and the warm “thank you’s” from the participants, their eyes still puffy and red but smiling nonetheless, made it all worthwhile. At that point, I knew our ME weekend was a success. With the blessing of the Lord, the guidance of our shepherds, and the help of gracious supporters, ME 96 had set sail. I’m proud to be ME (96).



Top: ME 96 auxies and ME Class 99 begin a session with a song.

Below: Fr. Tanseco is presented a birthday cake during the Nov. 22 graduation ceremonies. His birthday is the next day, the 23rd.

Two bottom pictures: The Magis Deo community serenades the ME graduates.

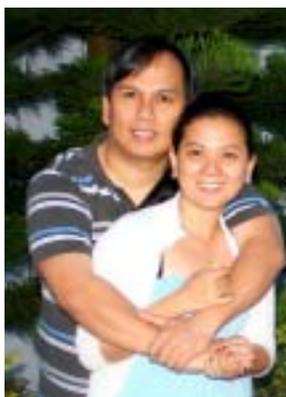


Ruben Tanseco, SJ

...ion, co-shepherds Doy and Becky Dizon, Jun and Marcia Balderas.



ME Auxies' Reflections



Blessed and privileged to serve

Chris & Gie Galang

ME 96

We didn't realize we were good and "exceptionally efficient" until Fr. Ruben Tanseco acknowledged us.

All we did was to serve. We felt the need to do it. We were certain we had to be there as auxiliaries.

We simply did what was told; and obediently followed instructions. To us it was like a task under time pressure. Others might do the same thing, as well. However, having our efforts recognized was surprisingly overwhelming.

We had our flaws; not everything went perfectly, but believe it or not, that was the best labor of love we ever participated in. Our class 96 has been very supportive not only during the recent weekend but at every scheduled class reunion. We are like one big happy family. The group's shared stories and experiences were very inspiring. Modesty aside, no wonder we came up with a successful sponsorship and assistance at the latest ME Weekend for Class 99.

We pray we will be an inspiration to the subsequent and future ME batches.

A beautiful MEW blessed by God

Uriel & Yella Castillo

ME 96



We felt the Lord teaching us to have faith when the ME Weekend happening at all was threatened because there were still not enough participants less than a week before November 20th...

We felt the Lord in the little everyday miracles, like supplies being adequate, schedules being followed, stomachs being filled, decorations eliciting smiles and "awwwws"...

We felt the Lord holding our hands as He built up the entire team's harmony from fumbling to "exceptionally efficient"...

We felt the Lord embracing most of the participant couples as they transformed from stiff and guarded to puffy-eyed to smiling then finally to warmly-hugging-us-auxies-goodbye.

Magis Deo Council...continued from p. 2

The prayer reflection ended with a group prayer asking for the light of the Holy Spirit and for a generous heart for all those who would be elected

After the prayer, Tina Mossesgeld read the names and described the relevant data and background of each of the Pastoral Council eligibles. The ballots were then distributed and members were asked to vote for the four members who would take the place of those whose terms in the Pastoral Council would be ending this year. In the front of the room, a table with a crucifix and two votive candles had been set up to create a prayerful atmosphere during the entire process. In front of the crucifix was a basket

into which members were asked to drop their ballots. After all the ballots had been cast, the ballots were taken outside the room by the Election Committee members for counting.

While the ballots were being counted, Monchito Mossesgeld explained the rules that covered the percentage of votes each council eligible must have to be elected. Hardly had he finished explaining the rules when members of the Election Committee walked into the room with broad smiles, carrying with them the results of the first round voting.

The Election Committee then excitedly announced that all the vacancies for the Pastoral Council had been filled up during the first round of voting. Monchito Mossesgeld

announced in alphabetical order the names of the new members of the Pastoral Council: Fil and Anne Alfonso, Gene and Eve Bañez, Anchit and Sally Chua Chiaco, and Benz and Vina Dimanalata. Each couple's name was met with resounding applause. Of the four couples, two are first time members of the Pastoral Council: Fil and Anne and Anchit and Sally. The election was immediately followed by a closing prayer of thanks for God's guidance and of petition for the four incoming members of the Pastoral Council.

Thus ended our community day of prayer and election. Our hearts were inspired to possess the spirit of Heroic Servant-Leadership and, through the grace of the Holy Spirit, the new Servant-Leaders of Magis Deo were elected in record time.

AIR 4 Reflections

Resurrection

Eli Prieto, Jr., Genesis of David
BCGG

In my life, I have experienced incessant restlessness. I keep yearning and searching for more and this yearning is never satisfied. I have experienced loneliness and emptiness but these, too, are never filled. I seek God. But many times I am frustrated because He seems unreachable. When God provides me with a solution to a concern, He opens up more areas of concern.

During the annual retreat (AIR 4) held at the Mornese Center for Spirituality in Calamba November 13-15 of this year, Fr. Manoling Francisco, SJ clarified that these are normal incidents in my life. In fact, **GOD IS THE VERY REASON FOR THESE EXPERIENCES.** He dwells in me. Since I have tasted Him in me, I constantly long for Him, whether I am aware of it or not, *whether I like it or not.* But since God is infinite, my finite and limited mind and feelings can never arrive through its own power, in Him. Too often, I can only experience God through my lack: my restlessness, my emptiness and my brokenness.

I can also experience God in my happiness and serenity. But these moments of happiness are **TEMPORARY** and **INCOMPLETE.** It is only in God that I can arrive at the absolute state of complete union that I constantly long for. It is only in God that permanent answers and solutions to my concerns and problems can be fully satisfied.

This is shown in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The resurrection shows that good triumphs over evil. In resurrection life prevails over death. Resurrection makes unconditional love reign in all eternity. The beauty of the resurrection of Jesus Christ is that I, too, can have eternity, being complete in Him

However, I can never attain this on my own. I **NEED** God to do this for me. Through freely sharing the experiences of Jesus Christ before His resurrection, I too can partake in the eternal resurrection of Christ.

This is why the poem "Footprints in the Sand" has a very profound impact on me. As God would tell me in the poem, "...My precious, precious child, I love you and I would never, never leave you during

your times of trials and sufferings. When you see only one set of footprints, it is then that I carried you."

Fr. Manoling clarified my concept of suffering during the Annual Ignatian Retreat (AIR) held March 13-15 of this year. During that retreat, I learned that suffering is a consequence of my decision to love. God does not will that I suffer. God's will and wish is for me to love unconditionally. During the follow-up AIR held November 13-15 of this year, I was illumined that the resurrection of Jesus Christ is the victory of God's indomitable love. The resurrection showed us that God's love is indestructible and unconquerable. Even death could not stop God's granting of His unconditional love to us. The resurrection made God's unconditional love a never-ending gift for us. God's unconditional love becomes infinitely accessible to us.



I have been loved unconditionally by my wife. But my infidelity shattered her trust – the basis of her unconditional love. She left me. Then one day, she called and asked me to meet her at the adoration chapel of a church. She was kneeling and praying when I arrived. Without uttering a word, I just knelt beside her. She raised her head to God, looked at me and said, "Sa harap ng Diyos at sa harap ng tao bibigyan ko ng isang pang pagkakataon ang ating pagsasama."

To me the resurrection proves that God's unconditional love is indomitable, indestructible. My infidelity could never wipe out God's in-dwelling love in my wife. Despite my infidelity, God also resurrected His love in me for my wife. I am a witness to the invincibility of God's unconditional love. I am a witness to Christ's resurrection.

My Second Wind

Ferdie Josen, Sirach BCGG

Athletes say "When you are tired, just keep on playing until the second wind comes wherein you will find new strength to win the game."

Last March 2009, I was one of the Magis participants in the Annual Ignatian Retreat (AIR) conducted by Fr. Manoling Francisco. Attending the AIR once a year is already a good exercise to recharge my soul.

When AIR's sequel was postponed to give way to Couples' Night, I thought there was no longer any chance of attending another one this year. But God has his own way of making things happen, and I found myself driving to Laguna in the early morning of November 14 to catch up with the AIR 4 group.

Since the topic of the retreat was Resurrection, Fr. Manoling asked on the last day if any one of us experienced a form of resurrection in our life. It was only then that I realized I was already resurrected without even noticing it.

When I encountered a prolonged personal crisis, my spiritual life got buried three years ago. Everything was black since my foundations in life were terribly shaken. I even attempted several times to resign from Magis Deo, but somehow my shepherd and my BCGG still took care of me despite my hopeless situation.

In 2007, God breathed a new life into my spiritual journey. Like a good potter, God remolded me as clay by allowing me to be of service to Him again in another capacity. I was able to regain my moral compass to distinguish between what is right and wrong. Fortunately, I was able to chart my path of life again towards the right direction. He even gave me a new and extended family that is not only church-based, but is also involved in the community where I live.

Looking back, it is always good to keep an open mind and entrust myself to Him to find clear direction in what I really want in life. This may be not the one that I prayed for, but I found peace and happiness in what I am doing right now as a church worker and a community servant. I hope and pray that I maintain my momentum in my resurrected spiritual life because after all, life is still beautiful.

YOUTH CORNER

Carline Chua Chiacó

Through the years ...

A tale of gratitude

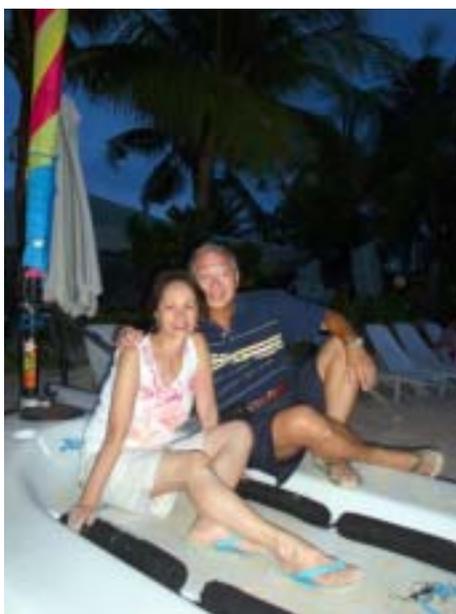
For years, I have lived the privilege of being my parents' daughter. All my life I've been sent to good schools, allowed a moderate social life, sheltered under a house, fed good food, and given sufficient avenues to channel my energies into. As a child, I was engrossed in books; and as a teenager, I was very much into sports. My childhood was colored with all sorts of literature: my trusty encyclopedia set, children's dictionary, bedtime stories, children's bible stories. In my teenage years my parents bought me horseback riding equipment, soccer shoes and shin guards, badminton rackets and shuttlecocks, goggles, track and field running shoes, volleyballs, basketballs, and bottle after bottle of Gatorade. They always made sure I was hydrated during my activities.

In my later teenage years, around the age of 15 and up, I'm pretty sure I was difficult to deal with. Just like every other teenager in that age group, I was full of curiosity; I was always on a constant search for more answers and more knowledge. More so when my sister abruptly passed away; I was devastated and didn't know how to deal with the tragic and sudden loss. I went through a time when I refused to have a relationship with the Lord. I was convinced that all relationships would eventually disintegrate. And when they did, I'd always be left behind and hurt.

Dealing with fallen friendships and accepting rejection from the male species were issues that I never discussed with my parents. I figured that their world was filled with matters more complicated, and that mine seemed petty compared to theirs. They were busy with

estate taxes and politics, the decline of the Philippine economy, and stock markets. Who was I to bother them with this girl who backstabbed me, and the boy who had confessed feelings for me and then walked away with no explanation? I was, after all, just a teenager. I didn't matter enough to them.

It was only shortly before I turned 18 that I realized how very wrong I was. They say that wisdom comes with age, and come it did! I took several moments to realize how big a mistake I was making by accusing my parents of lacking interest in me. Especially now that I am a few months into my college life, I have come to realize what they have done for me.



As a child, my mother and father were my first teachers. Patiently, my mother taught me academics and etiquette. I remember her sitting down with me, teaching me my school lessons, even if she was worn out from a long day at work. I remember my mother patiently making reviewers so that I could ace my final exams. She taught me to cover my books in plastic at a very young age (and I am quite good at it); she instilled in me a very good foundation for English and Filipino (though I know she'd beg to differ about Filipino, haha).

My father, on the other hand, preferred to take command of the outdoors. It was my father who so

willingly taught me how to bike, even providing me with the biggest range of protective gear available. I could never leave the house without my helmet, knee and elbow pads, proper footwear, and this oversized glow-in-the-dark vest that I always had to wear so that I would be seen by vehicle drivers. My father taught me how important it was to take part in house chores; though usually a woman's job, watering the garden was something I always saw him do. He taught me the value of organization, being the OC that he is. I grew up with labeled materials: labeled pens, labeled pair of scissors, labeled flashlight... name it and my father had closer to Him; drawing her strength from Him, accepting His will, though to her, things didn't make sense. I have never met anyone stronger and more faithful to the Lord than my mother. Many think she has a beautiful face; but even more beautiful, is her resilient spirit.

We often joke that my father wears the pants in the family, and that he has my mother's permission to do so. But during those times of hardship, he definitely proved us wrong. Somewhere between paying the bills, doing the groceries, taking care of household problems, driving me to my sports activities, and taking very good care of my mother, my father managed to personify the wedding vows that so many people take for granted, most especially the line "in sickness and in health." He fed my mother, bathed her, massaged her, bought her medicines, and fulfilled her every wish. He too, showed me the power of persistence, silent initiative, courage and strength; he was my mother's pillar, caregiver and best friend. It is because of those moments of strength and hope that I watched them share, that I have come to gain a whole new respect for the two of them, as well as standards for my future husband (haha).

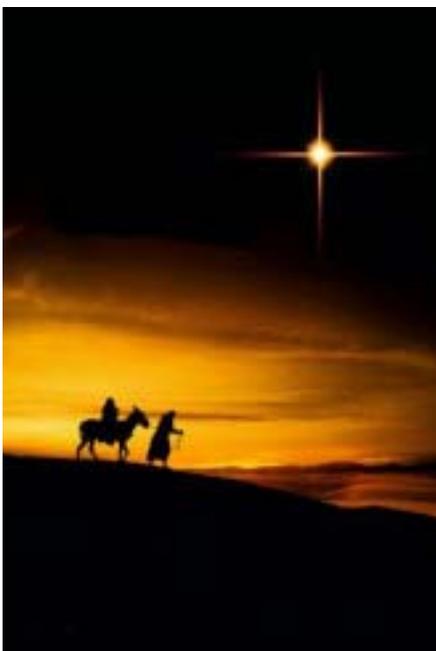
My relationship with my parents has definitely taken the higher road in the past few months. I've cried to my mom a few times (about issues that I would

Continued on page 13

LOOKING BACK, LOOKING FORWARD

Joy S. Uy-Tioco, Micah BCGG

November Emmanuel



November, one of the busiest months on the Magis Deo calendar is a season for endings and the fulfillment of beginnings. The month opens with the feasts of All Saints and All Souls – celebrating the end of one life and the beginning of a never-ending one. November unites us as one: we know that one day, we shall die, no one escapes this fate. And just as certainly, we believe with a passion that the indomitable love of our God makes it possible for us to live – and love – in spite of our mortality, beyond our mortality, beyond all time, in communion with God, and all the saints both living and the dead.

Gentle, gentle. I smile at the timing of our annual elections – even this is prophetic, the new overturning the old. November also marks the close of the liturgical calendar and just so we do not forget, Fr. Ruben will preach a homily reminding us that the last major feast of the year celebrates the kingship of the strangest king of all, by nature all power

and glory, yet choosing to live and love in naked vulnerability.

What a beautiful metaphor the ancients of our Church chose when they set December 25, the day of the winter solstice, to calendar as the birthday of our God! As the turn of the seasons brings our planet to the farthest end of its orbit around the sun, the nights slowly grow longer, the days shorter. Shivering in the early December morning for Simbang Gabi, it can be difficult to believe that the dark will end. But the turn of the calendar will eventually reach the longest night of all, and the Light of day will spring from above.

From now on all the days will grow longer, there is no day as short as Christmas Day. Each day from now on, the dark will inexorably retreat until it is extinguished by the Light of Easter.

Emmanuel, God loves us, now, at the hour of our death, and at the hour of our birth into the fullness of Light, forever, amen.

Through ... continued from page 12

have never shared with my parents before), and have had serious talks with my dad as well. I've come to see the wisdom in decisions I found so hard to accept before, and have seen many sides to my parents. We've also been spending more time together, which I absolutely love! A few months back we went to the mall together for the first time to do nothing but shop, eat out, and enjoy each other's company. A few weeks ago we even watched a movie together! I say things are definitely changing. I believe that it's a combination of God's grace and my newfound wisdom in realizing just how lucky I am to be blessed with parents like them. I am incredibly hopeful for what the future has in store for our family.

Dearest Mama and Papa,

I know that every year, my Christmas cards to you are filled with the same old messages. This year, I would like to do differently. This year, I would like to express my gratitude for everything that you have done for me; for these have come to shape the person I am today. I would also like to ask for forgiveness, for all the times that I have hurt you. I am sorry, and I ask for forgiveness, for the times when I was too insensitive to mind your feelings, and too selfish to understand your thoughts and your actions. I'm sorry if I pushed you away when you tried to reach out to me. Thank you for all your patience, for your kindness towards me (and Tammi, among others), for being role

models, for being my heroes. I want you to know that you truly inspire me. Thank you for constantly supporting me, believing in me, loving me, and most of all, never giving up on me. Thank you for allowing me to learn and discover certain things on my own; both my independence and strength have come from you. I sincerely hope to have better relationships with both of you. I know it will take time and effort, and I hope we can meet halfway.

I love you both, more than you can ever imagine, no matter what.

Merry Christmas, and thank you for a wonderful year.

*Love,
Carline*

SPIRITUAL TIDBITS AND HUMOR

Rey Mella, Council / Cana BCGG

My Predictable God

My family and I were spared from typhoon Ondoy and its wrath. Spared not just from the winds, the rains, the floods, but even spared from having to worry about it. Why? We were not in Metro Manila when it happened, during the entire time when people were scared, worried, trapped in traffic jams and flooded and going hungry. We were all in Los Baños to watch my son compete in the UAAP swimming tournament at the Trace College. As Metro Manila was ravaged by Ondoy, as it got flooded, and when the south superhighway got jammed and was shut down making it a huge parking lot, we simply experienced some rains in Los Baños. God is great. He has His reasons for allowing us to “miss” the typhoon and its after-effects. And, even as I prayed for those who were badly affected, we also expressed our gratitude for what we did not have to go through. In retrospect, maybe, we missed suffering with the people. I leave it up to God why.

I recently interviewed a supervisor whom I worked with in a previous company some 10 years ago. She had resigned from her job in order to take care of her baby. When she accomplished that goal, she wanted to get back to what she used to do well, work as a production supervisor. She found it difficult looking for the right job and the right company. Job opportunities are scarce especially for people who do not have a job.

During the interview with me to determine her fitness for the job and our company, I found myself easily empathizing with her situation. I have been where she was – having difficulty looking for a job because you had no job. You do not have anything to show as current occupation other than your previous experience, nor have any bargaining power, nor be in any position to negotiate.

I reflected that God allows “bad” things to happen to us or puts us in

difficult situations to help us become better people, better human beings, more humane managers and more empathetic Christians. We become more experienced and wiser with time. My past situation allowed me to exercise better judgment and possess more empathy. This is the good that always comes out of “bad” experiences.

One of my personal leadership styles is being predictable. I espouse and practice being predictable. It makes life simpler for my team to anticipate how I would think, how I would react to things, what I would do if I were in their shoes. I am easy to understand and anticipate. They know I am logical. They know I would be in the office between 5:30 and 6 AM everyday so they know they can catch me in my office at these times. I easily get upset about accidents, safety issues, mediocrity, slowness, lack of concern for people. I expect my leaders to be like me. Our maid, Ate Vergie, is also very predictable. There is always coffee right outside my bedroom at 4:30 AM on weekdays, every single morning. My baon, e-pass, sunglasses, books and headset would be in my car before I leave home. You can count on it.

Reflecting on my personal style, desire and practice of being highly predictable, I can also expect the same level of predictability from my God. I can always expect Him to deliver on whatever I need, whatever I pray for or ask of Him. It's always 100% response and delivery. Sometimes it is difficult to interpret, to understand and to clearly see His response to me. But I know He responds. I have to listen more, be more silent, and be more patient. Sometimes, His response can be delayed a day, a week, months or even years. There have been times when I only saw the beauty of certain events in my life several years later.

Having been alone, on my own, in college, gave me the kind of independence and self-drive I would need later as a leader. Having had to go through difficult times in my life provided me the humility, the wisdom and the kind of empathetic personality I would need to be an effective subordinate and superior. My living a bad life, a sinful life, in the past gave me the kind of fortitude and experience I need to have in order to be a good parent. Suffering from financial difficulties pushed me into being more prudent, more forward-looking, and less materialistic and being more generous in later years. Being a witness to sickness and suffering in our family allowed me to make a commitment to live a healthier life.

As Steve Jobs would say, “...you can't connect the dots looking forward; you can only connect them looking backwards. So you have to trust that the dots will somehow connect in your future. You have to trust in something - your gut, destiny, life, karma, whatever. This approach has never let me down, and it has made all the difference in my life.”

I have to trust in God that there is a reason and a purpose in practically everything that happens to me. This is what it means to be able to connect the dots looking backwards – trusting God.

Let this be a warning!

A local priest and a pastor stood by the side of the road holding up a sign that said, “The End is Near! Turn yourself around now before it's too late!” They planned to hold up the sign to each passing car.

“Leave us alone, you religious nuts!” yelled the first driver as he sped by.

From around the curve they heard a big splash.

“Do you think,” said one clergy to the other, “we should just put up a sign that says ‘Bridge Out’ instead?”

SCENES AND SIGNS OF FAITH

Clyde D. Abapo, Jeremiah BCGG

REFLECTIONS IN SIGHTS

Here are some reflections and insights during a prayer meeting.

Finding a lost crimp – This is likened to a story of a good shepherd who lost his sheep. We have an order of strands of shells which become attractive components of a finished chandelier. Each strand is has a tiny metal crimp at both ends that is attached manually. There are times during the crimping process that a crimp falls and gets lost. Since the quantity of crimps is just enough for the number of strands, I really have to spend time looking for the lost crimp. Finding it gives me a feeling of relief and joy.

Immense Power of God – Discoveries, inventions, and new technologies in science are gifts from God. These should never be used to

equal the power of God, but should give us an insight on God's wisdom, accessibility and power of salvation. For example, advancement or progress in computer technology or cellular phones can handle millions of messages and images at any given time. If this vast exchange of communication can be done by man, how much more can God do? There is reason to believe that our prayers can reach Him.

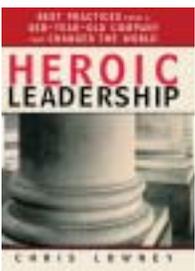
“Ok na ako, Lord. Ang iba naman.” – This is a one-line prayer of a famous local actress. My wife was touched with this simple but meaningful prayer. It defines a person's contentment, understanding, humility and compassion for others.

Rhythm of prayer – This is an insight from the introductory note of

the October 11-17 readings, that one has to be his/her real self in prayer. In the past, I admire and wonder how some people can be so deep in prayer that they seem to be in physical touch with God. I realized then that I am entirely a different and unique person and therefore, God has His own way of dealing with me. I think this is true for each of us.

Sacred Space – This is the title of our prayer book. These two words have a profound effect on me because they open my mind and heart to give space and time to the Word of God at the start of the day. This way God dwells in my subconscious even if I'm already filled with activities during the day. In short, there is a sacred space within me.

How Do You Grasp Your Own Leadership Role?



(Abridged version with some additional notes of pages 294-295 of Chris Lowney's book, Heroic Leadership. This was used by Fr. Ruben Tansaco, SJ as a hand out during the Nov. 28 Magis Deo Recollection before the

election of Pastoral Council members.)

How do you become a leader who makes the kind of impact on the world that Ignatius Loyola did?

- You appreciate your own dignity and rich potential. (Fr. Ruben reminded us of our own uniqueness, that we are leaders in our own uniqueness and need to maximize our potentials)
- You recognize weaknesses and attachments that block that potential.
- You articulate the values you stand for.
- You establish personal goals.
- You form a point of view on the world – where you stand, what you want, and how you will relate to others.

- You see the wisdom and value in the (awareness) examen and commit to it – the daily, self-reflective habit of refocusing on priorities and extracting lessons from successes and failures.

Self-awareness is the prelude to fulfilled, committed engagement with the world – and to greater, more heroic leadership. Leaders choose the impact they want to make. Whatever their chosen mission, be it “helping souls,” raising the next generation, writing a symphony, or selling insurance, those living the Jesuit (maybe for us the word is Ignatian) leadership way champion four values:

- understanding their strengths, weaknesses, values and world view
- confidently innovating and adapting to embrace a changing world (Fr. Ruben explains we should not get stuck in the past)
- engaging others with a positive, loving attitude
- energizing themselves and others by heroic ambitions

This way – like all genuine leadership – focuses on the possible, the future. Love-driven leaders seek out and honor the potential in self and others. Heroic leaders seek to shape the future rather than passively endure whatever unfolds. And ingenuity-driven leaders uncover ways to turn human potential into achievement and a vision of the future into a reality.

The formula has since been tested across generations, across continents, and across cultures. It has served explorers, mapmakers, linguists, astronomers, theologians, sannyasis, musicians, social activists, writers of children's stories, lobbyists, preachers – even school teachers and cannon manufacturers. It is the integration of the four essential pillars:

- self-awareness
- ingenuity
- love
- heroism (not to be Saints with a capital S or Heroes like Jose Rizal but to be saints with a small s and hero with a small h).

Calendar of Activities: December 2009 – February 2010

December 2009	Activity / Event	Venue	Sponsor(s) / Contact(s)
06	Family Day	PLDT Basketball Gym Boni Avenue, Mandaluyong City	Joy Rago 0919-657-7961 Charley/Jay Ng Sy 0929-961-9091
08	North Sector Meeting 7pm	TBA	Mon/Alice Go 444-3520
08	South Sector Meeting 7pm	TBA	Anchit/Sally Chua Chiaco 807-8493
09	Council Meeting	Magis Deo Office	Magis Deo 426-4206
10	Central Sector Meeting	Sison Residence	Jun/Mila Sison 633-0756
11-13	Spiritual Deepening Retreat (SDR) P3,500/couple, P1,800/individual	Canossa Retreat House, Tagaytay	MEFP 426-4206
20	MEFP Gift Giving	Tala Leprosarium	MEFP 426-4206
25	Birthday of Jesus		
January 2010			
08	Community Celebration Commissioning of New Council and Recommitment of All	San Carlos Lay Formation Center Multi-Purpose Hall, 3 rd Floor	South Sector
13	Council Meeting	TBA	Magis Deo 426-4206
23-24	CPPJ Seminar – P500/person	CEFAM	MEFP 426-4206
February 2010			
02	Sector & Ministry Heads Meeting	TBA	Magis Deo 426-7191
5 or 6	Community Celebration	San Carlos Lay Formation Center Multi Purpose Hall – 3rd Floor	Central Sector
10	Council Meeting	TBA	Magis Deo 426-7191

December Birthday Celebrants

1	Flor Pison	Micah 6:8
	Emilio Tumbocon	John
2	Ching Estarija	Ignatians-Isaiah 66
	Ghie Callangan	ME Class 95
3	Maryanne Alfonso	John
4	Frank Fernandez	ME Class 96
5	Mafi Caringal	ME Class 96
8	Boy Sevilla	John
	Myling Hernandez	Psalm 46-Samaritans
10	Milo San Pedro	Cana
11	Eli Prieto	Genesis of David
	Roxanne Espiritu	Beatitudes
	Yoling Sevilla	John
	Abby Tumbocon	John
	Jay-R Leccio	ME Class 90
13	Leo Soliman	Corinthians
14	Ricky Consulta	Mustard Seed
	Juan Caisip	Ignatians-Isaiah 66
	Myk Atienza	ME Class 89
15	Rey Eslava	Micah 6:8
	Edith Imperial	Ignatians-Isaiah 66
	Milo Monte	ME Class 90
16	Fred De Guzman	ME Class 89
20	Levy Espiritu	Beatitudes
21	Ted Concepcion	Archangel Gabriel
	Marichu Regino	Jeremiah
22	Rita Brawner	Sirach
	Star Santos	ME Class 95
23	Bong Punsalan	Sirach
	Vicky Babaran	Magnificat
24	Daisy de Guzman	Corinthians
	Nina Yuson	Sirach
25	Birthday of Jesus	
29	Francis Llamas	Philippians
	Ronald Caringal	ME Class 96
31	Audie Cortez	ME Class 90

December Wedding Anniversaries

1	Rolly & Muriel Macabuag	ME Class 91
	Jim & Pia Acevedo	ME Class 96
3	Boy & Elvie Lubguban	Magnificat
8	Conrad & Jing Fajardo	Ignatians-Isaiah 66
	Mannie & Pam Castillo	Thessalonians
	Rommel & Rose San Pedro	Emmanuel
	Jaear & Laarni Briones	ME Class 95
	Deo & Jhosie Galicia	ME Class 96

11	Ed & Sol Macalalad	Mt. Olivet
12	Ferdie & Sheila Joson	Sirach
13	Eric & Myling Hernandez	Psalm 46-Samaritans
15	Ed & Edith Imperial	Ignatians-Isaiah 66
16	Rey & Nette Arceo	Beatitudes
	Martin & Marlyn Tioseco	ME Class 95
18	Jon & Kleng Cobico	Thessalonians
	Gene & Leony Escosia	Emmanuel
	Sid & Ghie Callangan	ME Class 95
	Polly & Lucy Barola	ME Class 96
	Joseph & Levie Gomez	ME Class 96
19	Alex & Malou Caramat	Jeremiah
	Mon & Glo Umali	Magnificat
	Dwight & Monique Deato	ME Class 95
20	Philip & Malu Panlilio	Mustard Seed
22	Dick & Rowena Yulo	Arch. Gabriel
	Rey & Lucy Mella	Cana
	Tony & Bambi Narciso	CIA/Wisdom
	Benjie & Fely Santiago	Kapatiran Kay Kristo
	Carlos & Ruby Pizarro	Corinthians
	Bert & Remy Castro	ME Class 95
23	Bill & Ching Estarija	Ignatians-Isaiah 66
	Resty & Anna Tongol	ME Class 90
26	Rey & Nitz Eslava	Micah 6:8
	Paul & Nette Puthenpurekal	ME Class 95
	Janus & Cathy Genoring	ME Class 96
29	Rey & Esper Asperin	ME Class 96
	Flor & Voleth Belarmino	ME Class 96
30	Ariel & Jane Palomique	ME Class 89
	Ed & Mel Rada	ME Class 89
31	Neo & Marivi Gonzales	CIA/Wisdom
	Rufo & Louren Dacanay	Mustard Seed

Magis

Official Publication of the Magis Deo Community

Council Chaircouple

Monchito and Tina Mossesgeld

Managing Editors

Rufo and Louren Dacanay

Photographers

Ferdie Cruz
Anchit Chua Chiaco
Lito Quimel

Contributors

Rey Mella
Clyde Abapo
Zarah Gagatiga
Kimi Abapo

Editorial Board

Tina Mossesgeld
Tony del Rosario
Tony Narciso

Publication

Ramie and Mimi Santos

Please send articles, reactions, feedback to magisdeonewsletter@yahoo.com