



The Real Presence

Taga-Sambang Gabi ng Eukaristiya

(Nocte Adoratricum Eucharistia)



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Meaning of *Eucharist*?

How does our Beloved Mother lovingly render service to those who have ... consecrated themselves entirely to her?

1. Mary loves them ... truly and ... more tenderly than all the mothers in the world together ... looks for favorable opportunities to promote their interests ... gives them excellent advice ... inspires them to observe whatever Jesus Christ, her Son, has taught by word and example ... strips them off of all their natural inclinations, self-love, self-will and every attachment to creatures ... cleanses them from all stain, impurity and sin – making us worthy to appear without shame before the heavenly Father and, finally ... obtains for them the heavenly Father's blessing of (a) Divine grace; (b) Fertility of the earth; (c) Domination of other brothers – the reprobate sinners; and (d) He blesses all who bless them and curses all who curse and persecute them.

2. Mary provides for all their needs ... of body and soul ... nourishes them with the most delicious food from the banquet table of God, her Son, the Bread of Life ... and gives them double garments.

As the treasurer and dispenser of the gifts and graces of the Most High God ... she reserves the choicest portion for her children ... her servants.

3. Mary leads and guides them ... in accordance with the Will of her Son ... to obtain the blessing of His heavenly Father ... to guide all her faithful servants to avoid dangerous pitfalls to the path of eternal life ... to lead them by the hand along the path of holiness and steadies them when they are about to fall and she helps them rise when they have fallen ... to lovingly chastise them when they are remiss.

There is no danger of a true child of Mary being led astray by the devil. Where Mary is, Satan is nowhere to be found.

4. Mary defends and protects them ... against their enemies ... shelters them under her protective wings as a hen would her chicks ... escorts them as an army in battle array ... speaks to them with compassion and understanding ... accommodates herself to all their weaknesses.

A faithful servant of Mary is protected on all sides by her imperial forces ... millions of angels.

5. Mary intercedes for them ... with her Son ... appeases His anger with her prayers ... brings her servants into closest union with Him and maintains that union. **See next Column >>>**



Mary's Assumption.



How welcome to Jesus Christ – the Father of the world to come – is a child perfumed with the fragrance of Mary! How readily and intimately does Jesus unite Himself to that child!

Once Mary has ... heaped her favors upon her children, secured the blessing of the heavenly Father and obtained union with Jesus Christ ... *Mary keeps them in Jesus and Jesus in them.* She guards them ... watching over them unceasingly, lest they lose the grace of God and fall into the snares of their enemies Thus Mary inspires them to persevere to the end.

Thomas Merton's *Basic Principles of Monastic Spirituality* (1957) writes of his devotion to Mary, the Mother of God, with deep conviction and feeling: *The whole monastic life is lived ... in and with Mary ... our Mother ... who gave us the Word Incarnate ... who, by the perfect simplicity of her faith, received into her Immaculate Heart the full light of the Word.*

Life in the Spirit ... is a life which she herself has obtained for us ... and given to us as Mediatrix of all grace. The movements of our life in the Spirit ... are directed by her motherly heart. Hence, to acknowledge Mary as our Queen is ... to abandon ourselves entirely to the action of the Holy Spirit ... Who comes to us through Mary ... to be inspired by the Holy Spirit ... Who will tend, more and more, to reproduce in our lives the virginal detachment and the pure love of God which led Mary to submit her whole being entirely to the Will of God ... and we will give ourselves to the action of the Holy Spirit ... as she did.

The Holy Spirit

From *Renewed by the Holy Spirit*
By Rev. Fr. Richard Wang, SJ

After graduating from National Taiwan University, I had to take the mandatory 18-month military service. The Army released me in March 1958. After a 3-day retreat and upon my request, my parents granted me their permission to enter the Jesuit Novitiate. I was received at the end of August 1958 ... the first Chinese novice from Taiwan.

Looking back at that period of my life, I seemed to be a very happy, active and out-going young man but, in reality, I had many hidden spiritual and psychological problems.

In 1962, while waiting for the Philippine visa for the study of philosophy, I entered to my annual retreat with fellow scholastics at the Changhwa Retreat House. I vividly remember the first day ... over lunch ... someone read the passage: *Jesus wishes to enter in to your daily life ... if we allow Him to.* **See Page 2, Column 1 >>>**

On Renewed by the The Holy Spirit — Spouse of Mary ... I could not stop the tears from streaming down my eyes ... I lost my appetite ... totally overwhelmed by the love of Jesus ... inflamed by the love of our heavenly Father. The whole retreat was a honeymoon. I understood that encounter ... as the in-filling by the Holy Spirit. It was the turning point in my spiritual life.

One month after the retreat, I arrived in the Philippines. The consolation of the honeymoon decreased in intensity and eventually stopped ... desolation set in ... all my past spiritual and psychological difficulties re-appeared.

Born in 1934 in Hanko, Central China, as the eldest, my father was traditional Confucian striving for an upright life; mother was educated in a Protestant high school but seemed not to learn much Christianity. The war with Japan and the rise of communism affected us deeply. We moved to Taiwan in 1949.

My brother and I could not cope with the high academic standard in Taipei. Father enrolled us in a class taught by an American Benedictine nun. We also joined her catechism class and, consequently, I was baptized in June 1952 at the time of my graduation from high school.

In the summer of 1963, I read *Neurosis and Human Growth* by Karen Horey ... and was confounded by my serious psychological problems. I obtained help from my spiritual director ... and found strength from the continuous presence of Jesus in my heart.

In October 1967, even with external assistance ... I suffered a nervous breakdown ... a deep depression ... in my third year of theology at Fu Jen University in Taipei. During bad days, I lay face down ... reciting my prayer: *Jesus, I am powerless but you can save me from this rut.* Jesus sustained me during this difficult period.

In June 1968, I had recovered ... more or less ... but my ordination was indefinitely delayed. I resumed theology studies in September 1970. After a battery of psychological tests and a series of interviews ... and with Jesus healing my inner self, I was ordained to the priesthood on 26 June 1971.

Learning about inner healing but not knowing how to apply it, I prayed to Jesus for help. I was sent to Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley, California in 1973 ... where I joined a weekly prayer-group meeting ... participating in a very practical way to pray ... in a simplistic and spontaneous manner ... more effectively for wounded people.

In March 1977, I lined up to be prayed over by a Protestant minister. He asked me ... what I wanted him to pray for ... and I replied: *The charism for physical healing.* When he finished his prayer, he directed me to stand by my side.

The next in line was a person with a spinal problem. The minister told me: *Since I have prayed for you, now you pray for his physical healing.* **See next Column >>>**



I did pray ... and the person was ... healed!!! Thus began my ministry of physical healing.

Jesus transformed me ... a deeply hurt person, full of neurotic complexes ... into a minister of His love.



St. Joseph

From *Living the Beatitudes with St. Joseph*
by Howard Joseph Q. Dee (2004)

7th Mystery: The Death of St. Joseph. Gift of the Holy Spirit: Wisdom. Beatitude: Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, they shall have their fill.

Meditation – Wisdom 8:1-7. *Indeed, Wisdom reaches from end to end mightily She teaches Moderation and Prudence, Justice and Fortitude ... and nothing in life is more useful for men than these.*

Wisely, St. Joseph departs from the earthly world ... quietly ... fading away before the arrival of Jesus' appointed hour. Joseph has completed his mission ... fulfilling his assigned role as substitute of the Father ... having done the Will of

Him Who sent for him.

As surrogate father of the Messiah, Joseph was infused by the Holy Spirit with the Gift of Wisdom to perform his role to perfection ... producing in him the cardinal virtues of Justice and Fortitude, Prudence and Temperance.

Father Joseph, just and wise, you have run the race and emerged victorious, faithful and true. Please teach me Wisdom that my life will bring forth justice and truth ... that I walk the good path and have my fill of God's merciful love and His Holy Presence. Amen.



Angels and Archangels

Taken from *Breakfast with the Angels*
By Traci Mullins (1996).

Limited as we are to our steadily aging bodies, we are fascinated by angels ... who can take any form that suits the message ... with wings and great luminosity ... perhaps with pale skin and eyes of blue flame ... or in the guise of ordinary folks – male or female, young or old, tall or short ... any race, dialect and description.

Often, angels are not seen but rather felt or heard or sensed. People recount as shifting color in the atmosphere ... a dream ... a clarifying thought ... a surge of superhuman strength. Sometimes, only visible is the tip of a sword or a muscular arm flung out protectively.

Masters of disguise because ... their Master ... is the Creator of everything visible and invisible ... angels do their jobs well.

Reflection: Are you, Adorer, doing your job well?

On Silence

From *The Ragged Edge of Silence: Finding Peace in a Noisy World* by John Francis (2011)

The blue pick-up truck passed me. It was heading north. It turned around and came to a full stop just ahead of me. The air was charged and my body tingled as I walked past. **See Page 3, Column 1 >>>**



On Prayer

From *Christian Community Bible: Catholic Pastoral Edition, 6th ed.*
by Patricia Grogan, PCJ (1990).

John 16:1-33. *You will ask in My Name ...*
Through knowledge of Jesus ... within your spirit ... we, believers, will know what to ask of Him and He will give what we need to us. In the same manner, we will know the things which God does not want to give ... and, because of that we will neither desire nor ask for them.

Matthew 9:14-29. *Only prayer can drive out this kind, nothing else.* What is Prayer? Primarily, Prayer is to direct our spirit to God, to give us the spirit of prayer, to be able to communicate with God in the depth of our spirit **even while working** and giving our mind to the task set before us.

There are thousands of ways of praying ... of keeping our spirit oriented toward ... attuned to ... and energized by God ... striving to know, love, adore, serve, proclaim, and listen to God ... by reading and living the Bible – God’s Word ... by the chanting of the Psalm, the Divine Office (Opus Dei) and the Rosary ... by singing and celebrating the Eucharist.

At Medjugorje, our Blessed Virgin Mother said: *Pray, pray, pray! Prayer can stop wars ... and change the course of nature. Your prayer should be a prayer for peace. Satan is strong and wishes not only to destroy human life but also the planet on which you live. Pray ... be reconciled with one another and, by your lives, work that peace reign on Earth.*

In prayer, you will come to know the greatest joy and the way out of every situation. Always begin and end each day with prayer. I wish to lead you evermore in prayer; you do not grow because you do not want me to lead you. I invite you to let prayer have the first place ... and let your prayer be a prayer of the heart ... so that, in your prayer, you discover God ... and glorify God with your deeds.

On Silence ... The driver’s voice was gruff and irritated. He called to me: *Hey, boy, are you lost?* If he had addressed me *sir* or *mister*, I could have taken him as a friendly guy, but he said **boy** – that made my hair on my neck rise!

I peered into his window; he placed the barrel of a revolver to my head ... pulled the trigger and the hammer fell. Click! I heard no explosion. I looked past the gun into **his frightened eyes** ... *Get going!* He shouted.

Lesson Ten on Silence: Contemplation of Life and Death.
Objective: Explore a meaning of the ragged edge of silence.

Revisit a course of action you have decided to pursue ... the basis of our decision may have changed with the passage of time or in the course of further education or greater wisdom.

On my birthday, I revisit my decision to **be silent** and to **not use motorized vehicles**. Look at the phenomena of life and death around you and your own circumstances ... particularly if **now** you are feeling sickly or nearing the twilight of your life. Your perception may have changed ... giving you new meaning to the ... Eucharistic journey we are all on.



Brotherhood

Merton: A Biography

By Monica Furlong (1980)

Merton became Novice Master in 1955. *The Seven Storey Mountain* attracted many to the monastic life ... and they began arriving at Gethsemani ... even those who were **not** attracted for this reason. Postulants were coming in as far as Latin America.

One of them entered Gethsemani at 18 years of age ... expecting Merton to be serious and mystical-looking ... and instead discovered a teacher who was light-hearted and an extra-ordinarily lovable man: *Some of the monks might think that some of his ideas were wild but he was much loved. You couldn’t look up to him as an elder except in his spiritual teaching and his direction.*

In the many tapes of Merton’s lectures at the novitiate, the students are appreciative ... of his jokes ... rising quickly to allusions ... occasionally interrupting intelligently. Merton uses ... an informal style and slang ... to reveal deep academic knowledge of his subjects ... knowing how to use local jokes or events to make an idea stick ... and drive home spiritual truths.

One remembers Merton warning them about being **too** analytical about experiences in prayer: *When you are making love to a girl, you don’t spend your time analyzing the color of her hair, do you?*

Merton threads through the subjects of discussion – the Blessed Virgin Mary, mystical and ascetic life, St. John’s Gospel, St. Augustine, the problems of direction, the spiritual direction of contemplatives – with an incidental wisdom that was there for the novice ... to accept or ignore as he wished.

Merton was hard on wishy-washy ... lukewarm spirituality but the attitude was usually friendly and casual. You felt uplifted ... spiritually invigorated. Inside the monastery, Merton was establishing himself as a very good Novice Master ... intellectually, spiritually, psychologically and humanly ... equal, and more than equal, to the task ... and much loved ... more than he was perhaps able to appreciate ... in and out of the novitiate. **See Page 6, Column 1 >>>**



On Apostolic Works of Mercy

From *World Volunteers: The Guide to Humanitarian and Development Volunteering, 3rd ed.* (2006)
Edited by Fabio Ausenda and Erin McCloskey

A gap ... a chasm ... separates the rich from the poor ... the moneyed and the destitute ... the wealthy from the needy ... and that gap is widening ever faster. This separation is a grim reality in Africa, the Americas, Asia and Europe.

Fanaticism breeds terrorism ... and is the most dangerous by-product of poverty and under-development ... justifying wars and invasion. Some people no longer want to be spectators ... they want to **act** – to get into **action** ... to **volunteer**.

To find an organization to volunteer for or for starting a search for other organizations, check out these websites:

www.worldvolunteers.org/links.html; www.idealists.org;
www.avso.org; www.alliance-network.org; www.vfp.org;
www.oneday.takingitglobal.org; www.bond.org.uk;
www.charitypeople.com; www.oneworld.net; www.cnvs.org;
www.interconnection.org; www.kabissa.org; and www.ateneo.edu/jesuit-volunteers-philippines. Want more? Please email us.



Good Shepherd

On Leaders

From *Becoming a Spiritual Leader: A Life of the Apostle Peter* By Patrick Whitworth (2005)

Formation. Listen to Matthew 16:13-28, Mark 8:27-33 and Luke 9:18-27. For Jesus, the forty-eight hours that had just passed ... recorded many ... turning points: The death of His cousin, John the Baptist ... the *missioning* of the twelve ... the feeding of the five thousand ... the walking on water ... the attempt to make Him king ... and the desertion by many disciples who wanted something He could not give.

Jesus' popularity took a nosedive as the crowds realized that He was not about to rally an army against the Romans. Thus, Jesus chose to travel to Caesarea Philippi ... to the north of Israel for rest and re-creation ... a chance to re-group and talk seriously with the disciples about what lay ahead.

Caesarea Philippi, a frontier town of Israel situated north of the Sea of Galilee ... on the southwestern slopes of Mount Hermon ... was known as *Banias*. Roman Emperor Caesar Augustus gave the town to Herod; and Philip, Herod's son who became its tetrarch, rebuilt it in 14 AD ... and re-named it after both the Emperor and himself – Caesarea Philippi. It was a beautiful town which later grew into a city.

Mark 8:27 and Matthew 16:13 places Jesus and the twelve within ... the villages of the region of Caesarea Philippi. Here, Luke 10:21-22 records Jesus as saying: *No one knows Who the Son is ... except the Father; and no one knows Who the father is ... except the Son ... and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal the Father.* This means that the Son reveals the Father ... and the Father reveals the Son.

The Father is about to reveal the identity of His Son ... to Simon ... whose embryonic convictions of the identity of Jesus – after walking on water – needed ... affirmation and confirmation. Jesus initiates this revelation ... by asking a question ... first, generally, and then, more specifically.

Luke 9:18 tells us that ... it was while He was praying ... that Jesus initiates the encounter ... the revelation ... the conversation ... by asking the disciples: *What do people say of Me ... the Son of Man? Who do the crowds say I Am?*

The disciples answer with what is common knowledge to the crowds as to the identity of Jesus: *Some say John the Baptist – which sounds patronizing: John having been beheaded a few days back – others say Elijah or Jeremiah or one of the prophets* (Matthew 16:14).

The crowds recognized Jesus as a man of God or a prophet, at least. The Jews believed that Elijah would return before the coming of the Messiah. Jesus re-phrased the question ... this time, more specifically, on a personal level: *But you ... Who do you say I Am? Sino Ako sa iyo?* (Matthew 16:15).

The question hang in the air for a while ... the disciples looking at each other ... waiting for one to take the lead. In typical fashion, Simon takes the lead and ... with real confidence, says: *You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God!* (Matthew 16:16)

See next Column >>>

* On Leaders * On Virtues *

With his intellect and intuition, Simon arrives at his **conclusion** ... his **confession** ... his **conviction** – all revelations from the Father and confirmed by the Son (Matthew 16:17) – *Blessed are you, Simon, son of Jonah ... for this was revealed to you by My Father in Heaven.* This **confession** of Simon that Jesus is the Messiah ... the long-awaited Messiah Whom the prophets had spoken of ... formed the bases for Peter's future spiritual leadership of the Church ... and the mission of the Church on Earth.

Christian leadership begins with the conviction that Jesus is the Son of God; without this conviction, there cannot be effective leadership. In Simon's case, his conviction ... would be tested and strengthened in the years ahead ... coming to maturity and dynamism on the day of Pentecost. **Conviction** is the fruit of Revelation ... a God-given event ... giving rise to an oral **confession** ... of Jesus as Messiah.

Jesus continues His praise ... acclaim ... applause ... and commendation of Simon's inner conviction ... confession ... by stating (Matthew 16:18) – *And now I say to you: You are Peter – Rock – and on this rock I will build My Church ... and never will the powers of death overcome it.* This verse has been the cause of much controversy as to what Jesus meant. See Page 8, Column 1 >>>



On Virtue

From *Patience: How We Wait upon the World*
By David Baily Harned (1997)

Indifference and Impatience sometimes travel by different roads ... but arrive at the same destination – **boredom** ... a luxury which only the affluent can afford ... almost non-existent when mere subsistence or survival is a problem.

How can boredom be overcome? Apply the principle of limitation – The more you limit yourself ... the more fertile your mind becomes at invention. A prisoner in solitary confinement for life ... in solitude ... in quiet and in silence ... in joy and serenity ... becomes very inventive: *A spider provides him with much entertainment.*

Boredom – the **busy-ness** of infinite and constant change, such as the life of Don Juan, the seducer, whose appetite for novelty never encounters repetition – is a diversion that offers no relief ... because it does not acknowledge the real problem: The transformation of existence ... the ability to pause and stand still ... to spend time for reflection ... to gain a new perspective.

Boredom is the fate ... the result ... the fruit of ... Impatience and Indifference – because Boredom is entirely shut up within, and sees nothing beyond, self ... because Boredom blinds us to the fundamental truth that life is interaction ... conversation ... that we are made for conversation.

Hence, we become less and less interested in ourselves ... banishing others from our consciousness, except to acknowledge them as *impediments* in our path. Impatient persons see tomorrow ... merely as a repetition ... a replication of today. So, time offers no comfort ... and space provides no shelter.

Where once we had neighbors familiar to us ... now, our actions, or inaction, have produced a crowd of strangers ... whose connections to us are sometimes threatening ... sometimes inhibiting ... but *never* a source of enrichment. And so, we pass by one another without conversation ... and *busy-ness* See Page 9, Column 2 >>>



On Mission

The Master Plan of Evangelization

By Robert E. Coleman (1963)

Principle No. 3 – Consecration: Jesus requires Obedience. Jesus did not require His apostles to be smart or intelligent; He required of them ... loyalty, fidelity, faithfulness – **obedience** ... surren-

der, submission, abandonment to Divine Providence ... to the Master's sovereignty without compromise ... to give up old thought-patterns, habits and worldly pleasures ... to accept Love as their standard of conduct which found expression in obedience to the Master ... and to *eat the flesh of Jesus as the Bread of Life* – which was strong teaching that rapidly diminished the number of His followers.

But, Jesus did not run after those ... who valued their selfishness ... who did not count the cost ... who pretended to follow Him ... *to inflate their membership registry* ... to care for an aged father ... to bury the dead ... to bid farewell to the family ... *to follow Jesus but on their own terms* ... and on their own concept of discipleship.

In Luke 14:28-33, Jesus bluntly declares the cost of ... following and adoring Him. Some opportunistic ... Adorers did not want to have anything to do with Jesus because He would not satisfy popular expectations. Thus, Jesus asks His twelve apostles: *Would you also go away?*

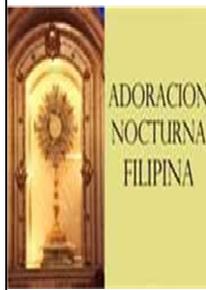
The reply of Simon that He is the Christ ... reassures Jesus of that bold declaration of affirmation at Caesarea Philippi. Thereafter, Jesus talks with greater honesty and frankness ... of His suffering and death.

Yet, the apostles were not a quick study ... slow to grasp and understand ... Jesus' mobile and vicarious ministry ... due to their human frailty ... their humanity. Jesus has to keep on hammering His death and its meaning to them, but it is not really understood ... until the day of betrayal.

In Matthew 16:18, Jesus christens Simon into Peter, the *rock* and foundation of His Church; four verses later, Jesus gives Peter a sharp rebuke, addressing him as Satan! Two chapters later, the apostles bicker over who would be greatest when, clearly, Peter has been given primacy. James and John seek the prominent places and the rest – displaying an envious spirit – were indignant towards the *brothers thunder*. We see the apostles harshly judging those disagreeable to them ... openly showing their irritation at parents who want Jesus to bless their children.

Through all these, Jesus patiently endured their human failings and shortcomings, and their spiritual immaturity, because they were willing to follow and obey Him ... even if they had not come to realize His purpose for their lives in leadership.

What little Revelation God had opened to them ... whatever little Wisdom they absorbed ... whatever little Truth they comprehended ... would grow and the apostles would learn more: **Obedience to Christ** was the very means ... for them to know the Truth (John 8:31-32); **See next Column >>>**



The ANF Constitution & By-Laws

Part II, Section II, Chapter II – The Section Executive Board. Article 79. The Section Executive Board is composed of the following ... and ... all other Turno officers – [BroDuffy: To keep the Board manageable, the Turno officers allowed in as Board members may be the Jefe, Secretary and the Organizers.]

Article 80. Parish Priests/Bishops/Archbishops are re-shuffled and promoted. In such an event, rather than wait, it is incumbent upon the Board to search for a new set of Director/Co-Director and make representations with their Bishop/Archbishop in this regard.

It is suggested that the second sentence of the second paragraph read thus: *All members of the board are appointed by the Director or his duly authorized representative.* So far, the National Council has not confirmed any appointment conferred on Section/Council officers except the National Council officers themselves. If the National Council neither confirms nor rejects the appointment, by way of doing nothing about it, is the appointment nullified? Of course not!

The third paragraph may also be attached to the second paragraph and re-worded thus: *All appointments carry a term of three (3) years renewable at the discretion of the Director/Co-Director.*

The second sentence of the fourth paragraph creates an atmosphere of conflict. The key word is automatically. If a nominee automatically occupies a post pending his official appointment, then that nominee is obliged to discharge his duties and thus effectively by-pass the Director ... forcing the Director's hands to accept the nominee; and, if the Director rejects the nominee, the nominee loses face.

Article 106 states that ... *appointments are noted by the ... Diocesan Council.* Necessary? If the Section does not forward the appointment to the Diocesan Council and thus a failure in notation occurs, are the appointments nullified? Too much bureaucracy holds back an efficient army from doing its work effectively and efficiently.

Article 81b. [BroDuffy: The Section may have as its objective on a yearly basis: (1) Establishment of at least two Turnos; (2) Re-activation of at least one dormant Turno; and (3) Prevent the dormancy of any Turno.]

Article 81f. No such report reaches the National Council. [BroDuffy: We are at war! Satan knows how many devils he has in his army, where they are deployed to do battle with Adorers. The National Council does not ... sadly.]

Article 81g. Transmits? Only.

Article 81i. The Section which does this must be commended and be given recognition. **(September 2013: Chapter III Section Officers)**

On Mission ... Jesus is Obedience in human form. By His Divine Word and the human obedience of His apostles, Jesus would mold and re-form their lives. No development without re-formation of character; no fruit of the Holy Spirit ... without obedience.

We are at war; lives are at stake. Everyday that we are indifferent to our responsibilities ... as Adorers and soldiers of Christ ... is a day added to the prevention of the Second Coming of Christ.

Remember: Our goal is world conquest and Jesus is training leaders so that His Church will attain this goal ... **See Page 6 Column 2 >>>**



Tarcisian Challenge:

From *Letters from Medjugorje*
by Wayne Weible (1991)

Medjugorje visionary *Ivan Dragicevic* undertook his first speaking tour in the United States in late 1990. The boy, who had run away on the first day that Our Lady appeared on the rise of the hill, runs no more.

Ivan speaks boldly and wisely now. He speaks mostly to youth groups and, during his tour, the power of prayer is usually the main subject of his messages.

The message for the youth: **Pray!** At a school in Pennsylvania, more than 1,500 students remained after Ivan's talk to voluntarily pray the full fifteen decades of the Rosary.

Our Blessed Virgin Mother, Mary, asks for prayer ... pray with your hearts. Ephesians 6:18 – *At every opportunity, pray in the Spirit; use prayer for petitions of every sort. Pray constantly and attentively for all in the holy company.*

[BroDuffy: Tarcisians got talents! How may we help you prepare emerging Tarcisian talents for the world stage?]

On Brotherhood ... Merton's profound change in attitude is indicated in his *Basic Principles of Monastic Spirituality* (1957). Nothing was blindly accepted anymore. Merton was now asking questions ... what the monastic life is supposed to achieve ... whether life as lived at Gethsemani helps or hinders it.

Merton writes about monastic life: *It is a life totally abandoned to the Holy Spirit ... a life of humility, obedience, solitude, silence, prayer ... renouncing our own desires and our own ways ... to live in liberty as sons of God ... which we have known but tend to forget. It is a question which confronts us ... with a new meaning and a new urgency ... as we live through our life, day by day.*

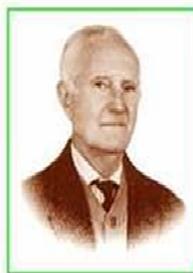
Merton saw the answers to his questions in the area of ... a search for God and not ... a mission to accomplish this or that work ... *obra* ... for souls.

Reflection: For Adorers, does life in *Adoracion Nocturna Filipina* in Turno/Section/Council help you achieve your goals? Or, are you hindered in Turno/Section/Council?

Prayer Requests:

1. For the eternal repose of: (a) **Bro. Nestor Valdez**, VP-West Bicol, who passed away on 03 July 2013 (from the President of the Archdiocesan Council of Caceres, Bro. Virgilio D. Pontanal); (b) **Bro. Robert Esteban** (from his cousin, Rev. Fr. Carmelo C. Estaban SMM); (c) **Sis. Adoracion Magararu**, mother of Rev. Fr. Richard Magararu (also from Fr. Carmelo); and (d) **Bro. Benjamin R. Enverga**, ex-Jefe de Turno 146, who passed away on 26 June 2013 (from Bro. Restituto V. Ramos, RCST-Secretary); and

2. From BroDuffy — For the safe journey home: (a) From the United States of Sis. Nolina D. Cayabyab, Trinidad A. Gozun and Ma. Ruby J. dela Cruz; and (b) my niece, Freya L. Moxter, from Canada to Frankfurt, Germany.



Alberto Capellan Zuazo. Declared Venerable on 06 April 1998 by Pope John Paul II. For beatification, do pray: *O God, You granted Your servant, Alberto Capellan Zuazo, a great love for the mysteries of Your Body and Blood, and the charism of finding and serving You in the poor: make me also able to pass through this life intimately united to You, serving You in the neediest of our brothers and sisters. Deign to glorify Your servant, Alberto, and grant me through his intercession this favor that I ask of You (state request).* Amen. (Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be



Heroes of the Faith: Eucharistic Adorers

Crusader evangelist Billy Graham encouraged world-renowned American folk singer Johnny Cash to finish his book *Man in White* (published 1986) which relates the life of Saul, before the Damascus experience, and, after that encounter, as Paul. Johnny Cash offers an answer to the question *Why did the Jews lay their clothes at Saul's feet ... before stoning Stephen to death?*

At the Sanhedrin, the Jewish Council, Saul had presented false witnesses against Stephen who, given the chance, spoke of the Truth in proclamation of Jesus ... thus further strengthening the cause ... of violence and destruction ... of Saul (Acts 7:1-60). Without waiting for the written order of the Sanhedrin and the affirmation of the Roman governor ... obliging the stoning of Stephen ... Stephen is dragged out of the *Hall Gazith* – the *Palace of Hewn Stone*, the Sanhedrin's council chamber ... – and thrown off the rocky ledge ... of the brow of a cliff overlooking the Valley of Kidron, directly across from the Mount of Olives.

At Saul's behest, the Temple elders, their servants and the guards who dragged Stephen to the cliff ... took off their garments and dropped those at Saul's feet (Acts 7:58b) ... so that no one could later prove that this execution was carried out without the written sanction of the Sanhedrin and that of the Roman governor.

After Damascus, Saul ... inwardly transformed by the Holy Spirit ... as Paul, would build a new people of God. The exchange or dialogue between Jesus and Saul ... on the way to Damascus ... took all of one great paramount minute in the history of mankind ... which determined the destiny of billions of people – that is the *theory of chaos*, in mathematics, now known as **The Butterfly Effect**: *A small seemingly insignificant act ... creates great consequences.*

On Mission ... and a good leader has to learn how to follow.

Jesus brings up His future leaders from the ranks ... drilling in them the necessity for ... obedience, discipline and respect for authority. Insubordination is not tolerated. Absolute obedience to the Master's Will is required ... and complete abandonment of their will to His.

Slackers – those who delay and procrastinate ... and put off for tomorrow what can be done today – have no place in the Kingdom of God. We, Adorers and soldiers of Christ ... See Page 9, Column 2 >>

Apparitions & Miracles: Science vs. Religion?

From *The Miracle Detective: An Investigation of Holy Visions* By Randall Sullivan (2004)

Visions, ecstasies and supernatural manifestations, Benedict XIV warned 18th century Church leaders ... could come from God as well as from Satan. Benedict offered practical advice on distinguishing between divine revelation and the results of an unsound mind or a diabolical plot.

Benedict wrote: *Mental illness may be supposed if ecstasy is followed by weariness, sluggishness of the limbs, clouding of the mind and understanding, forgetfulness of past events, paleness of face and sadness of mind. The Devil's involvement is suggested when ecstasy result to indecent words and movements or great contortions of the body. Divine Ecstasy takes place with greatest tranquility of the whole person, both outwardly and inwardly; and, when the ecstatic returns to himself, he is humble, cheerful and secure, showing not the slightest pleasure in the attention of bystanders.*

Rev. Fr. Peter Gumpel, SJ informed me that, in its entire history, the Holy See has not recognized any apparition of our Blessed Virgin Mother ... not at Lourdes nor at Fatima. Bernadette Soubirous of Lourdes was canonized 18 December 1933, on the basis of four miraculous healings passed by the medical board, but her canonization gives more credibility to what she said. Yet, the Church has refrained from making a binding statement that miracles ... took place.

Thankfully, said the priest, the problem of Medjugorje and other apparitions of our Blessed Mother belonged not to the Congregation for the Causes of Saints but to the pre-eminent branch of the Roman Curia ... the much more powerful and secretive ... Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith which was, at the time of its founding in 1542, called the Congregation for the Holy Inquisition of Heretical Error or the Inquisition – which really had been operating for more than 300 years, from the time of the *Excommunicamus* promulgated by Pope Gregory IX in 1231.

The Inquisition is most notorious for how it functioned in 15th century Spain, where Grand Inquisitor, Tomas de Torquemada, supervised the arrest, torture and execution – often, by burning at the stake – of thousands of accused heretics. The Inquisition operated more discreetly in Rome, where the father of the scientific revolution, Galileo Galilei, was spared execution with a life sentence and permitted to serve it under permanent house arrest; Giordano Bruno who was burned at the stake. By the 18th century, less concerned with the heresy and more with scholarly vetting ... a thorough examination ... of theological doctrine, the Inquisition had become known in Rome as the Holy Office. Since the Second Vatican Council of 1962-1965, it has been called the Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

This Congregation used to be headed by Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI. Within the Roman Curia, intellectuals opposed his positions ... **See next Column >>>**

that theologians are more concerned with accommodating the world than defending their faith ... that many Catholics are unwilling to oppose what the elite presents as progressive, logical and self-evident ... that Satan is a *real presence*, possessed of super-human powers and unrelenting in its opposition to God ... that he blocked those most intent upon seeing that the devotion to the Virgin Mary – in Lourdes, Fatima and Medjugorje – were condemned.

Rev. Msgr. Robert J. Sarno, the senior American at the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, to whom I revealed my interest in Medjugorje, shook his head in apparent skepticism, Saying: *I believe in Lourdes and I tend to believe more in Fatima than in Medjugorje ... because of the facility with which the Blessed Mother appears in Bosnia ... and this whole idea of Ten Secrets. My skepticism of the Medjugorje visionaries ... is not skepticism of their sincerity ... but that they may be sincerely deluded.* He was silent for a few seconds, then said: *Of course, a crazy person can be right.* Adding: *God's grace can work through ... what in human terms ... is error.* **(September 2013: Pius XII's Beatification)**



On False Prophets

Taken from *Christian Community Bible: Catholic Pastoral Edition, 6th ed.*
by Patricia Grogan (1990)

Matthew 7:15-20. False Prophets are people, ideas and trends ... that lead us to a wrong direction. We acclaim false prophets to be good because ... we like the person ... we easily find arguments to justify his deeds and his fruits. Without good reason, we become enthusiastic for his ways ... and, if it brings us far from the Gospel, then we declare that the Gospel is not to be followed literally.

Young people enslaved by consumerism and secularism; common people, working men, Church workers divided and unreconciled by jealousy, envy and pride ... elders who waste time watching TV – these are some fruits of false prophets ... bad, rotten trees.

Most people distrust and belittle, calling names ... those who belong to another group ...but they justify and rationalize their own mistakes and the crimes of ... their Turno/Section/Council.

Jesus condemns those promoting divisions and lies ... verbal assaults and violence ... even if they claim to serve a just cause. Thus Jesus affirms a basic moral principle: *The Ends do not justify the Means*. However, socialism ... which is an intermediate phase on the way to a utopia ... an ideal, called communism ... by making the State justify both the means and the ends ... violates the very first commandment *You shall have no other gods before Me* and proceeds to violate the other nine with wild abandon.

Socialism exalts the State in place of God. Christians hold dearest a God whose laws supersede those of any man and, sees the State as a temporal institution meant to serve man. The socialist state reverses the role – man serves the eternal State. **See Page 11, Column 1 >>>**



Wisdom of the Ancients

Psalms 47. At end-times, the Lord comes to begin His Kingdom. He goes up to His Temple in Jerusalem. He is not the God of a small nation nor a minority church ... but all the nations acknowledge Him. This triumph began with the Ascension. **See Page 9, Column 2 >>>**

If you want God to take delight in you, show Him your business plan.



Health Tips

From *The Whole Grain Diet Miracle*
By Drs. Lisa Hark and Darwin Owen (2006)

Eat whole grains – unpolished rice, for one – and experience ... a miracle!! Eating more whole grains in their natural form helps you ... control your weight, reduce your risk of heart disease, diabetes and colon cancer, lower your blood pressure and bad cholesterol levels ... thus prolong your life.

The *bran*, or outer skin of the whole grain, provides fiber, B vitamins, minerals, trace elements, anti-oxidants and phytochemicals. The *endosperm*, or middle layer, is a source of protein, carbohydrates and vitamins. The *germ*, or inner layer, is a rich source of vitamins, minerals, unsaturated fats, phytochemicals and anti-oxidants.



On Leaders ... Protestant teaching refute the Roman Catholic claim that the primacy of the Papacy is based on its succession to Peter than on conformity to Scripture. It argues that it is not Peter himself who is the rock upon which the Church is built but upon his *confession* that Jesus is the Messiah which is the *true rock* on which Jesus would build.

In fact, Jesus ... did address Peter himself ... did say that Peter was the *rock* upon which the Church would be built ... not because of what Peter was *then* ... but because of what Peter would eventually become ... on and after Pentecost. Peter was *becoming* a spiritual leader ... as we all are *becoming* a spiritual leader – but no one has finally arrived!!

The name Jesus bestowed on Simon – Peter – and the role Jesus gave to Peter in building up His Church ... testify to the call of God and His gifts which, despite Peter's repeated failures ... were *irrevocable* or to quote Paul in Romans 11:29 ... *cannot be nullified*.

Peter is an example of how Jesus takes frail and mistaken humans and transforms them into leaders in His Church. Peter was *chosen* ... not because he was sinless or always right – he was not ... but because God would give Simon ... the grace to *become* what God intended him to be. In Matthew 16:18, Peter would not be overcome by evil; Jesus did not say that Peter would not make a mistake.

So, now, Peter is the *rock* And, Jesus gives to Peter the spiritual authority in Matthew 16:19 – *I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven; whatever you bind on Earth shall be bound in Heaven, and whatever you unbind on Earth shall be unbound in Heaven*.

This binding and unbinding refers to the exercise of spiritual authority in the Church ... described as the ministry of the keys ... which leaders in the Church, in its first four centuries were to frequently exercise ... giving bishops authority to permit or prevent ... teaching or activity in the Church.

In his writings, Peter frequently refers to Jesus Christ as ... the *true rock* – as if having been appointed by Jesus as the rock of His Church, Peter turns around **See next Column >>>**

and reveals Jesus to the world as the Living Stone ... the cornerstone which the builders have rejected (1 Peter 2:4) – *He is the living stone rejected by people but chosen by God and precious to Him*.

In 1 Peter 2:5-8, Peter points to Jesus as both cornerstone of the Church and a stumbling block to those who do not believe and live the life of Christ. The Church is a spiritual temple ... made up of living stones ... like us, Adorers ... shaped together to form a building in which God is present by His Spirit.

We, Adorers, like Peter ... are *rocks* added to the building of the Church because we truly confess that Jesus is ultimately the **ROCK** upon which the Church is founded. Let us, Adorers be ... living stones and not stumbling blocks ... as Jesus builds up His Church.

Our **conclusion** ... our **confession** ... our **conviction** ... that Jesus is the *true rock* of the Church ... has been revealed to us by the Holy Spirit of the Father and the Son and is ... the fuel that drives our engine for mission. Therefore, if there is no revelation, there will be no conclusion, no confession, no conviction, and, finally, no mission. If Turno/Section/Council is not on mission, it is because

After the *rock* scene ... Jesus orders His disciples ... *not to tell anyone about Him being the Christ* (Matthew 16:20). Perhaps, this order for silence bewilders and confuses the twelve disciples. Why keep quiet about this astounding, earth-shattering revelation from the Father that he Son has confirmed?

Clearly, the revelations from the Father to Peter are only ... a small part of the Father's entire plan of salvation – *Act One*, as it were. *Act Two* has not yet been revealed by the Father to Peter and the rest of the twelve; the **next revelation** would show what Jesus had come to do for His Father ... and, in all honesty and humility, Jesus proceeds with the revelation ... that He has to suffer and die (Mark 8:31-32). At this, Peter took Jesus aside ... as a master would a slave ... and rebuked ... reproached and remonstrated Him – *Never, Lord! No! This must never happen to you* (Matthew 16:22)!

Peter assumed ... that Messiah would ... gain *pogi* points from the people, rally them into a cohesive army ... march onto Jerusalem ... assault and overwhelm the Roman garrison ... and restore to freedom the kingdom of Israel. Hence, to Peter, the idea of Jesus being put to death by the leaders of his own people without liberating Israel from the Romans was incomprehensible.

Better, to Peter, if Jesus had died a violent death but overthrew the Romans. He apparently thought that Jesus, in a brief moment of uncertainty ... had wavered when confronted with the greatness of His task of liberation for Israel. Hence, he knew deep in his heart, with new found confidence ... brought about by receiving revelation from God moments ago plus his usual bravado ... that he had to straighten up Jesus by talking Him out of His plan of suffering and death.

Witness a dramatic reversal: Peter's conviction of Jesus having been revealed to him by the Father collapses. Jesus' response to Peter's over-indulgence is ... *frightening!* Moments before, Jesus addresses Simon by name with dignity ... and, to acknowledge the transforming grace bestowed on him by His Father, He christens Simon with a great name – Peter ... *Cephas* ... **Rock!** But, now, Jesus comes up to Peter's face ... as close to him as possible ... and without addressing Peter by name, rebukes him very strongly (Matthew 16:23) – *Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; your thoughts are not from God but from man!* **See Page 9, Column 1 >>>**



On Leaders ... Peter moved ... in the space of a few minutes ... from *rock* to *stumbling block*; the *rock* as a result of divine revelation and the *stumbling block* due to demonic interference and subsequent corruption of Peter's mind.

Privately, Peter's thoughts had been inspired by revelation from the Father ... now, they were informed by the wiles of Satan. All the time that Jesus was heaping up praises on Peter for his conclusion ... confession... and conviction, Satan was at work, tempting and deceiving Peter. Jesus rigorously tells off ... and berates Peter. Peter had not yet been able to distinguish between the divine and the demonic.

Lesson Learned – 1/3. In leadership, the cycle of success and failure, highs and lows, peaks and valleys, crests and troughs ... is typical and follow a pattern similar to Peter's experiences. The issues are: **(1) Identity – *Sino si Hesus sa iyo?*** **(2) Mission – *Ano ang pinagagawa ni Hesus sa iyo?***

If Peter's spiritual and mind's eyes were already opened by the Father as to the identity of Jesus, those same eyes were still closed ... unopened ... as far as the mission of Jesus in the world was concerned. Just as Peter needed a second touch on his spiritual sight to see and understand ... both the identity and mission of Jesus, we, Adorers also need re-direction ... re-formation ... and re-evangelization.

Lesson Learned – 2/3. Peter moved from the solid ground of revelation to the flimsy sand of human assumptions ... which he had invested with surety and certitude which those assumptions did not deserve. So, Peter had to be slapped down ... not because Jesus wanted to humiliate him ... but because it would be for the instruction ... the benefit ... of those who would succeed Peter.

At times, leaders need and require correction. If leaders are in positions where correction cannot reach them ... or where correction is not given to others, then that leader is liable to malfunction. Within the teams ... of Turno/Section/Council ... in which we work as leaders, such correction should be possible ... with full unspoken permission ... to ask the awkward questions and to speak the unwelcome truth.

Lesson Learned – 3/3. Peter's experience shows us, Adorers ... that, however great the revelation we receive from the Father and the Son through the Holy Spirit, it is very possible that ...we, through either purely human motivation or demonic disturbance, may be corrupted and taken off course – even at the very moment of our greatest triumph.

God disciplines His children whom He loves. He corrects us through His Word. And the leader himself ... is to be like Jesus, to teach both positively and negatively ... upholding the good and warning us of the wrong which Peter himself teaches in his own letters of instruction ... made abundantly clear in 2 Peter 1:5-15.

Rev. Fr. Victor S. Nicdao of the Archdiocese of San Fernando, in *Sambuhay* of 23 June 2013, shares his thoughts in *Opinions and Personal Encounter*: **See next Column >>>**



His Excellency
Most Rev. Socrates B. Villegas, D.D.
Archbishop of Lingayen-Dagupan
Born 28 September 1960 at Manila.
Sacerdotal Ordination: 05 October 1985 in Manila.
Episcopal Ordination: 31 August 2001 in Manila.



His Excellency
Most Rev. Sergio L. Utleg, D.D.
Archbishop of Tuguegarao
Born 11 September 1943 at Solana Cagayan.
Sacerdotal Ordination: 30 March 1968 at New York.
Episcopal Ordination: 17 March 1997 at Tuguegarao.



His Excellency
Most Rev. Jose R. Rojas, Jr., D.D.
Bishop of Libmanan
Born 18 August 1956 at Cebu.
Sacerdotal Ordination: 29 March 1981.
Episcopal Ordination: 15 September 2005.

On Leaders ... *But you, who do you say that I Am? A question that must be asked ... and answered, again and again. Like Peter, we are asked to confess ... the Jesus Whom we have personally and intimately ... encountered. We proclaim Jesus Who loves us in our lives. In this Year of Faith, confess our Faith ... and pass on that Faith.*

The Greek philosopher Seneca wrote that Truth is a gradual unfolding. Six days after the scene described above, the three inner-core disciples – Peter, James and John – were given yet further revelation as to the identity and mission of Jesus ... at His transfiguration at Mount Tabor. **(September 2013: Transfiguration)**

On Virtue ... has become the principal source ... the reinforcement and excuse for ... our Indifference ... and our Impatience.

Impatience never pauses for reflection or examination, meditation or scrutiny. Everything grows and becomes strange, as shallow as the self itself ... and, hurtling on like an avalanche, it heads toward Ignorance. The ignorant, impatient person ... seeks to escape his condition by acting ... just to see what will happen, for the fun of it ... for something to do ... to pass the time – which is to say ... for no reason at all — the mentality of gangs that prowl urban streets.

(September 2013: The Defense of Patience against Impatience)

On Mission ... use NOW what little we know of what Jesus wants us to do for Him ... no matter how immature our understanding of that may be.

Why is the *Church* frustrated in its mission of witnessing ... to the world? Because **Obedience to Christ** is now the *respectable* philosophy of expediency and contentment, complacency and mediocrity!

Followers must have leaders before much can be done about ... *Adoracion Nocturna Filipina* membership; start like Jesus did: *Get a few chosen ones and instill in to them the meaning of obedience.*

(September 2013: Principle No.4)

On Wisdom ... Psalm 87. *All men are born in her.* God looks on all the peoples of the world and inscribes them in His book ... as if they were children of His Holy City ... Mary. The New Jerusalem is the Church ... the Mother of all peoples. The living image of the Church is Mary, Mother of all believers, Mother of all the faithful.

His Holiness Pope Francis



Birth Name: Jorge Mario Sivori Bergoglio
 Born 17 December 1936 at Buenos Aires.
 Sacerdotal Ordination: 13 December 1969.
 Episcopal Ordination: 27 June 1992.
 Elevated to Archbishop: 28 February 1998
 Elevated to the Cardinaliate: 21 February 2001 at St. Peter's Basilica, Vatican City.
 Assumed the Papacy on 13 March 2013.

Episcopal Ordination – September 2013: Bishop Jose R. Rojas, Jr. of Libmanan; Bishop Manolo A. de los Santos of Virac; Bishop Jose F. Advincula of San Carlos; and Bishop Elenito R. Galido of Iligan.

Foundation Anniversaries – September 2013:

- 32nd Year – Archdiocesan Council of Nueva Caceres; and
- 33rd Year – Diocesan Council of Balanga (27 September).
- 76th Year – Section 5 Vigan (11 September 1937);
- 50th Year – Section 29 Tarlac (27 September 1963);
- 43rd Year – Section 40 Los Banos (19 September 1970);
- 33rd Year – Section 60 Samal (27 September 1980);
- 22nd Year – Section 111 Nabua (17 September 1991);
- 18th Year – Section 120 San Roque (02 September 1995);
- 14th Year – Section 129 San Isidro, Nueva Ecija;
- 14th Year – Section 130 Sta. Rosa, Nueva Ecija; and
- 14th Year – Section 131 Laur, Nueva Ecija (20 September).
- 90th Year – Turno 4 Sta. Clara, Pasay (14 September 1923);
- 90th Year – Turno 31 Gumaca (21 September 1923);
- 85th Year – Turno 129 Tanauan (21 September 1938);
- 60th Year – Turno 261 Vinzons (05 September 1953);
- 60th Year – Turno 262 Polangui (19 September 1953);
- 60th Year – Turno 269 San Ildefonso (06 September 1953);
- 60th Year – Turno 273 Camalig, Albay (21 September);
- 60th Year – Turno 274 Tubao, La Union (26 September);
- 55th Year – Turno 641 Rizal, Laguna (13 September 1958);
- 55th Year – Turno 642 Subic (27 September 1958);
- 55th Year – Turno 643 San Felipe, Zambales;
- 50th Year – Turno 847 Villamor Air Base (07 September);
- 50th Year – Turno 848 Capas, Tarlac (20 September 1963);
- 45th Year – Turno 996 San Antonio, Bacolor;
- 30th Year – Turno 1269 Green Park, Pasig (24 September);
- 20th Year – Turno 1471 Maasin, Iloilo (15 September);
- 15th Year – Turno 1561 Holy Cross, Makati; and
- 10th Year – Turno 1604 Floridablanca Resettlement);
- 41st Year – Tarcisian Turno 45 Indang (02 September);
- 38th Year – Tarcisian Turno 80 Orion (28 September 1975);
- 37th Year – Tarcisian Turno 84 San Juan de Trozo;
- 35th Year – Tarcisian Turno 98 Our Lady of Sorrows;
- 26st Year – Tarcisian Turno 185 Palanas, Masbate;
- 24th Year – Tarcisian Turno 194 Victoria, Laguna;
- 24th Year – Tarcisian Turno 198 Matas NA Kahoy; and
- 22nd Year – Tarcisian Turno 217 Cainta, Rizal (September).

Birthdays – September 2013: Archbishop Socrates B. Villegas of Lingayen-Dagupan; Archbishop Sergio L. Utleg of Tuguegarao; Bishop Jose F. Oliveros of Malolos; Auxiliary Bishop Emilio L. Bataclan of Cebu; Bishop Emeritus Nestor C. Carino of Legazpi; and Bishop Emeritus Nicolas M. Mondejar of San Carlos.



Fulton Oursler

An Agnostic's Search for God

by Rev. Fr. Isabelo Bel R. San Luis, SVD
 Shared by Bro. Jesus Jose Francisco R. Saylo of the Archdiocesan Council of San Fernando

Years ago, Charles Fulton Oursler was the editor of a highly successful national magazine. The story behind his rise to success is fascinating. But even more fascinating is the story of his search for God.

As a reporter for *The Baltimore American*, Oursler covered Methodist meetings, Baptist conventions, and outdoor revivals. He had even waited for ghosts in darkroom seances.

Out of all this he says *I emerged at the age of 30 a self-styled agnostic*. But instead of finding peace, his unbelief left him totally empty inside. It also left him unhappy. Eventually the emptiness and unhappiness turned into gnawing depression.

One day serious trouble threatened his family. He needed help ... not the kind of help friends could give. There was no one to whom he could turn, not even God – for he didn't believe in God. On a windy day in New York, he was walking down Fifth Avenue. He came to the St. Patrick Cathedral. He stopped, looked and thought.

Desperate, he walked up the steps, went inside and sat down. After a few minutes of collecting his thoughts, he bowed his head and asked for the gift of faith. Then, he got up, and walked over to the Chapel of Our Lady in the cathedral. Inside, he knelt and said this prayer: *In ten minutes or less I may change my mind. I may scoff at all this and love error again. Pay no attention to me then. For this little time, I am in my right mind and heart. This is my best – take it and forget the rest, and, if you are really there, help me.*

At that moment, he said, there began a remarkable transformation in his life ... which ended in his becoming a deeply committed Christian. Fulton Oursler's search for God ended in the House of God; his spiritual birth into a new life began in a chapel dedicated to Mary, the Mother of God.

He was received into the Roman Catholic Church in 1943; son *Will* followed in 1944. His wife, equally prolific writer Grace Perkins, who was born and raised a Catholic but forgot all about it in her university years, converted in 1945.

Charles Fulton Oursler, an American writer, authored best-selling books including an insightful biography of Our Lord Jesus Christ entitled **THE GREATEST STORY EVER TOLD** published in 1949 which he wrote for those who did not yet know Christ. He was born 22 January 1893 and died 24 May 1952.

Errata – July 2013 Issue:

1. On Why: Page 2, Column 2, paragraph 4 – ... *remarked at a* ...
2. On Merton: Page 3, Column 2, paragraph 1 – ... *renders us* ...
3. On Leaders: Page 4, Column 2, paragraph 2 – *an atmosphere* ...
4. On Virtue: Page 4, Column 1, paragraph 4 – ... *who holds his* ...
5. On Tarcisians: Page 6, Column 1, paragraph 4 – *one advances* ...
6. On Blue Sky: Page 6, Column 2, paragraph 2 – *thus stating* ...
7. On Church: Page 10, Column 2, paragraph 6 – ... *autocratic*....

Need HELP? Contact us at:

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On False Prophets ... By conservative estimates, no fewer than 60 million human beings lost their lives between 1917-1991 under Soviet Socialist rule ... which sought to perpetuate the Bolsheviks' Cultural Revolution ... a disease which spread with little resistance.

John 20:19-30. Ceremonies and rites do not purify the heart nor give the Holy Spirit. Having become wedded to the autocratic czarist regime, the Greek Orthodox Church's role was largely one of ceremony ... to preserve the status quo.

Count Sergei Yulyevich Witte (29 June 1849 – 13 March 1915), once Prime Minister and modernizer of Russia, wrote in his memoir translated by Sidney Harcave in 1990: ... *the greatest danger to Russia comes from the sad state of the Orthodox Church and the decline in religious spirit Without a truly living Church to give spiritual ideals their expression, religion is but a philosophy Without religion, the masses turn into beasts possessing intelligence.*

Our Church has turned into a dead, bureaucratic institution [BroDuffy: Echoed by our Cardinals on their way to the conclave to elect Pope Francis] ... and Church services are conducted not to celebrate the God in Heaven but the earthly gods. Our Church has become a kind of paganism ... and we have become less Christian.

Sheila Fitzpatrick in *The Russian Revolution* (1982) writes: *All revolutions have liberty, equality, fraternity and other noble slogans inscribed on their banners ... but, soon, they destroy things ... end in disillusionment and disappointment.*

All revolutionaries ... fired by fervor, enthusiasm and zealotry ... are utopians with dreams of creating a new world in which injustice, corruption and apathy of the old and are banished forever ... are intolerant of disagreement ... incapable of compromise ... mesmerized by big, distant goals ... and are, generally, violent, suspicious and destructive.

All revolutionaries ... have the intoxicating illusion of personifying the will of the people ... dividing the world into two camps – light and darkness ... the revolution and its enemies They despise tradition, wisdom, icons and superstition. They believe society can be tabula rasa ... a blank slate on which the revolution will write its own history. All revolutionaries soon regret ... all they have destroyed.

[BroDuffy: Perhaps these reasons propelled the Blessed Virgin Mary to appeal to the Roman Catholic Church hierarchy to consecrate Russia to Jesus and Mary. If the message ... the marching orders from Heaven ... had been promptly executed, those 60 million would have helped make Earth a better place to live on. So, let us not ... tarry, delay, postpone, procrastinate ... act with a strong sense of urgency.]

In his farewell address in 1796, George Washington offered a warning: *Whatever may be conceded to the influence of refined education on minds of peculiar structure ... reason and experience forbid us to expect that morality can be maintained without religion ...* See next Column >>>

... that nationalism can prevail to the entire exclusion of religious principle.

Washington seemed to recognize the pitiless value of a godless society ... perhaps referring to a dangerous European experiment ... which sought the destruction of the Church ... and to institutionalize atheism. That experiment – the French Revolution of 1789-1799 – was a failure. What happened next ... after that revolution ... was regicide, civil war and the Reign of Terror.

The French Revolution was mankind's first attempt to form an entirely new state ... *a new society* based on secularism ... which is a view of life based on the premise that religion and religious practices ... should be ignored or purposely excluded.

David Goldfein Berlinski brilliantly makes the point in his book *The Devil's Delusion: Atheism and Its Scientific Pretensions* (2008): *What Hitler, Stalin and Mao ... the SS, Gestapo, KGB and NKVD ... the commissars, functionaries, swaggering executioners, Nazi doctors, Communist Party theoreticians and intellectuals ... the Brown and Black Shirts, gauleiters (German for Gau region + Leiter Director) and a thousand party hacks ... did not believe was that God watches what they were doing. And, as far as we can tell, very few of those carrying out ... the horrors of the third millennium ... also do not worry over-much ... that God is watching what they are doing. That belief is the meaning of a secular society.*

Atheism sees no reason ... why man should not do as he pleases. In the world of atheism, good and evil cease to exist. Atheism – a godless worldview – offers no meaning ... no creed ... no principles ... no philosophy ... and can give no guidance.

Atheists do not ... understand *common grace* ... the idea that a significant Christian presence in a given society brings tangible benefits to the Christians themselves and to society as a whole.

While atheists can perform works of charity and maintain high moral standards, history reveals that they don't ... with any degree of consistency. When atheism is adopted by a society ... a *new* society ... its effects on that society is tremendously detrimental.

Christians are the most charitable segment of the population. The point is beyond dispute. Relief provided to many of the world's suffering does not come from secularist societies. Atheists don't do benevolence. (September 2013: Suggestions on Human Rights)



Remember ... Don't Forget!

From *Strangers and Neighbors: A Memoir*
By Maria Poggi Johnson (2006)

[BroDuffy: Ms. Johnson subtitled her book *What I Have Learned about Christianity by Living among Orthodox Jews* which is self-explanatory. Married with four kids, she teaches theology at the Jesuit University of Scranton.]

While it is in the nature of Christianity to stretch itself around other cultures – to claim as its own the best of Greek philosophy, pagan architecture or African music – the nature of Judaism, in turn, as least as lived by Orthodox Jews, is to resist outside influence, stick together and remain largely distinct from the surrounding cultures ... thus, our neighbors dress, speak, act and eat differently from most of America. Why? Let us listen to their story ... in history ... which is your story ... and my story. See Page 12, Column 1 >>>



On Remembering ... A central theme of the story of the Jews ... from the moment God singled out Abraham and promised to make of him a great nation ... is holiness (Leviticus 19:2b) – *You shall be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy.*

Holy is *kodesh* in Hebrew. Its original meaning is separate or set apart. When God tells us that He is *holy*, He means that *He is different*; He does not mean that *I am nice*. He means that, although His people can never imagine or understand Him ... they are to be like Him – to be a reflection of His purity, absolute justice, mercy and goodness.

To be holy means *to be different, set apart* ... proudly weird, bizarrely counter-cultural and defiantly unlike ... the world around them. That is the task which our neighbors have inherited ... and they give themselves to it heart and soul.

Before entering the Promised Land, Moses warned the Israelites of the temptations ahead: *When you have your own land, life will be easier and more secure than it has been in Egypt and in the wilderness. When that happens: **Remember** ... **don't forget** who you were and where you came from.*

Remember ... **don't forget** who got you out ... who gave you all this ... **don't forget** what He commanded you to do. *Remind each other. Put reminders everywhere. There is only one God for you ... **Remember** that! **Don't forget!***

*It will be even harder for your children, who will grow up with stability and comfort. They will complain: Why keep all these rules? **Why can't we be just like everybody else?***

Tell them: Listen our lives as Egyptian slaves were horrible! The Lord freed us and brought us here. We owe everything to Him; these are His rules and we will keep them. Raise your children in a world that revolves around ... remembrance, identity and obedience (Deuteronomy 6:10-13:19).

When life was tense and the future insecure, many of us made great resolutions: If I survive this cancer, I will quit smoking, go to Church and be a changed person to the kids.

When the danger is past, we launch into our new lives full of energy, excitement and gratitude ... get accustomed to feeling safe and secure ... comfortable, complacent, lukewarm and, finally, cold. Our acute awareness of how precious and precarious life is grows dimmer and old bad habits creep back.

The Israelites return to Egypt, to the bondage of sin when they reach the Promised Land. The Israelites now demand of God ... a king, like the other nations ... when the whole point of their relationship with God is that they are to be ... unlike other nations ... unlike other peoples.

With deep regret, God sends them handsome Saul – humble, obedient and grateful. Soon, Saul listens to his ego: *I'm the King; I'm in charge here! **I** make my own decisions.* Saul slides back ... to bondage ... a wilderness of paranoia and sleeplessness, pain and discomfort. **See next Column >>>**

David is after God's heart. He starts out well; then, he uses his power and privilege of kingship to betray God and his own nature. Solomon receives God's wisdom ... the Temple is built expressing his wealth, power and prestige. To ensure Israel's security, Solomon does what all kings do: Make allegiances with neighboring kings by marrying their daughters. In old age, wise Solomon's love for foreign wives turns his heart away from exclusive love of God.

After Solomon's death, Israel splits into two rival kingdoms ... and begins a long descent into idolatry, chaos, corruption and injustice – becoming, more and more ... like everybody else ... less and less like the Holy One ... as we become less and less like Christ.

God sends His prophets as a warning of the impending darkness ... to repent and be healed ... but few people listen. To the northern kingdom, God sends the conquering Assyrians; ten of the twelve tribes are swallowed up ... and *lost to history* ... sacred history.

The southern kingdom hangs on longer ... their *adoration* of God is a shallow, ceremonial affair ... not the holiness to which they are called. God sends Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon to attack and destroy the Temple ... ravage the land, leaving the survivors to starve in the ruins. To Babylon, the elite are taken as slaves ... to build granaries, write poems, compose music and design irrigation systems.

Some of them marry Babylonians and worship local gods ... blend into local culture and society, and *try to forget*. Many **remember and do not forget** ... refusing to assimilate and blend in, to put the past behind and move on ... even though they seem to have lost forever the blessings of the land and nationhood that God's covenant with Abraham and Moses was supposed to confer on them.

This group is sustained by prophets ... speaking of God's anger as a purifying fire ... and of God's enduring love for, and faithfulness to, His people. God sends Cyrus of Persia who conquers the Babylonians and send the captives back to Israel ... rebuild their culture and rededicate their Temple ... to be the holy nation of God.

God sends them the prophet Nehemiah ... with his tireless and vehement harangues ... Nehemiah acts in the best interests of his people ... with curses, threats, beatings and nagging. Against all logic and reason – defying all the horrors of history – the Jews survived because they ... **remembered and did not forget** ... who they are, where they came from and to whom they owe their allegiance.

They **remembered and did not forget** when things went well and when the Temple was destroyed again in AD 70 and they were scattered across the nations ... when their villages were burnt by Cossacks ... when they were locked and starved in the ghettos of the *Pale of Settlement* from the Black Sea to the Baltic Sea ... when they were hoarded into cattle trucks and into baggage trains and herded naked into the gas chambers of Auschwitz and Dachau.

The persecution and violence, hatred and suffering would have ended, if the Jews had assimilated and blended into local culture. This time their stubbornness and stiff-necked-ness served them well because **once they returned to God, they did not turn away again**.

So, here, on my neighborhood ... being stubbornly and cheerfully weird and holy ... unlike other people, they constantly remind me that God's ... *thoughts are not our thoughts; His ways are not our ways ... His ways higher than our ways; His thoughts above our thoughts* (Isaiah 55:8-9).