



The Real Presence

Taga-Sambang Gabi ng Eukaristiya

(Nocte Adoratricum Eucharistia)



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Meaning of *Eucharist*?

Mark Twain: God has put something noble and good into every heart His hand created.

Martin Luther: God writes the Gospel not in the Bible alone, but on trees and flowers, clouds and stars as well.

Kahlil Gibran: Love has no other desire but to fulfill itself. To melt and be like a running brook that sings its melody to the night. To wake at dawn with a winged heart and give thanks for another day of loving.

William Blake: To see a world in a grain of sand and heaven in a wild flower is to hold infinity in the palm of your hand and eternity in an hour.

Freeman John Dyson: Technology is a gift of God. After the gift of life, it is perhaps the greatest of God's gifts. It is the mother of civilizations ... of the arts ... and of the sciences.

Feodor Dostoyevsky: What is Hell? Being unable to love.

Rev. Fr. Manuel M. Flores, SJ: Love is promoting the highest good possible of the person you love.

Mark 12:28-34. *Love God with all your heart* More than your loved ones – grandparents and parents, spouse and children; siblings, in-laws and relatives; and many other persons, occasions, places and things – long for Him ... to forget and lose yourself ... so that, in everything you search ... re-search ... for what He wants most from you.

Love God with all your soul, all your mind devoting the best of your intellect to knowing Him by ... understanding how much He guides you in your own life ... seeing how the Kingdom of God takes root on Earth through daily events ... praying and reading the Bible regularly ... and asking Him to give you His own Spirit that you may understand Him better.

Love God with all your strength ... and ask for His help, and strive, to be united with the true servants of God ... using the means the Church makes available to you ... in whatever situation you find yourself in life.

God asks for more than just solidarity with one's neighbor ... or concern for their suffering. Make an effort to look at your neighbor ... your brothers and sisters Adorers ... in the same way your Father does ... with Love, Affection and Delight.

Among the many good things you do for your neighbor ... select those which the Holy Spirit inspires you to do ... and that inspiration *requires* that you ... first know and love God.



The Power of Pentecost.

Eucharistic Adoration

Helen Keller: I believe that ... we can live on Earth according to the teachings of Jesus and that the greatest happiness will come to the world ... when man obeys His commandment: *Love one another*.

I believe that ... we can live on Earth according to ... the fulfillment of God's will ... and when the will of God is done on Earth as it is in Heaven ... very man will love his fellow man ... and act towards them as he desires they act toward him.

I believe that ... the welfare of each of us if bound up in the welfare of all ... that God is in me as the sun is in the color and fragrance of a flower ... that He is the Light in my darkness and the Voice in my silence.

I believe that ... love will finally establish the Kingdom of God on Earth ... and that the cornerstone of that Kingdom will be ... Liberty, Truth, Brotherhood and Service.



The Holy Spirit

Feodor Dostoyevsky: Love all of God's creation ... the whole and every grain of sand in it. Love every leaf ... every ray of God's light. Love the animals ... the plants ... everything. If you love everything, you will perceive the Divine Mystery in things ... comprehend it better every day. At last, you will come to love the whole world with an all-embracing love.

George William Russell: The works of the Magician of the Beautiful are not like ours ... and, in the least figment, His artistry is no less present than in the stars. We may enter the infinite through the tiniest ... no less than through ... contemplation of the vast.

Carl G. Jung: It is, unfortunately, only too clear that, if the individual is not truly regenerated in spirit, society cannot be either; for society is the sum total of individuals in need of redemption.

[BroDuffy: Jesus counsels us to be prepared because we know not when He comes to take away our most beloved treasure – our life. Perhaps in response to this counsel, inspirational writer Og Mandino shares that we always give our best today ... it could be our last day on Earth. Peter Barton, former President of Liberty Media Corporation, was a pioneer in the cable-TV industry and co-founded MTV. He enjoyed all aspects of life ... as a professional free-style skier, in business and in politics. In 1997, he was diagnosed with a rare, inoperable form of stomach cancer. Instead of feeling bitter, disappointed and frustrated, he decided on a choice: Make a difference in other people's lives. Peter died in September 2002. Listen to his story from *Making* See Page 3, Column 1 >>>

The Blessed Virgin Mary

Wilfred Peterson: Happiness does not come from doing what we like to do but from liking what we have to do.

Robert Louis Stevenson: We thank Thee for this place in which we dwell ... for the love that unites us ... for the peace accorded us this day ... for the hope with which we expect tomorrow ... for the health, the work, the food and the bright skies that make our life delightful ... for our friends in all corners of the Earth.

Spare us our friends and soften the hearts of our enemies. Bless us in all our innocent endeavors. Give us strength to encounter ... that which is to come ... to be brave in peril, steadfast and constant in tribulation, temperate in anger and, in all changes of fortune and down to the gates of death, loyal and loving to one another.

The Blessed Virgin Mary at Medjugorje: The power of prayer varies according to a person's faith.

Luke 1:34. *Mary asked the angel: How can this be when I do not know man? Why ask questions?* Listen to Timothy Ferris in his account *The Red Limit: The Search for the Edge of the Universe* (1977).

The Big Bang Theory ... imagines the violent genesis of the universe ... which burst forth from zero radius and continues to expand ... from end to end ... at a speed faster than the speed of light. The first ripple of energy generated by that violent genesis ... the cosmic microwave background (CMB) radiation ... has been discovered and measured ... giving confirmation to that Theory. An interval of time followed that explosive, violent genesis ... or whatever caused the universe to expand ... and form vast clouds of dust and gas ... becoming galaxies and subdividing into stars ... from which came the first light ... to grace the universe.

The important point is that ... prior to the advent of this ... first star-light — the first flash of the Big Bang ... there was darkness ... and the universe abided in darkness. The procession ... the progression ... would be something like this: Darkness ... followed by the first galaxies and stars ... then the next set of galaxies and stars ... and on. Placing yourself in the center of the universe ... where the big bang started ... which is not Earth nor our solar system nor our galaxy The Milky Way ... you would be surrounded by stars and galaxies ... all moving away from you ... and, in the far distance, where all light ceases ... there is nothing but darkness. The area ... where light gives way to darkness is what astrophysicists fondly refer to as The Edge of the Universe.

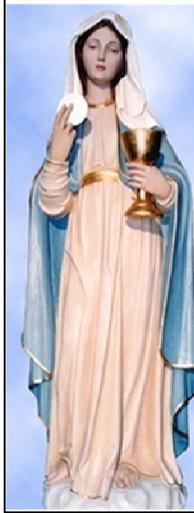
*The Big Bang Theory fits well into the Spirit and Language of Genesis 1:1 ... that Pope Pius XII so happily gave the Theory his stamp of approval. Perhaps for this reason and for its accurate accounting of the expansion of the universe and its edge, and the discovery of the CMB radiation, the Big Bang Theory may be described **See next Column >>***



St. Joseph

John Ruskin: When love and skill work together, expect a Masterpiece.

St. Francis of Sales: Nothing is so strong as gentleness; nothing as gentle as real strength.



Angels and Archangels

Phillips Brooks: We do not truly become spiritual by sitting down and wishing to become so. You must undertake something so great that you cannot accomplish it unaided.

Matthew 6:15b. We are prudent when we recognize the Truth that the enemy is not just Evil – which includes the hatred that resides in our hearts but also the injustice in the groups, associations and institutions which we created – but the devil himself ... someone who is much stronger than ourselves ... watching and ready to deceive us ... to make us lose faith and fall as soon as we feel sure of ourselves ... and to abandon the means given to us by Jesus which is to persevere in Faith and in the Church.

On Why Ask Questions ... as a success.

But, to say that a theory is successful is not the same thing as to say that it is true. For example, the theory on which the cosmological science of Claudius Ptolemy was based survived for 1,300 years – thirteen centuries – and, with various modifications, predicted with reasonable accuracy the motions of the planets in the sky all the time. Yet, Ptolemy's central assumption ... that the sun and planets circle the Earth ... was false ... which the Church had taken to be true ... and caused the death of Giordano Bruno, for one ... and silencing the others as well.

The sun-centered science ... of Copernicus, Kepler and Galileo ... improved the accuracy with which theory fit observation. Their theories ... and all other theories ... are human inventions ... which should not be confused with the phenomena they sought to explain. Our theories are not laws that Mother Nature obeys. So, keep in mind that the Big Bang Theory is not the universe but only a preliminary ... and very incomplete description of how, in a few very limited ways ... the universe may behave.

What we do not know is an ocean of Truth – I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. Beyond the light of our small knowledge ... our ignorance grows. We do not even know ... what it is that we do not know.

Someone remarked as a conference that there are questions we cannot answer to which Fred Hoyle – who coined the phrase The Big Bang – whispered to the physicist Philip Morison that in science, the answers are not important; the questions are.

To learn new ways of asking questions, therefore, is a powerful thing. The Big Bang Theory is but a sketch ... not even a painting. No Theory ... encompasses all physical science and explains the wide inter-relatedness of things.

*More questions need answers: How are galaxies, stars, planets formed? What is the universe made of? What is the role of time in the natural world? **See Page 3, Column 2 >>>***



On Prayer

Samuel Taylor Coleridge: He prays well who loves well – both man bird and beast. He prays best who loves best, all things both great and small; for the dear God Who loves us, He made and loves us all.

George Eliot: If you sit down at set of sun and count the acts that you have done and, counting, find ... one self-denying deed ... one word that eased the heart of him who heard ... one glance most kind that fell like sunshine where it went ... then you may count that day well spent, indeed.

But if, through all the day, you cheered no heart ... done nothing that you can trace that brought sunshine to one face ... no act most small that helped some soul without any cost ... then count that day as worse than lost, indeed.



On Apostolic Works of Mercy

Emily Dickinson: If I can stop one heart from breaking, I shall not ... have lived in vain. If I can ease the aching of one life ... or cool one pain ... or help one fainting robin unto its nest again, I shall not ... have lived in vain.

Ralph Waldo Emerson: I expect to pass this world but once ... Any good therefore that I can do or any kindness that I can show for any fellow creature, let me do it ... NOW! Let me not defer nor neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again.



On Silence

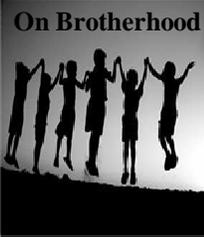
Elizabeth Coatsworth: Swift things are beautiful – swallows and deer, lightning that falls bright-veined and clear; rivers and meteors wind in the wheat; the strong-withered horse and the runners’ sure-feet.

Slow things are beautiful – the closing of day ... the pause of the wave curving downward to spray ... the ember that crumbles ... the flower opening to the rays of the sun ... and the ox that moves on ... in the quiet of Power.

On The Holy Spirit ... *the Most of the Time I have Left* written by Laurence Shames and Peter Barton in the compilation *Cancer* edited by Nora Piehl (2007).]

On April Fools’ Day 1997, I resigned as President of Liberty Media Corporation ... a few days shy of my 46th birthday. It was part of a long-considered plan I only like a job when I’m still learning ... when I really don’t know what I’m doing ... when I can feel the thrill of performing without a safety net. After six years at Liberty, I was bored. Why?

The reason seemed woefully inadequate. Success had made it dull and conservative ... huge and sluggish. I was ready for a new adventure. From early days, I had forged great relationships; I had reason to hope for an ambassadorship. I loved media and explored the idea of running National Public Radio. My resources could be harnessed in the non-profit arena. And, I met with the boards of Yahoo, AOL and Microsoft for creating a billion-dollar business. See Page 5, Column 2 >>>



On Brotherhood

Merton: A Biography

Edwin Markham: There is a destiny that renders u brothers; none goes his way alone; all that we send into the lives of others, comes back into our own.

George Eliot: What do we live for, if it is not to make life less difficult for each other?

Alvin Goeser: Maturing is the process by which the individual becomes conscious of the equal importance of each of his fellowman.

Leo Tolstoy: To get rid of an enemy, love him.



Heroes of the Faith: Eucharistic Adorers

Joaquin Miller: In men ... whom men condemns as ill, I find so much goodness still. In men ... whom men pronounce divine, so much sin and blot ... I find. Yet, between the two, I dare not draw a line ... where God has not.

2 Corinthians 12:1. It is useless to boast; but, if I have to, I will of the Lord. Walang kwenta ang ipagyabang ang sarili ... o ikalat ang baho ng iba ... manapa’y i-tsismis na lamang si Hesus at Maria ... sa buong mundo.

On Why Ask Questions ... *The deepest of these questions is a subject thrilling even to contemplate: The origin, nature and fate of universes. What was there ... before the big bang? There is some comfort in the thought that we will never know everything. We humans, Adorers ... are far from being gods.*

Today, many issues ... once the exclusive province of philosophy and theology ... are slowly yielding to scientific inquiry ... that most human of human inventions. To say that Mother Nature ... the universe ... is comprehensible to us ... that the science which mankind is developing is not a delusion ... is an assertion of Faith.

Reason is one of the articles of Faith said Sir Arthur Eddington, just as Mary asked the Archangel Gabriel the reason for how she would be with child. And, the Faith of science ... that Mother Nature will reveal herself to man’s reasoned inquiry ... to questions based on reason ... is part of the universe. And we are a part of that universe, too.

Matthew 7:7-8. *Ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened. For everyone who asks ... receives; whoever seeks ... finds; and the door will be opened to him knocks.*

Prayer Request: BroDuffy — Let us include in our personal prayers and Vigil intentions: (1) The daughter of Brother National Asst. Promoter, Jose Buboy D. Vega, Jr. who accepted the sacrament of matrimony on 30 June 2013 at the Chancery of the Archdiocese of San Fernando, Pampanga; and (2) The eternal repose of the soul of my cousin, Romy L. Bravo who died on 27 June 2013 in Seattle, Washington, USA.



On Leaders

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

Formation. Listen to Mark 6:6b-56 and Matt 14:22-36. A discernible pattern ... a rhythm of Jesus' ministry ... clearly emerges. With His tightly knit inner circle of three – Peter, James and John – Jesus would teach in towns and villages ... in the synagogues and in the open air ... to large crowds, filling rooms, doorways and homes ... fields, hills and shores.

To crowds, Jesus spoke in parables which He later explained to His apostles and disciples ... delivered those oppressed by the devil, healed the sick and infirmed ... talked and ate with tax collectors, Samaritans and prostitutes as the Magdalene.

Jesus ... claimed authority to forgive sins which He regarded as more indicative of His representation as the Father's Son than curing the sick or maimed ... failed to fast ostentatiously ... inadequately washed His hands before meals ... and worked on the Sabbath. These acts offended the Pharisees and the teachers of the Law.

Simon did not see where all these were leading. Was Jesus ... building a power base through His winning ways and remarkable teaching ... organizing a more systematic and methodical form of training His disciples ... for a march and assault against the Romans in Jerusalem? Simon shared the widely-held view that the Messiah would liberate His people from their Roman overlords.

One day, on a mountain-side, after a prolonged period of night-rayer, Jesus enlarged His group of apostles to twelve and a much larger band of seventy-two, keeping the core group of three – Peter, James and John. The group of twelve was mixed in background, outlook and expectation. Brother Simon and Andrew were drawn to brothers James and John by blood or business ties.

The rest were hardly allies. Matthew, tax collector for the Romans, was despised by his own people. Simon the Zealot, openly hostile to the Romans, urged his countrymen not to pay taxes to Rome. Sophisticated **See next Column >>>**



On Virtue

Samuel Taylor Coleridge: Common sense in an uncommon degree ... is what the world calls ... wisdom. Fear of the Lord ... is the beginning of ... Wisdom.

William Channing: Every human being has a character of his own – to be what no other is ... to do what no other can do.

Proverbs 13:20 – He who walks with wise men ... is wise.

Proverbs 17:28 – A fool who he holds his peace ... is wise.

Harry Overstreet: A person remains immature ... whatever his age ... as long as he thinks of himself ... as an exception to the human race.

Richard Whately: A man is called selfish ... not for pursuing his own good ... but for neglecting his neighbor's.

* On Leaders * On Virtues *

brothers Philip and Nathaniel were close to the Greek culture of the Sadducees and the blunt-speaking Thomas. Judas Iscariot was the more refined of them all, in taste and eloquence.

A few months into the public ministry of Jesus, and atmosphere of preparation and training was taking shape. Jesus was no longer content on doing everything Himself. He wanted the twelve and the seventy-two to do the very things He did ... and they did.

Simon and the other apostles ... returned from their dramatic and remarkable mission ... with so much excitement and animation ... were getting ready to report on their achievements, only to be dampened by the devastating news that His cousin, John, had been beheaded by Herod!

Jesus decided to find some peace and quiet ... to be de-briefed by the apostles on their mission's results ... to pray, reflect and mourn John's death. But, the crowds went ahead; Jesus felt compassion for them ... proceeded with His ministry ... teaching, healing, offending the Jewish Elders ... and launching the largest catering operation.

In the apostles' hands, the food multiplied; the mathematics of a miracle, exponential progression ... took over: Five loaves and two fishes ... fed and satisfied ... 5,000 men plus women and children ... with left-overs filling twelve baskets ... astonishing the apostles and amazing the dinner guests! That's *heavenly catering* in action!

Jesus ... sensing the politically-intoxicated food-satiated crowd wanted to make Him their king to rally the people against the Romans ... rejects the crowd's way which has become a revolutionary mob ... defines the nature of the mission He has come to fulfill ... slips away from the crowd ... tells His apostles to sail to Bethsaida across the Sea of Galilee ... and retires up the mountain ... alone.

It is hard rowing a boat on rough seas ... in the dark, four miles out ... with the wind furiously blowing against your face ... dangerously rocking the boat ... tiring them to keep the boat upright. At daybreak ... without rest and nearly exhausted by their exertion ... they were terrified until they recognized Jesus Himself ... *walking* on water, above the waves ... and almost by the boat.

Motivated by flamboyance ... lakas ng loob at yabang ... Simon gets to walk on water too ... only a few paces ... e natakot ... lumubog, sumigaw kay Hesus: *Lord, save me!* Four events seemed to happen at once: Jesus got Peter out of the water ... they boarded the boat ... the wind died down ... and the boat reached shore. Not surprisingly, all bowed down before Jesus, saying: *Truly, you are the Son of God!*

Lesson Learned – One: Leadership is marked by many moments of tension ... when Jesus willingly chose to minister to the needs of others first when He Himself needed solitude to mourn the death of John the Baptist ... when private life and public ministry intermingled, each one deeply affecting the other ... when even personal grief and pain as the death of a beloved is an opportunity to proclaim the Kingdom, to evangelize and to preach the Hope of Resurrection.

The key to the resolution of these moments of tension is to trust the Father that ... when the needs of private life have to be deferred to fulfill the needs of public ministry, He will provide the time and space for solitude later. In the meantime, trust that He will provide the resources for you to continue your public ministry until time and space is provided ... by the Father ... for private life.

See Page 8, Column 1 >>>



On Mission

The Master Plan of Evangelization

By Robert E. Coleman (1963)

How did Jesus train His men to carry on His work? Answer: **Principle No. 2 – By Association:** Jesus drew them close to Himself and He stayed with them: *I am with you always until the end of the world*

(Matthew 28:20).

Selecting His men in Luke 6:13-14, the essence of His training program was simple as **ABC**: Associate with them ... **B**e with them ... **C**are for them. Jesus drew His apostles close to Himself and stayed with them. He was His own school and curriculum ... a very informal teaching method.

In contrast, Jewish scribes insisted on formal, scholastic procedures; religious teachers required their students to strictly adhere to certain rituals and formula of knowledge ... flowing robes and clothes, to distinguish themselves from others.

Jesus communicated Wisdom ... not in terms of laws and dogmas, rituals and ceremonies ... but in living with him ... being with Him and participating in His doctrine. Fellowship with Jesus ... permitted His apostles to know ... *the mysteries of the Kingdom of God* (Luke 8:10) ... and, in private, talk with Him and see intimately into His nature and work.

By associating with Jesus, Knowledge was gained ... then that Knowledge was better understood with explanation ... and, later, that understanding would be enlarged and mixed with Faith to become Wisdom.

Certainly, His apostles ... freely acknowledged that they did not understand many of the points Jesus was teaching them ... but all these issues, concerns and problems would be dealt with ... as they followed Jesus.

In His Presence, His apostles would learn all they needed to know ... on a need-to-know basis. His apostles had to be ... in constant association with Him ... before ... He would send them forth ... to preach, to cast out devils, to heal. Constant association with Him was the necessary foundation.

As the ministry of Jesus lengthened into the second and third years ... drawing closer to His Passion and Death ... the more time Jesus spent with His apostles, the chosen few. During the years of His ministry, Jesus spent more time with His apostles than with everybody else put together. With His apostles, Jesus ate ... slept and talked ... walked the lonely roads ... visited the crowded cities ... sailed and fished the Sea of Galilee ... prayed in the desert and mountains ... and worshipped in the synagogues and the Temple.

In preparation for His Death, John records the long talk Jesus had with His apostles ... *I have made known to you everything I learned from My Father* (John 15:15) ... telling them that after He had gone ... *you will be My witnesses for you have been with Me from the beginning* (John 15:27).

In preparation for His Death, John records the long talk Jesus had with His apostles ... *I have* **See next Column >>>**



The ANF Constitution & By-Laws

Benjamin Franklin: Do you love life? Then ... do not squander ... TIME ... for that is the stuff life is made of.

Sydney Harris: The art of living successfully ... is to make long-term plans ... as if we were going to live forever ... and ... to conduct ourselves daily ... as if we were going to die tomorrow.

Harriet Ward Beecher: The difference between perseverance and stubborn-ness ... obstinacy ... is ... one comes from a strong *I will!* ... and the other from a strong *I won't!*

Sydney Smith: It is the greatest of all mistakes to do nothing because you can only do little. **DO** what you can!

On Mission ... *made known to you everything I learned from My Father ... that after He had gone ... you will be My witnesses for you have been with Me from the beginning* (John 15:15-27).

The matter of following up ... on all these believers in Christ being trained for positions of leadership among the masses ... is the nature and mission of the Church ... group of Christians called the Mystical Body of Christ ... empowered by the Holy Spirit ... ministering to each other individually and as a body. Occasional prayer-meetings and training sessions ... will not do for this job of following up.

We need a definite leadership formation program with a follow-up method in place. A *guardian* is assigned to and follows up on an *apostle* until he becomes a *guardian* in turn, staying with the *apostle* as much as possible ... studying the Bible and sharing encounters with Jesus ... praying and clarifying the Truth ... fielding questions and helping others in need. If there are no such *guardians* to do this service ... form a group to be trained as *guardians* by ... selecting, and associating with, a few good men. (**August 2013: Principle No. 3**)

On The Holy Spirit ... *Yes! ... I was thinking big! But, I was secretly afraid that without my job title ... I would be pushed aside ... and forgotten. I worried that people would no longer take my calls: Peter who? Well, I watched all my grand schemes go out the window because of ... **cancer!** Yearning for survival ... became my major occupation. But, it was not to be. My cancer was inoperable!*

If illness doused cold water on my exploits in the wider world, there was a compensating good that came out of this: I focused my attention on more intimate arenas ... where I could make a difference.

I volunteered to teach a class in the business school of the University of Denver ... to preach the gospel of entrepreneurship ... that the real mission lay far beyond mere number crunching or consulting. I started non-profit Privacy Foundation ... dedicated to helping people protect themselves from unwarranted snooping. And ... closer to my heart ... I involved myself ... in a hands-on way ... in my kids' education ... day in, day out.

It's crucial for under-privileged kids to know of possibilities beyond their neighborhoods; it's also important for over-privileged kids to see the other sides of life. I wanted my kids to understand that ... people worked hard ... and that ... there is dignity in all that work. I could think of no better way to use the time that I had left on Earth.

Reflection: Are you wasting the time you have left on Earth?



Tarcisian Challenge: Ten Devotions for Youth Groups

Edited by Mike Nappa (1993)

Anne Morrow Lindbergh: When I was young, I felt so small and frightened for the world was tall; even the grass seemed to me, a forest of immensity.

Then, I learned that I could grow, a glance would leave them far below. Spanning a tree's height with my eye, suddenly, I soared just as high. Fixing on a star, I grew pushing my head against the blue.

Singing like a lark, now I find rapture to leave the grass behind. Standing in a crowd, my lips are cool against a cloud.

Henry David Thoreau: If ones advance confidently in the direction of his dreams ... and strives to live the life he has imagined ... then he will meet with unexpected success. If you have built castles in the air, your work need not be lost ... that is where they should be. Put foundations under them.

Mark 9:23 – All things are possible to him who believes.

Alexander Pope: A man should never be ashamed to say ... he has been wrong ... which is but saying in other words ... that he is wiser today than he was yesterday.

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

Why is the Day Sky Blue?

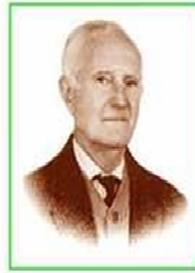
From *Echo of the Big Bang*
By Michael D. Lemonick (2005)

A significant discovery of the 20th century was announced in a press conference held on 23 April **1992** at the Ramada Renaissance Techworld Inn in Washington, D.C., USA ... that data beamed back to Earth from COBE (Cosmic Background Explorer) satellite ... held evidence of fluctuations in the cosmic background microwave (CMB) radiation ... with an average temperature of 2.7^oC above absolute zero.

In plain English: *It was like seeing God ... through Coke bottles as eyeglasses, with bottoms uncleaned for a year.*

Cosmic microwave background (CMB) radiation was produced from the stuff ... out of which all the galaxies in the universe evolved out of. In the beginning, the universe was a tiny point of light ... and as the universe expanded ... its light would still take a finite time to go from one place to the other ... even at a speed of 186,000 miles per second.

But, the opposite sides of the visible universe move apart faster than the speed of light. Einstein's rule that nothing ... moves faster than the speed of light ... applies only to objects moving through space. The expanding universe is a stretching of space ... and that universe today ... is estimated to be 15 billion years old. That means that the microwave light ... which has just now re-entered the horizon of your eye ... has taken 15 billion years to reach us. **See next Column >>>**



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)

On Why the Sky is Blue ... In 1916, Albert Einstein, wrote in his General Theory of Relativity of an expanding universe, going against Sir Isaac Newton's static, unmoving universe.

In 1927, Belgian priest Georges Lemaitre, physicist at the University of Louvain, argued that ... the expansion began when a *primeval atom* exploded, flinging and forming outward in all directions ... the modern universe ... thus the stating the first model of the universe ... later known as the **Big Bang Theory** ... formally coined in **1950** by British astronomer Fred Hoyle who thought it was a silly idea.

At the same time, at Mount Wilson Observatory near Los Angeles, California, Edwin Hubble was discovering the expansion of the universe from his data ... confirming Einstein's theory of relativity.

In 1919, Sir Arthur Eddington confirmed Einstein's relativity theory during an eclipse of the sun. In 1948, Ralph Alpher and Robert Herman calculated that, after 15 billion years, the visible light generated by the Big Bang ... would have cooled down to negative 5^oC above absolute zero – or, negative 273.15^oC or negative 459^oF – and that the still-lingering flash of the *primeval atom* ... cosmic microwave background radiation ... is streaming in from all directions in the sky ... in the microwave region of the electromagnetic spectrum.

In 1951, Pope Pius XII declared his love for, and put his stamp of approval on, the Big Bang Theory ... it fit so nicely with Genesis 1:1. The Church, that had put Galileo under house arrest for asserting that the planets orbit the sun, had aligned itself with science.

So, why a blue sky? At 300,000 years old, the universe was in such a super-heated environment ... protons, electrons and neutrons flying around ... atoms could not form fully ... and any electron that tried to combine with an atomic nucleus would instantly be stripped away.

Recombination and de-coupling – re-ionization – would be the rule until the temperature dropped to 6,000^oK when the Hydrogen atom was formed first, then Helium and up the periodic table of elements. Astronomers have determined that stars ... are 75% Hydrogen – the lightest element – 23% Helium and 2% of the rest of the elements.

Atomic physicists have concluded that all the elements are elaborations on ... re-ionization of Hydrogen atoms. Very heavy elements as gold and uranium form in supernovae then blasted into space. Hence, the gold in your jewelry came from stars ... a long time ago!

Think of hydrogen atoms as air molecules occupying the Earth's atmosphere. When sunlight hits those molecules, sunlight scatters in all directions and blue light scatters more than red thus the blue sky.

In *Wind*, Jan DeBlieu (2006) writes: In the stratosphere ... the thinnest shell of the Earth's outer atmosphere ... about 40 kilometers up ... the sky is velvety purple ... even at noon.

Ralph Waldo Emerson: Never lose an opportunity ... of seeing anything that is beautiful; for beauty is God's handwriting ... a way-side sacrament.

Matthew Arnold: Is it so small a thing to have enjoyed the sun ... to have lived light in the spring ... to have loved ... to have thought ... to have done?

Apparitions & Miracles: Science vs. Religion?

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

Two priests, most involved in presenting proof of miracles before the Vatican College of Cardinals, were Rev. Fr. Paulo Molinari, an Italian, and Rev. Fr. Peter Gumpel, a German – both Jesuits and heirs to the legacy of the Bollandists – after Jan de Boullan, a Dutch Jesuit priest, 1596-1665 – ... a group of Jesuits (today, including non-Jesuits) who, more than 300 years ago, undertook to write the first biographies of the saints ... *Acta Sanctorum* or *The Lives of the Saints* – drawn out not from legend and literary embellishment, but based exclusively on historical records.

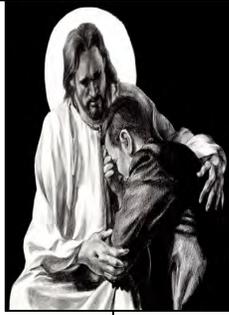
The Bollandists' most formidable opponents were ... other Catholic clergy. Accused of heresy before the Spanish Inquisition, then known as *Sacred Congregation for the Holy Inquisition of Heretical Error* ... but now known as the Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. The Bollandists stood their ground ... holding on to their proud standards of scholarship ... producing a series of books on the saints which today total more than sixty volumes ... slowly and implacably convincing the Church that historical documentation and critical investigation were no real threat to Faith.

By the time of Karol Wojtyla's election as Pope in 1978, the methods of the Bollandists had been formally adopted by all those at the Vatican involved with ... testing the miraculous and judging the holy.

Molinari was on sabbatical leave; luckily, Gumpel was available and ... did not mind explaining to an ignorant non-Catholic ... how the Church attempts to establish divine intervention by scientific means ... which seemed to please him so that he would be able to start from the beginning.

Gumpel explained that, without dying a martyr's death, no person could be canonized unless at least two miracles attributable to that person had been demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Vatican's scientific consultants ... who needed to substantiate that prayers asking exclusively for the *intercession* of a dead person who is presumed to be in Heaven – but not yet canonized as a saint – had resulted in a blessing that could not be explained as anything else but ... *an extraordinary intervention of God*.

There was no chance that the Church would cease submitting miracles to rigorous ... scientific investigation ... to prove divine intervention. Historically, miracles ... other than those wrought by Jesus Himself, had meant little to the assembly of early Christians ... during the first 300 years of Christianity ... saints and martyrs were one and the same. >>



Peter and Paul were not canonized for the wonders they worked nor for their leadership ... but because they died as *red martyrs* for their faith. After Constantine signed the Edict of Milan in AD 313, the number of *red martyrs* ... those crucified, stoned, torn asunder or fed to wild beasts ... dropped off.

The first *white martyrs* were the Anchorites ... ascetic hermit monks who retreated into the wildest and most remote regions of Syria and Egypt ... and such was St. Anthony of Egypt (AD 251-356) who was not canonized but declared a saint by the early Christian community. The official canonization process did not become instituted until about the 12th century. Eventually, missionaries and Church leaders became saints and, in the Middle Ages, the founders of religious orders as well.

Since 1588, when the body now known as the Sacred Congregation for the Cause of saints was created, the process of canonization ... the declaration of saints ... had become codified down to the smallest detail: (1) The promoters of a *cause* – the candidate for sainthood – appointed a *postulator* who wrote a *posito* or position paper about the candidate; (2) This *posito* was submitted to historical consultants who checked the paper for accuracy; (3) If accurate, the *posito* was passed on to theological consultants who judged the paper based on the candidate's *heroic virtues*; (4) If approved at these stages, the *cause* went to the College of Cardinals, who then sent it – with their recommendation to the Pope; (5) If the Pope deems that all had been done properly, he declared the person *Venerable*; (6) All that remained then was to prove a miracle and the *Venerable* was beatified thus becoming one of the *Blessed* – which then permitted devotion to the *cause* ... the candidate ... the individual who was dead and presumed to be in Heaven; and (7) Only canonization obligated the entire Church to bestow *universal honor*. And, the entire difference between beatification and canonization ... sainthood ... was one more miracle. See Page 8, Column 2 >>>



Wisdom of the Ancients

If you want something done, do not give it to someone who is not doing anything; he will always find an excuse not to begin it. Instead, give it to someone who is very busy, he will always find time to finish it.

Genesis 1-2. The study of humankind deserves to be called *Sacred History* because, in it, God reveals His eternal plan to love us, to bring the human race to maturity and to bring all humanity as one in Christ, His Son made Man.

Psalms 105 – on the beginnings of *Sacred History*: Recalling the past can be a form of prayer when we try to see the work of God and to give thanks ... because all the events of history are prophetic ... glimpses of God's grace, gifts and sacraments ... which we now delight in.

Acts 13:20-26. We must always look for the continuity ... the connection ... the link between what God has done in the past and what God is doing today ... and relate the events of life, in general, and the events of our life, in particular ... with the events of the Gospel. Christian life does not consist in rituals but, above all ... in orienting our lives and our actions ... in such a way that ... sacred history continues on through us.

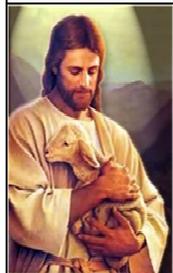


Health Tips

Leo Rosten: The purpose of life ... is not to be happy ... but to matter ... to be productive ... to be useful ... to have made a difference that you have lived at all.

Arnold Bennett: The best cure for worry and anxiety ... depression and melancholy ... is to deliberately sally forth and try ... to lift with one's sympathy ... the gloom of somebody else.

E. Stanley Jones: A rattlesnake ... when cornered ... becomes so angry, it bites itself. That is exactly what the harboring of hate and resentment against others is ... a biting of oneself. We think that we do harm to others ... by holding spite and hatred ... but the deeper harm is ... to ourselves.



On Leaders ... Lesson Learned – Two:

Leaders are risk-takers as in Simon's getting-out-of-the-boat act which may have been a blend of bravado and circumspection ... impetuosity and intuition ... patience and impatience. Taking risks and forsaking danger ... as a response to the invitation of Christ lies at the center of true spiritual leadership.

Getting out of the boat means ... leaving your comfort zone, departing from what is familiar to venture into the unknown ... putting a much higher level of trust in God for success in what you are doing, if that doing is a part of His will for us.

Such risk-taking faith creates something new for God ... where previously there had been nothing (Romans 4:17). Dati ... naka-istambay, ma-tsismis, ma-inom, ma-tongits ... walang ibinunga para kay Hesus ... ngayon, nagsasamba sa Eukaristiya sa kababaan ng kalooban, tumutulong sa kapwa sa komunidad, sa parokya, diosesis at Turno ... naghahanap ng mga taga-samba ... at uma-aksyon agad para kay Hesus.

Lesson Learned – Three: Leaders keep focused on vision and mission. Having embarked on a course of action at the invitation of Jesus, keep focused on Him ... until your action is completed, mission accomplished and vision attained.

Having taken the initial step of getting out of the boat, Leaders and Adorers ... be careful where you **Look** ... what you **Think** and **Say** ... where you **Go** ... who you **Speak** and **Listen** to. 1 Corinthians 5:7 – *Live by faith not with our senses.*

Feeling the chilly mist brushing against his skin ... the spray of the waves on his body ... hearing the howling wind in his ears, Simon allowed his fear to replace ... faith in his mind and spirit. He immediately began to sink.

Lesson Learned – Four: Leaders admit their mistakes and correct themselves. Simon realized ... accepted ... admitted ... that he was looking at the wrong direction ... lost his focus on Jesus ... his fear replacing his faith ... but Simon had the good sense to cry out for help: *Lord, save me!* And, indeed, Jesus saved him. Losing focus was Simon's pitfall ... one of his lows ... time and again ... like you and me ... dogging him for much of his life. **See next Column >>>**

John 6:1-70 tells one of Simon's high moments where, far from making it easier for the crowds and his disciples, Jesus says: *I have come down from Heaven ... I am the bread of Life ... this bread is My flesh.* Grumbling turns into argument ... and into desertion.

Seeing the seventy-two disciples leaving Him, Jesus faced the twelve apostles and meekly asked them: *Will you also go away?* Perhaps, the twelve were still amazed at how the crowds and many of His disciples had turned their backs on them ... deserting their group ... and so they were flustered ... tongue-tied ... their throats dry with this unpleasant turn of events.

It was Simon who replied: *We know that You are the Holy One of God!* At times of great uncertainty, when leaders are ... emotionally drained due to mud-slinging ... physically tired of endless meetings, long journeys and inclement weather ... spiritually dry with the indifference and apathy ... in Turno/Section/Council ... you hold on to Jesus, like Simon ... Who alone has the Word of Eternal Life – all others are hollow and hopeless ... walang laman at walang pag-asa.

Jesus is our rallying point ... because the future continues to be a struggle of leading the Church ... in Turno/Section/Council. Simon already had a clear idea ... not yet a conviction ... of Who Jesus is but painfully ignorant ... of what Jesus had come to do ... and of how Jesus would do it.

At Caesarea Philippi, both the blindness and clear-sightedness of Simon would be laid bare. **(August 2013: You, who do you say I AM?)**



On Apparitions ... The Vatican's investigative process ... of an extraordinary intervention of God ... of a miracle ... is very rigorous ... and these miracles were almost always of a medical nature – that is, only organic diseases or physical injuries are considered by the Sacred Congregation's medical board ... the *Consulta Medica*; shock, trauma, paralysis and blindness are excluded at once.

Getting a *candidate* to Rome required the diocese to conduct its own investigation ... securing affidavits from the patient, and every doctor, nurse and technician connected with the patient's case ... witnesses attesting that the patient and his loved ones invoked at prayer, only the *candidate* in question – disallowing ... asking for the help of Jesus and Mary. If all these were accomplished, at least two doctors had to examine the patient, submit sworn statements that all traces of the ailment were gone and that no relapse was possible.

Only at this point would the Vatican consider the case. And, 90-95% of such cases were disqualified after a preliminary investigation ... though many of such cases are indeed extra-ordinary. Of the remaining 5-10%, one-third are dropped due to *insufficient documentation* or *unclear status*.

Surviving cases went to the medical board *Consulta Medica* which approved fewer than half Then, a board of nine theologians take over to *ascertain the relationship between cause and effect* and, if 2/3 of them consented, the case went to a higher tribunal of bishops and cardinals who also had to approve by a 2/3 majority. The tribunal passed the case to the Pope who might, if he elects, decree that an extra-ordinary intervention of God ... a miracle ... had occurred.

It was before the *Consulta Medica* that miracles truly were tested. The one miracle of a non-medical nature **See Page 9, Column 1 >>**

On Apparitions ... which the Church had recognized ... a multiplication of food ... occurred on 25 January 1949 in the Spanish village of Ribera del Fresno, birthplace of John Macias (born 02 March 1585).

Macias, a Dominican priest, died in Peru on 16 September 1645. The miracle ... the divine intervention ... took place at the Parish Hall where children of an orphanage were served dinner; poor families received meals at the door. On that evening, the cook had ... *pitong guhit* or 700 grams ... each of rice and meat to provide a meal for 59 orphans ... nothing would be left for the poor.

The cook knelt to pray for the help of Blessed John Macias and proceeded to prepare the evening meal. Soon, she noticed boiling rice overflowing the pot in which it was being cooked ... and ladled some of the rice into a second pot ... then a third ... and, for the next four hours, while the pot continued to overflow with rice.

The pastor and his mother were witnesses to the miracle ... 22 people swore of the miracle – the last serving was as fluffy and fresh as the first. Nearly 200 people ate their fill. The pastor saved some of the rice and was examined 25 years later by scientists working for the Sacred Congregation ... which in 1975 had approved the miracle and canonized John Macias a saint in 1975.

It seems that the prevailing attitude in the Vatican toward miracles, was: *What could not be explained must be ignored.* And, on miraculous healings: *If it could be explained, set it aside.* There were five possible explanations for the raptures of visionaries: (1) Fakery; (2) Hysteria; (3) Truth; (4) They were granted an unconscious experience of the Divine; and (5) Demonic possession.

The most notorious instance of simulated ... for-show ... sacred experience in the annals of Catholicism involved the 16th century Franciscan nun, Magdalena of the Cross ... who lived in Spain during the same period as St. Teresa of Avila, the most important female visionary in the history of the Church ... but, at that time, Magdalena, more than Teresa, was better known and more highly regarded.

Magdalena's stigmata and her public levitations ... dramatic ecstasies and powers of prophecy ... with numerous eyewitnesses ... produced an enormous spectacle. Bishops and great nobles of the era formed a virtual court around her ... at the monastery where she was named abbess. Spanish theologians investigated the purported visionary ... and each one concluded that she was a genuine mystic of supreme significance to the Church. The nuns who lived under her charge in the monastery ... believed her to be a holy woman, living for years without a single bite of solid food.

At old age and near death, Magdalena admitted that it all had been an elaborate hoax! Her stigmata were self-inflicted ... her decades-long fast was but a charade ... her levitations and her ability to see into the future were real but were not divinely inspired. These powers had been granted to her by Satan in exchange for her soul. See next Column >>>



Rev. Fr. Manuel M. Flores, S.J.
National Director – Adoracion Nocturna Filipina
Formator – San Jose Seminary
Born 19 August 1953.
Sacerdotal Ordination: 27 March 1987.



His Excellency
Most Rev. Archbishop Angel N. Lagdameo, D.D.
Archbishop of Jaro
Born 02 August 1940 at Lucban, Quezon.
Sacerdotal Ordination: 19 December 1964 at Lucena City.
Episcopal Ordination: 22 August 1980 at Lucena Cathedral.



His Excellency
Most Rev. Gerardo A. Alminaza, D.D.
Auxiliary Bishop of Jaro
Born 04 August 1959 at Sipalay, Negros Oriental.
Sacerdotal Ordination: 29 April 1986.
Episcopal Ordination: 04 August 2008.

On Apparitions ... On her death-bed, she received the rite of exorcism. Magdalena of the Cross serves ... as a symbol of evil's power and a reproach to those easily swayed by gullibility and the spectacular. Nearly 200 years after Magdalena's death, the Church ... undertook the most exhaustive and enduring attempt to establish standards ... for judging mystics ... for separating *human faith* from *supernatural faith*.

These standards were written by Pope Benedict XIV who prior to his election as Pope was Prospero Lorenzo Cardinal Lambertini (1675-1758) who worked with what is now the Sacred Congregation for the Causes of Saints ... and it was his job to argue the case against a candidate for sainthood. His title with the then Congregation of Sacred Rites had been *Promoter of the Faith* – more popularly known, ironically, as *The Devil's Advocate*. Pope John Paul II eliminated the position in 1983. (August 2013: On Marian Apparitions)

Errata – June 2013 Issue:

1. On Renewal – Page 2, Column 1, paragraph 7, sentence 2: *He does it*
2. On Merton – Page 3, Column 1, paragraph 1, sentence 2: *more liberty* ... paragraph 2, sentence 1: *greater strictness*....
3. On The Coded Message – Page 5, Column 2: The Clue is B = 11. [BroDuffy: So Sorry!]
4. On Money – Page 7, Column 1, paragraph 5, last sentence: *graces, relationships* paragraph 6, sentence 2: *for you and me* Column 2, item 2, on Accountability: *the Master* ... *give an accounting*
5. On Money – Page 8, Column 2, paragraph 6: *ikatatakot mo ang kanyang pagdating*

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Bro. Duffy G. Lomuntad: aglomuntad@yahoo.com, 0916-4197050.

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.

Pope Francis is taking a hands-on approach for an expected clear-out of scandal-plagued Vatican Bank.

Episcopal Ordination – August 2013: Archbishop Antonio J. Ledesma of Cagayan de Oro; Archbishop Jose S. Palma of Cebu; Archbishop Romulo G. Valles of Davao; Archbishop Angel N. Lagdameo of Jaro; Archbishop Socrates B. Villegas of Lingayen-Dagupan; Bishop Arturo M. Bastes of Sorsogon; Bishop Jose R. Manguiran of Dipolog; Bishop Emmanuel T. Cabajer of Pagadian; Bishop Florentino G. Lavarias of Iba; Bishop Joseph A. Nacua of Ilagan; Bishop Julius S. Tonel of Ipil; Auxiliary Bishop Gerardo A. Alimanza of Jaro; Auxiliary Bishop Broderick S. Pabillo of Manila; Auxiliary Bishop David William V. Antonio of Nueva Segovia; Archbishop Emeritus Diosdado A. Talamayan; Bishop Emeriti Jose C. Sorra of Legazpi, Nicolas M. Mndejar of San Carlos, Salvador Q. Quizon of Lipa, Protacio G. Gungon of Antipolo; and Deogracias S. Yniguez, Jr. of Kalookan.

Foundation Anniversaries – August 2013:

25th Year – Archdiocesan Council of Cebu (27 August);
 33rd Year – Diocesan Council of Lucena (24 August); and
 1st Year – Diocesan Council of Virac.
 25th Year – Section 94 Bogo, North Cebu (27 August);
 25th Year – Section 95 Danao, Northeast Cebu; and
 25th Year – Section 96 Balamban, Northwest Cebu.
 90th Year – Turno 39 San Roque, Kalookan (15 August);
 90th Year – Turno 40 San Felipe Neri, Mandaluyong;
 75th Year – Turno 138 Tabaco, Albay (19 August 1938);
 75th Year – Turno 139 Bustos, Bulacan;
 60th Year – Turno 200 Tagbilaran, Bohol (14 August 1953);
 60th Year – Turno 266 Calauag, Quezon;
 55th Year – Turno 624 Sibul, San Miguel, Bulacan;
 55th Year – Turno 636 Candelaria, Zambales (20 August);
 50th Year – Turno 844 Tingloy, Batangas (10 August);
 50th Year – Turno 845 Plaridel, Bulacan;
 45th Year – Turno 977 Malibay, Pasay (14 August 1968);
 30th Year – Turno 1277 Gigmolo, Catanduanes;
 10th Year – Turno 1620 Cembo, Makati (23 August 2003);
 77th Year – Tarcisian Turno 3 Manila (11 August 1936);
 40th Year – Tarcisian Turno 53 Del Remigio, San Pablo;
 40th Year – Tarcisian Turno 54 Baliuag, Bulacan; and
 5th Year – Tarcisian Turno 258 Nangka, Marikina.

Birthdays – August 2013: Rev. Fr. Manuel M. Flores, SJ – National Director of Adoracion Nocturna Filipina (19 August 1953); His Eminence Gaudencio B. Cardinal Emeritus Rosales; Archbishop Angel N. Lagdameo of Jaro; Bishop Jose R. Rojas, Jr. of Libmanan; Bishop Manolo A. delos Santos of Virac;

See next Column >>>

**Constantinople — Legacy**

From *Christianity & Human Rights* by Paul Siebert
 Printed in *Law & Justice: The Christian Law Review*
 Published in 1989 by *The Edmund Plowden Trust*
 Edited by Rev. Fr. Richard Regan, SJ

Legacy. Human Rights in the Church. There is a complaint ... that I have voiced several times before ... that others have been voicing more audibly ... far more articulately than I The **complaint** is this: Within its *internal* structures, my own Church – the Church of Rome – has not yet even began to practice what it has so forcefully preached for 25 years ... and more ... in the matter of human rights.

Let me explain. As we are frequently reminded, the Church as an entity ... defies description or even exhaustive definition. She is both ... temporal and spiritual, visible and invisible, single and diverse ... teacher, sanctifier and shepherd ... pilgrim and missionary, saint and sinner. Her full nature will always remain ... mystery.

One of her aspects which the Church presents herself as ... is a society of mortal, imperfect and sinful men and women ... who are on the way to holiness ... but are far from achieving it. In that respect, at least, she is like other temporal societies which need laws to regulate the secular relationships of her members with each other ... which is why we have Canon Law and Canon Law lawyers.

Today, the Roman Catholic Church insistently advocates respect for human rights ... of the born and the unborn ... as a central part of her teaching mission ... addressing herself to other temporal societies. If those precepts ... advocacies ... are to have any real influence in the secular world ... in which her credibility is less than total, the Church should bear witness to this teaching ... this preaching ... mission by setting a shining example in her own affairs ... discharging her internal governance with at least a high degree of respect for human rights ... as any society that is merely temporal. Any shortfall in this area lessens her credibility ... and risks bringing herself into scandal.

Sadly, on the matter of her internal governance, the Church suffers from defects ... in her systems of law and administration ... which, unfortunately, remain legion. Two (2) historical factors operate to strengthen these defects:

1. The influence of Imperial Roman Law whose exponents claim it to be the *fons et origo* ... the source and origin ... of law, justice, mercy, virtue and all that is good in this world ... is a highly autocratis system – the very antithesis of one founded on respect for human rights ... flowing either from the natural law of right reason or from the inherent dignity of human rights. Yet, it persists to this day ... in Canon Law despite all the recent reforms.
2. The fallacy that advancement in the Church hierarchy somehow correlates with saintliness. Neither Popes nor cardinals ... Archbishops, Bishops nor Monsignori ... have displayed any special immunity to vices ... which tend to unfold ... and be revealed ... as the power of one *fallible* human over his fellowmen ... increases.

(August 2013: Suggestions)

Birthdays ... Bishop Gabriel V. Reyes of Antipolo; Bishop Jose R. Manguiran of Dipolog; Bishop Emmanuel C. Trance of Catarman; Bishop Julius S. Tonel of Dipolog; and Auxiliary Bishop Gerardo A. Alminanza of Jaro.