



The Real Presence

Taga-Sambang Gabi ng Eukaristiya

(Nocte Adoratricum Eucharistia)



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Meaning of *Eucharist*?

From *Eleven Days in December: Christmas at the Bulge, 1944* by Stanley Weintraub (2008)

The Christmas tree ... is the most recognizable image of what is today the major family-focused holiday in so many parts of the world ... and had its likely origins south of the Ardennes Forest bounded on its sides by Belgium, Germany, Luxembourg and France.

Napoleon's armies had brought decorated Christmas trees into Germany ... in turn, German immigrants carried the traditional tree across the Atlantic to America ... where the custom spread in the 1820s ... spilling over to the Philippines in the early 1900s. A century later ... in December 1944 ... the dark, evergreen forests of Ardennes (to the French) or the Hurtgen (to the Germans) ... towered by the *Schnee Eifel* or Snow Mountains ... would be illuminated only by gun-shot and cannon-shell.

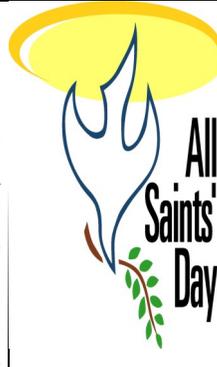
Better known as the Battle of the Bulge ... black, brown and white soldiers fighting for either side ... Americans, Belgians, Canadians, French, Germans, Irish, Polish, Scandinavians and Slavs ... were fighting on inhospitable terrain ... nearly dark even in daylight ... where dense, snow-covered evergreen trees ... recalled vestiges of tradition of the Christmas season.

Many ordinary men did extra-ordinary things and many extraordinary things happened to many ordinary men ... many were expected to do the unexpected. Allied Supreme Commander in the West, American General Dwight David Eisenhower, had bet British Field Marshal Bernard Law Montgomery US\$5.00 that Germany would surrender by Christmas 1944.

Adolf Hitler thought different. He aimed for the port of Antwerp ... 125 miles away, about the distance from the Manila to Sison, Pangasinan going up to Baguio ... where American ships unloaded supplies ... thus splitting the British and American lines, encircle four armies and forcing the Allies to negotiate a peace treaty in Hitler's favor ... thus allowing him to concentrate on the Russian front ... all delusions!!!

The offensive would have started in November 1944 but Hitler had much trouble scrounging around for and organizing troops and equipment. After much delay, the German offensive started at 0530H on 16 December 1944, with a three-hour barrage from 1,500 German artillery ... involving 250,000 German soldiers and 800 Panzer tanks ... creating a bulge at the center of the front line.

The first seven days of the offensive ... See next Column >>>



up to 23 December 1944 ... resulted in thousands of dead and wounded American soldiers ... thousands more were taken prisoners and shipped off by train to concentration camps in Germany ... a *blitzkrieg* indeed. The commander of the U.S. Third Army, Lt. Gen. George S. Patton, was directed to execute a 90-degree turn, swinging to the left and reinforce the beleaguered U.S. forces in Bastogne.

Some 65 kilometers southeast of Bastogne, in Luxembourg City, General Patton went to the ancient Roman Catholic chapel in *Foundation Pescatore*, removed his helmet with its three stars, sank to his knees under the crucifix above the altar and earnestly prayed to God ... his ultimate commanding general ... for the Christmas-time success of his troops:

Sir, this is Patton speaking. These last days ... have been straight hell ... and I'm wondering what's going on in Your headquarters ... My chaplains have been saying this is a religious war ... the Crusades all over again ... that we are here to annihilate the godless Hitler so that religious freedom may return to Europe.

You have given us your unreserved cooperation. Clear skies and a calm sea eliminated Rommel in Africa. Excellent weather in Sicily allowed our armored dash across France. You have often given me excellent guidance in difficult command decisions.

But, now, Sir, you have given Hitler ... every break in the book and, frankly, his armies are beating the hell out of us. My army is neither trained nor equipped for warfare ... in weather more suitable for Eskimos than for southern American cavalrymen.

So, I can't help but feel ... that I have offended You in some way ... that, suddenly, You have lost all sympathy for our cause ... that You have now sided with the Germans and their god, Hitler ... and that, without me telling You, You know our situation is desperate.

My 101st Screaming Eagles Airborne Division is holding out against tremendous odds in Bastogne ... delaying the German advance ... but this storm of snow and rain is making it impossible to supply them from land and air Your weather is giving us more difficulty than the Germans.

I don't complain unreasonably but ... my soldiers are suffering tortures of the damned ... several hospitals are full of frostbite cases ... the wounded are dying in the fields and forests because they cannot be brought back for medical care ... lack of visibility and continued rains have completely grounded my air force.

Sir, without your cooperation from a weather standpoint ... I am deprived of accurate disposition of the German armies ... how in hell can I be intelligent in my attack? See Page 2, Column 1 >>>

On Meaning of Eucharist? *I have lost all patience with Your chaplains who insist that I must have faith because this is a typical Ardennes winter.*

Well, faith and patience be damned, Sir! You have just got to make up your mind whose side you are on! You must come to my assistance ... that I may dispatch the entire German Army ... as a birthday presence to Your Prince of Peace.

Sir, I do not ask for the impossible ... not even insist upon a miracle ... for all I request are four days of clear weather. Give me four clear days so that ... my planes can fly supplies, bomb and strafe ... my reconnaissance may pick out targets for my magnificent artillery ... with sunshine to dry this blasted mud, my tanks will roll ... my trucks will transport ammunition and food for my hungry, ill-equipped infantry ... and I will deliver You enough Krauts to keep Your bookkeepers ... very busy. Amen!!!



As General Patton left the chapel in Luxembourg ... he did not notice that his prayer seemed to have been anticipated ... the skies were clearing. On 27 December 1944, in exactly four days, Patton's army reached Bastogne. On 25 January 1945, Patton's fast-paced war machines had flattened the Bulge. He was on his way to Berlin ... with his usual strong sense of urgency.

A week after Hitler's suicide in Berlin, German General Alfred Jodl signed the articles of unconditional surrender on 07 May 1945... which is Jose Abad Santos Day in Pampanga. Patton was not allowed to see another Christmas. He died on 21 December 1945 and was buried in a cemetery in Luxembourg ... along with 40,000 American dead in the Battle of the Bulge ... some 6,000 of them were from Patton's own U.S. Third Army.

Reflection: Many Christians do not believe ... that war is being waged against us by the forces of darkness ... which has given Satan great JOY! Adorer: Whose side are you on?

The Blessed Virgin Mary

From *NOT FOR SALE: Raising Awareness and Ending Exploitation* (2007) by CHASTE: Churches Alert to Sexual Trafficking across Europe

LOVE IS (Inspired by 1 Corinthians 13). Love is patient; love is kind. It deceives no one; it kidnaps no one. It rapes no one. Love is never selfish. It does not lust for money, power or prostitutes. Love always hopes. It protects, encourages and transforms. Love will never come to an end.

Meg Nunn, Member of Parliament for Sheffield Heeley, Minister for Women and Equality (May 2005-June 2007) observes: There are many different ways to traffick women into the United Kingdom for sexual exploitation, such as: (1) Fictitious advertisements in the country of origin; (2) Fictitious advertisements for marriages; (3) Kidnapping, often in regions devastated by wars; (4) Girls sold by their families; and (5) Grooming of adolescent girls by *boyfriends* who are part of the criminal trafficking network. >>>>

Once in the hands of their minders ... their handlers or their pimps ... women face an appalling future. These exploited young women are kept in conditions akin to slavery. Here, in the United Kingdom, we do hhh for traffickers and the law is rigorously enforced against those who commit sexual crimes against women involved in prostitution; but, if the demand did not exist, the numbers involved in trafficking would be greatly reduced.

CHASTE asks the important question of why we continue to regard the buying and selling of sex as acceptable. Wherever there are prostitutes, there will be trafficked women. We should not accept the statement that prostitution is the oldest profession and that, therefore, it will always be with us!!!

Reflection: How do you aid and abet women trafficking? (December 2013: ABCs of Sexual Trafficking)

The Holy Spirit

From *Living with Saints* by Mary O'Connell. (2001).

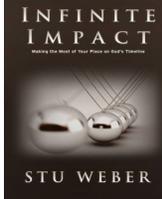
[BroDuffy: Novelist Mary O'Connell relates a story of how the life of a female saint influences ... the experiences of the women of today ... drawing us into their lives where the everyday overlaps with the everlasting.]

I am Saint Catherine Laboure. I was born in France in 1806 and baptized as Zoe Laboure. I enjoyed a happy childhood until I was eight, when mother died. Father did not understand the hard sorrows of a child; I found consolation See Page 9, Column 1 >>>



St. Joseph

From *Infinite Impact: Making the Most of Your Place on God's Timeline* by Stu Weber (2007)



Time is a riddle, a puzzle ... a mystery. What is Time? Does it actually exist or is

it an invention of the human mind? Does time have a beginning and an end? Through ages, philosophers have grappled with the concept of Time.

German philosopher Immanuel Kant theorized that our mind somehow structures our perceptions so that we know instinctively that Time is like a mathematical line ... a line between two points ... not necessarily a straight line ... but a timeline.

The history of the universe ... the planet Earth and all of human history ... are inscribed on a single line ... with a definite and a pre-determined end ... which St. Augustine refers to as a one-way journey from Genesis to Judgment. See Page 9, Column 1 >>>

Angels and Archangels

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



Matthew 13:47-50. *The Kingdom of Heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. When the net was full, the fisherman pulled it up on the shore. Then, they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets and threw the bad away.*

This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace.



On Prayer

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

Psalm 63:2-9. People grow tired of everything. Even that most profound, pure and lasting expression of humans – love – does not fully satisfy because the shadow of death looms over it ... prompting St. Augustine to express his famous phrase: *You made us for your self, O Lord ... and our hearts are restless until they rest in You.*

This marvelous psalm has many spiritual applications. Blessed are we if, at certain times in our lives ... meditating on God's Word ... praying or worshipping ... in generously responding to the Divine Call ... in loving our neighbors unselfishly, we experience God through the feelings that reveal Him: Peace, Joy, Security and Hope ... in the midst of the difficulties and trials of life, we give to others the love and desire for God.



On Silence

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

In the physiology of talking, airflow from the lungs is regulated via the nose, throat and mouth and altered in many ways to produce ... whispers when the vocal folds or cords attached to the larynx are only partially closed ... or voices when the vocal cords are tense. Via the lips, teeth, hard palate, tongue, oral cavity and other parts in the head – the supraglottic system – words and speech are possible.

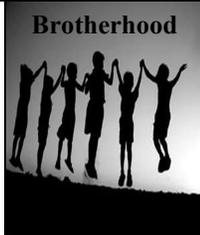
For me, the force of my words requires a conscious letting go and then a push and pull of my mind, body and spirit all at once. My voice may have been a whisper but the words are alive ... escaping from my lips with a power of its own that stuns me ... like explosives from the ragged edge.

The recurrent laryngeal nerve makes a circuitous route from the brain into the chest cavity ... around the heart and back up to the larynx where ... along with the superior laryngeal nerve, it controls the vocal muscles.

Evolutionists argue that the nerve should simply traverse a few inches of space from the brain to the larynx which would be a more efficient route. The present circuitous route is unnecessary hence a design flaw indicating that the design is unintelligent thus proving the theory of evolution because nature cannot correct the flaw.

On the other hand, creationists claim that the reason for the nerve's circuitous route is that, in the development of the human embryo, many systems have to be functional ... way ahead before development is complete. These systems are the necessary outcome of developmental dynamics and are, therefore, proof of intelligent design.

The ability for speech is a miracle ... as synapses fire and a message from my brain moves through my laryngeal nerve around my heart and uttered through my mouth, I knew that the words that I spoke ... See Page 6, Column 2 >>>



Brotherhood

Merton: A Biography

By Monica Furlong (1980)

Given permission by his Abbot to occupy a cinder-block building somewhere in the grounds of the monastery ... a whole new life very gently, began for Merton — a new routine, a somewhat frightening exploration of unknown areas within him ... a return to the joy and hope he felt upon his arrival at Gethsemani.

To his pleasure ... he began to sleep well for the first time in years. Sleeping at his hermitage altered Merton's sense of time ... making him aware of ... the phases of the moon ... the shortness of the winter day ... the difficulty of reading or writing by lamplight ... the joy of breathing in the trees and seeing birds, insects and deer.

Prolonged periods of solitude and silence were still impossible for him, since he was Novice Master with a heavy teaching load ... and the careful business of spiritual direction was very much a part of his duties ... in addition to the long hours in choir, his large correspondence and all the work associated with his own writing.

Merton's health was deteriorating rather seriously. During 1963-64, he was plagued with the misery of bursitis and colitis ... bad back pain derived from another displaced lower disk ... an inflammation of the skin on his hands, traced to an allergy caused by a particular wave of sunlight ... diarrhea and vomiting traced to staphylococcus in the spring water they drank and an inflammation of the intestines ... which all made it possible for Merton to give up his work as Novice Master in August 1965.

The monastery itself was seething with ideas and experiments ... some brought about by the Vatican Council II ... and by the heady ideas of young monks returning from studies in Rome: **(1)** The monks reverted to addressing each other with their Christian names with which they entered Gethsemani; **(2)** Abandonment of the practice of wearing the monastic crown and the use of sign language as medium of communication; and **(3)** Debates on the removal of the father monk-brother group to form one homogeneous community and the use of the vernacular in liturgy ... was encouraged.

There is wisdom in the assessment that at no point in his life did Merton become a complete hermit ... in the desolate sense usually conjured by that word. There always was a steady stream of visitors from all over the world ... Vietnamese See Page 6, Column 1 >>>



On Apostolic Works of Mercy

From *In the Heart of the World* (1997) by Mother Teresa
Edited by Becky Benenate

We came to Guatemala during the earthquake of 1972 that caused so much damage. The sisters established a community there.

A very poor man was picked up from the city streets and brought to our home. He was very sick, disabled, hungry and helpless. With help, he got well. He said: I better leave this bed for somebody else who may need it as much as I needed it when I came here.

Now, he has a job. When he gets a little money, he remembers our home and comes to visit. He always brings something for them. Even with the little he has, he always brings something. This is the great gift to us, Adorers ... poor people: The love they have.

(Continued December 2013)



Good Shepherd

On Leaders

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

Formation: A Question of Forgiveness – Listen to Matthew 18:21-35. The conversation between Peter and Jesus in these afore-cited verses and the parable ... following that conversation ... comes after Jesus' teaching of settling differences among themselves. Listening to Him, Peter recalled the teaching of the rabbis of Israel ... limiting forgiveness of a person who has offended or hurt you ... to seven times only (Proverbs 24:16) ... seven being the perfect number of occasions.

Peter must have felt big-hearted when he offered Jesus the suggestion: *Seven times?* ... only to be shocked by the reply he elicited from Jesus: *Not seven times ... but seventy times seven* (Genesis 4:24). Peter ... as we do ... had much to learn – about his own humanity, fragility and the need to forgive ... and the waywardness of the human heart.

Later, Peter would discover the truth in Jesus' lesson on forgiveness ... a humbling experience for the rest of his life. Likewise, Paul would always minister with the knowledge that, once, he had persecuted Christians and thus considered himself as the chief of sinners.

The Context of Forgiveness: Community Living. Matthew chapter 18 consists of the teaching of Jesus regarding the values which must be cultivated by Christians so that their Church community would function well. The Church community ... the *Adoracion Nocturna Filipina* – pictured as a body on whom are bestowed the gifts from the Holy Spirit and whose members are filled with, and directed by, the Holy Spirit – needs to cultivate core formative values in tune ... in time ... with the baton of God: **(1)** Humility, as exemplified by the child who humbles himself and thus is the greatest in the Kingdom of God; **(2)** Ruthlessness, in regard to personal holiness, to the extent of cutting off head or foot if that causes us to sin – better maimed in entering Heaven; **(3)** Compassion, in searching for those who have wandered off; **(4)** Accountability through listening to restore the errant member-Adorer; and **(5)** Forgiveness, experiencing the infinite capacity of God to forgive repentant sinners and of our own need to examine our inclination to forgive.

From this orchestra of formative values, we learn that each member of the Church community ... aims for child-like humility ... strives for personal holiness – as a surgeon cuts off a finger to remove gangrene and save a patient's life ... undertakes out-going compassion ... practices accountability which makes for owning up to their attitudes and actions ... and exercises forgiveness which prevents failures and mistakes from festering inside and/or outside the Church community ... so that the body of the Church ... the *Adoracion Nocturna Filipina* ... grows up and matures healthily.

What Jesus Meant by Forgiveness. In the governance of State or any other human institution, groups of people may, under certain circumstances, *have the right to punish* ... to defend society's interests and exact retribution. This right, however, is never open to ... *is denied* See Next Column >>

* On Leaders * On Virtues *

... *the individual*, who is encouraged to report a grievance to the appropriate authorities.

On a personal level, citizens are encouraged to hold out a hand of forgiveness and mercy ... to another who has offended or hurt the other ... and not to act in a retaliatory or vengeful manner. Thus, both justice and mercy may be served as the State enforces laws ... and personal relations need not descend into recrimination and bitterness ... nor should society dissolve into disorder and chaos.

In Matthew chapter 18, the previous verses point to the need for the Christian community ... such as the *Adoracion Nocturna Filipina* ... to hold its leaders and members accountable for their behavior and ministry ... with the hope that they will listen and change their ways. The conversation between Jesus and Peter (Matthew 18:21-35) is principally about the need ... for personal relationships in Christian communities ... to be governed by forgiveness and not by bitterness, animosity or revenge ... which is sometimes hard to distinguish from when there is no available fait or equitable recourse to law for the re-dress of grievance.

For example, a *Jefe de Turno* has made plans for an out-reach program within the Parish. A member-Adorer objects because the *Jefe* has not consulted more nor taken his wishes into account. The plans are put to a vote and carried for confirmation by the *Turno Chaplain*. The *Jefe* feels triumphant; the objector feels aggrieved. While the technical aspects of the out-reach program were settled, there is still the matter of the heart. See Page 8, Column 1 >>>



On Virtue

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

The greatest work of Patience is ... the transformation of strangers into neighbors ... by accepting and suffering their initiatives ... and responding with our own and, as a result, we are enriched by their in-dwelling in us ... and we are able to offer our participation in the community, through our in-dwelling in them.

God intended us to dwell and grow in a world where everyone is ... potentially a neighbor ... breaking down the barriers of strangeness ... indifference and apathy ... because together we have been appointed by God as the world's stewards and overseers ... not to exercise domination and so displace others.

Our potential creativity – our power to ... transform self, family and strangers – will be achieved only by drastically limiting our power over other people. The exercise of Patience to attain our potential is an imitation of the works of God, Who does not begrudge and deny us, Adorers, the time and space we need to exercise our strengths and express our creativity.

God then comes to us ... initiating the encounter ... in a reconciliation act ... to restore us the gifts we have wasted and mis-used. Such acts of reconciliation are the highest form of creativity because ... lives are transformed not mere things or ideas ... persons are involved not as artifacts ... *first be reconciled to your brother or sister and then come and offer your gift at the altar* (Matthew 5:23-24).

Reconciliation is ... the reunion of the separated ... the re-establishment of familiarity and support ... where those, who once were close, have become strangers and displaced persons ... the restoration of a richer See Page 9, Column 2 >>>



On Mission

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

Principle No. 6 – Delegation: Jesus assigned work to His disciples. Listen to Matthew 4:19 – *Come, follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.* In preparation for His eventual departure from Earth, Jesus was gradually building up His ministry on the shoulders of His apostles who would take over His work ... go out into the world ... and proclaim His redeeming Gospel to all nations.

Notice that His invitation to follow Him said nothing about going out and evangelizing the world although that was His objective from the beginning. His method was to get His apostles into a vital experience ... an encounter ... with God, show them how He worked His plan ... before telling them they had to do it.

Outside of food-catering ... arranging accommodation for their group ... and baptizing some people, the apostles did not do much more than watch Jesus at work for a year or more. He kept His ministry in plain sight of His disciples ... without doing any evangelistic work on their own. This observation should cause us to be more patient ... with our aspirant Adorers who follow us.

Mission. On his third general tour of Galilee ... like a mother eagle teaching her young to fly by pushing them out of the nest ... the time had come for His disciples to join Him more directly in the work. Jesus pushed His disciples out into the world to try their own wings. He began to send them forth (Matthew 10:5).

Instructions. However, before letting them go, Jesus gave them brief instructions about their mission ... explicitly outlining what He had been teaching ... all the time when they were undergoing training: **(1)** Go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel (Matthew 10:5-6); **(2)** Preach that the Kingdom of God is at hand and to heal the sick (Matthew 10:7); **(3)** Cleanse the lepers, cast out devils and raise the dead (Matthew 10:8); and **(4)** Render services freely as they received from the their Lord.

For support, they were to trust God to supply their needs ... not to burden themselves with a lot of excess baggage and provisions. Finally, Jesus specifically instructed His disciples to find some friendly person in each town they visited and there live while on mission in that area.

Jesus instructed His disciples to concentrate their time upon the most promising individuals in each town ... who would be able to follow through on their work after they had gone ... and this instruction was to be given first priority.

If the disciples could not find such promising individuals ... instructions were specific to shake off the dust on their feet as testimony against them. Those places which refused the disciples the opportunity to practice this mission of evangelization ... actually brought the judgment of utter darkness upon themselves (Matthew 10:14). **See next Column >>>**



The ANF Constitution & By-Laws

Part II, Section II, Chapter V – Section Meetings.

Article 100. [BroDuffy: We suggest that the Section President initiate the encounter with the Section Director, prior to the meeting to discuss items to be taken up and approaches to take to obtain favorable resolution to the more important items on the agenda ... to manifest Unity, Piety and Charity ... to iron out conflicts in private ... but not to squash differences of opinion.

Plans, reports and fund-raising programs at both *Turno* and Section levels are part of the agenda. These are then consolidated by the Section and submitted to Council level ... and so on ... up to National Council level.

Articles 101-103. The Annual Conference/General Convention is the proper forum for the Section to obtain a consensus from its members at *Turno* level as to the Section's goals ... its plans and programs for the next time-period of, say, three years; and the corresponding fund-raising campaign in support of its plans and programs; and to obtain feedback ... by way of formal reports ... on what the Section and its *Turnos* have achieved for the previous three years ... whether goals were attained or not ... and why.

Financial reports must have been audited and noted by both President and Director.] **(December 2013: Chapter VI)**

On Mission ... Expect Resistance. Jesus impressed on His disciples the reality of ... the strength of the Evil One and the natural resistance of men to His redeeming Gospel (Matthew 10:16-25). His admonition to them to be *as wise as serpents and harmless as doves* (Matthew 10:16) underscored the need for propriety and tactfulness but, in spite of all their precautions, the world was not likely to receive the disciples with favor when they faithfully preached the Gospel. They were sent *as sheep among wolves*.

Jesus reminded His disciples of the decisive ... and divisive nature ... of His Gospel invitation (Matthew 10:34-38). There could be no compromise with sin or evil ... and, for this reason, anyone holding out on God ... *I will follow you, Lord, but let me first* ... was surely to be disturbed by their preaching. They were going forth with a revolutionary Gospel and ... when it was obeyed ... it effected a revolutionary change in people and their society.

[BroDuffy: *Does a chaotic, corrupt society ... institution or Church organization ... reflect the magnitude of the people's disobedience to the Gospel of Jesus?*]

Jesus never asked anyone to do something which He Himself was unwilling to do ... and so He closed His briefing of His disciples by assuring them that *he who receives you receives Me... and He who receives Me, receives My Father in Heaven* (Matthew 10:40). So clear was this association that ... if someone gave a child a glass of cold water ... *you did it unto Me* (Matthew 25:40).

It is a matter of record that the Book of Acts represents the apostles travelling in groups of two or more ... reflecting the characteristic concern of Jesus for togetherness. His idea is that the disciples were matched up to complement the other's virtues ... and to minimize the other's faults. They would help each other and ... when adverse circumstances greeted them as often would be the case ... they would find solace among themselves. **See Page 12, Column 2 >>>**

To be idle is inconceivable in a man who has an apostolic spirit.



Tarcisian Challenge:

Lead the Youth Closer to Christ

Ten-Minute Devotions for Youth Groups

Edited by Mike Nappa (1993)

These devotions are meant to help youth to understand and apply God's Word in Bible studies for deeper meaning in their activities.

Lesson Seven: Theme – Grandparents.

Scripture Readings – Proverbs 16:31.

Overview: Age a volunteer-participant and discuss how to related to older people.

Preparation: Bible, scarf, eye shades, talcum powder, a 2-foot length rope and a stool.

Experience: With what you have, make up the volunteer-participant to look old. Have everyone do a 3-lap brisk walk around the room – with shoes and without. Finally, have each group-member read ALOUD Proverbs 16:31.

Response: Sit in a circle. Have the participants take turns sharing their response to the following questions: (1) In your walk around the room, how did you feel watching our Lolo or Lola struggle to walk which we all did with ease? (2) How are the disabilities we created for our volunteer similar to what happens to people as they grow old ... as you will too? (3) How do you feel about the way we treat older people in our family ... in our culture ... and in our church? (4) What does Proverbs 16:31 imply regarding how older people should be treated?

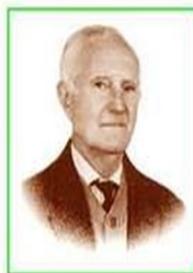
Closing: Read Proverbs 16:31 again. Say – *The Bible teaches us that older people deserve our respect. Pair up and tell your partner the name of an older person you have contact with and what you will do this week to show that person acceptance and respect.*

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

On Brotherhood ... Buddhists, Hindu monks, Japanese Zen masters and Sufi mystics ... professors of religion and mysticism from Jerusalem University and French philosophers ... artists and poets from Asia, Europe and the Americas ... Arabic scholars, Mexican sociologists and many others who turned up on the doorstep with and without appointments ... having traveled afar to see him.

When his Abbot permitted to forsake the novitiate in August 1965, Merton was, wittingly or unwittingly, given leave to experiment ... seeking something he believed could be found in solitude ... which is described in Merton's writings as identity. In his hermitage, he went out into solitude ... and there found himself stripped ... of all the affirmations – of friends, society and social contacts. Like Jacob, Merton wrestled with an angel ... the angel of his own identity.

Living at his hermitage, outside but within the confines of the monastery, Merton had, physically and psychologically separated himself from his brothers and could not endure the prospect of rejoining them. Nor could he, in the deepest sense, any longer, live out the vow of **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)

HEROES OF THE FAITH

November 1st – All Saints' Day. The saints are those who enjoy perfect and eternal communion with God in heavenly paradise. Some of them have been officially recognized by the Church but the greatest majority are known only to God. They delight in the beatific vision which is the contemplation of God in His heavenly glory.

Scripture says: *They will see Him face to face and His Name will be written on their foreheads* (Revelation 22:5). The most outstanding of them is the Blessed Virgin Mary, who is venerated as the Queen of Angels and of the Saints and the Star of the New Evangelization.

All of us are called to become saints – some by martyrdom, others by heroic actions ... and the rest by fulfilling their daily duties as best they can ... by their will and the graces of God.

On Brotherhood ...obedience to his Abbot ... however painstakingly he appeared to keep the vow on the surface. Merton writes: *I know he is my Abbot but I am very much afraid that I have never honestly been able to deal with him as a spiritual father and it would be impossible for me to do so sincerely.*

Merton had distanced himself from his Superior and would no longer be won over by a generous concession. It was almost as if, except in the most formal sense, Merton has ceased to be part of the Order altogether. **(To be continued December 2013)**



On Silence ... as Jesus said ... comes from my heart: *I love you!*

Lesson Thirteen on Silence: Think of your Relations. **Objective:** Step outside of yourself and be of service to others.

Technology seems to connect more of us ... more conveniently at little or no cost at all ... yet we seem to be losing the ability to connect more meaningfully with one another.

Re-connect ... by looking for opportunities of service through outreach programs and organized community services ... such as soup kitchens for the rugby boys and girls of the streets ... persuading these kids to go back to school and mentoring them ... visiting the elderly in your neighborhood etc. Experience our inter-connectedness. **(To be continued December 2013)**

What will we do tomorrow to give greater Glory to God?

Apparitions & Miracles: Science vs. Religion?

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



The Holy See's attitude toward *private revelations* – visions, apparitions and locutions – may be deduced in that those the Church assigns to investigate them are, most often, theologians. According to Rev. Fr. Gabriel O'Donnell, OP – consultant to many U.S. bishops compelled to investigate reports of mystical events in their dioceses – authenticity and theological correctness are inseparable in the eyes of the Church ... and that *usefulness to the Church* is the time-honored standard of a *revelation's* significance.

The redundancies he has catalogued in his investigative work as a *miracle detective* is the result of tedious process ... not because the purported seers lacked wit, imagination or were intellectually handicapped ... some are physicians, college professors or scientists but because their messages tended to be *very similar* – that is a hint of a warning.

Every reported revelation he had probed contained social, political, psychological and *imitative* elements but ... these elements, by themselves should not invalidate claims of divine intervention. Over the past 20 years, he has not encountered a diabolically-inspired case, though a handful of fakery or mental illness.

An assignment always involves face-to-face meetings with the seer and ends with a report: *So, over a period of months, I generally become their spiritual director ... the point of which is ... not to authenticate or validate supernatural experiences but to help you grow in virtue. Seers have difficulty keeping ... an authentic experience and growth to maturity ... straight and separate ... usually because they feel that they have some special mission or duty ... which makes me doubt the importance of their visions.*

Messages ... which contain the threat of punishment if a warning is not heeded ... were the result of human distortion ... depending on the vainglory of the person who delivered them. That doesn't mean that the vision is inauthentic but that the vision is problematic hence not of use to the Church. The more troubling cases were the ones which ... begin as authentic and become something else ... because the visionary somehow confuses the message ... thus corrupting the good and holy. Spiritual pride is especially insidious ... you feel good about doing good or about being good.

The experience of an apparition or locution is incredibly seductive ... when you discover that you ARE the chosen vessel ... the instrument of God. I think that a lot of genuine mystics enter religious orders because it's the only place they can hide ... where they are not constantly tempted to think of themselves ... as stars.

I think it's very rare to encounter a seer who is truly called to speak to the Church at large – that is a visionary whose revelations are worthy of wide dissemination. These have to pass all three primary tests: (1) Theological correctness; (2) Usefulness to the Church; See Page 11, Column 1 >>>

Money as Sacrament

Taken from *Managing God's Money: A Biblical Guide*
By Randy Alcorn (2011)

Perspectives that Prevent Faithful Money Management – Ten Fatal Dangers. Understanding the dangers of materialism liberates us to experience the joys of Christ-centered stewardship. We list below the dangers of becoming centered on money, possessions and the values of materialism:

1. Materialism hinders spiritual growth and destroys spiritual lives. It blinds us to our spiritual poverty. It is a fruitless attempt to find meaning outside of God, the Source of all life and the giver of all gifts. Listen to Revelations 3:17.

2. Materialism can't hold water. It is misguided and utterly self-destructive. It's not only wrong ... it's stupid. The Christ-centered life is not only right ... it's smart. It may pay off in the short-run ... it always pays off in the long-run ... in eternity. Listen to Jeremiah 2:11-13.

3. Materialism blinds us to the curses of wealth. When a poor and humble person who works with God ... is rewarded with prosperity, the person's focus and attention gradually turns away from God ... and becomes transformed into a proud, rich person. Listen to Ezekiel 28:4-5.

Times of financial struggle may be God's character-building gift to us ... and wealth may be a curse in disguise. Handle wealth so that it becomes a blessing to us, not a curse. See Page 11, Column 1 >>>



Everything Is Grace

From *The Grace Effect; how the Power of One Life Can Reverse the Corruption of Unbelief* (2011)
By Larry Alex Taunton

Sasha is what her friends call Oleksandra in Orphanage Number 17 in Kiev, a city founded in 9th century AD ... now populated by some 3 million people ... and is both the capital of Ukraine and is its largest city.

Orphanage #17 is Sasha's third. Abandoned at birth, her biological mother's identity is unknown. Her medical history showed that she was diagnosed in July 1999 ... with hydro-encephalous and rickets ... a disease of poverty, bringing on the weakening of the bones due to vitamin D deficiency ... the result of malnutrition.

Sasha's registered name is Oleksandra ... or Alexandra. Once, having been hospitalized ... after a bully thrust her head through a plate glass window ... Sasha prayed ... the kind of prayer that God loves most – the innocent, unsophisticated and sincere prayer of a child: *I prayed that God would let me have a family.*

Two things happened after this sweet petition ... to the Almighty: First, a gentle woman *Svetlana* entered Sasha's life ... Orphanage #17 became more bearable; Second, a small team of short-term missionaries from Alabama, USA arrived at Orphanage #17 ... with my wife, Lauri and our sons – Michael, Christopher and Zachary.

Every year, thousands of American churches send out short-term missionaries to the four corners of the globe ... building homes and churches ... providing medical care ... improving basic water and electrical infrastructures ... distributing Bibles and teaching English ... and, through these humble acts ... demonstrating the love of Jesus Christ. See Page 12, Column 1 >>>



Health Tips

From *The Whole Grain Diet Miracle*

By Dr. Lisa Hark and Dr. Darwin Deen (2006)

Because of its combination of fiber and selenium, eating unpolished red/brown rice on a regular basis may help prevent colon cancer.

Fiber minimizes the amount of time that carcinogenic materials in contact with colon cells; selenium inhibits the propagation of cancer cells.

Rice bran oil, a component of the rice kernel, lowers LDL cholesterol. In addition, unpolished red/brown rice raises blood levels of nitric oxide – a molecule known to impede development of plaque in the arteries. The fiber in red/brown rice lowers cholesterol levels helps the body maintain and stabilize blood sugar and prevents gallstone formation.

(To be continued December 2013)



On Leaders ... Hearts are not easily governed and it is in the area of the heart that forgiveness operates. So, what is forgiveness?

The Old Testament uses the Hebrew *nasa* to mean *to lift a weight* which, in Greek, is *aphi-emi* for let go; send away. The New Testament uses *exaleipho* five times and its basic meaning is *to wipe away; to expiate*. In *sign language*, forgiveness is indicated by wiping the palm of one hand firmly across the other, as if removing any stain or mess that might be on it.

God lifts away from our souls the burden brought about by our sins ... wipes away our daily failings ... wipes us clean as white as snow ... as we pray to Him for forgiveness. If He does that for us, then we, in turn, should do the same for others. If the principal meaning of forgiveness is letting go, then we have to go on letting go of offenses caused us ... *seventy times seven and that means ... endlessly!*

The point is: God has forgiven each of us a vast debt – so why can't we forgive the much smaller debts that we generally owe one another. What right do we have to hold on to resentment when we ourselves have been forgiven so much?

The decision to forgive ... the act of forgiveness as an act of will ... may take place in an instant ... although the reality of complete forgiveness lived out at every level of our being may be difficult to achieve ... and it can take years for our thinking and attitude to change accordingly ... the question we must answer is: Is forgiveness our hope and our goal?

If indeed forgiveness is our goal, then our will ... has to be engaged to move in that direction ... and we will require spiritual resources from God ... Who may use *others* to help us attain our goal. We should learn from them.

Forgiveness and a willingness to apologize when appropriate ... is essential, indispensable and absolutely necessary ... to Christian discipleship and leadership. Adorers ... Directors, Co-Directors, Presidents, *Jefes de Turno* ... must learn to say: ***It is all my fault. I am sorry! Please accept my apology as I ask for your forgiveness.*** See next Column >>>

Forgiveness and a willingness to apologize when appropriate ... is essential, indispensable and absolutely necessary ... to Christian discipleship and leadership. Adorers ... Directors, Co-Directors, Presidents, *Jefes de Turno* ... must learn to say: ***It is all my fault. I am sorry! Please accept my apology as I ask for your forgiveness.*** See next Column >>>

These words, uttered by a team leader of a Church organization such as the *Adoracion Nocturna Filipina* ... demonstrates to Adorers whom you lead that ... you are not perfect ... that you fail and need forgiveness and that you are well aware of it!!! It gives permission to others to try and to risk failing. It encourages a culture of risk-taking in Church life ... which Jesus eagerly promotes.

Failure is not a reason for exclusion from ministry nor the life of discipleship nor from leadership. We, Adorers ... do not operate by another unspoken standard – that of ostracism which somehow inserts itself, like a worm, into Church life: *If you cannot fulfill all the rules, then you definitely cannot minister here!*

In *Adoracion Nocturna Filipina*, Turno/Section/Council ... we may teach one thing but ... function in reality by different sets of standards. We teach UNITY + PIETY + CHARITY but we exclude from our group those who are not our *kumpare* or *kumare*. We teach that *faith without action is dead* but we model ourselves as *saved on the basis of our merit of good behavior alone*. We speak of *forgiveness* but find Turno/Section/Council members holding deep-seated grievances against another.

In the Church, people seldom admit that ... they were wrong ... made a mistake ... or failed to attain goals, hit targets or exceed expectations. But, Jesus suggests that ... forgiveness is so freely available to us precisely because forgiveness is frequently needed.

When Turno/Section/Council Director/Co-Director/President/*Jefe de Turno* demonstrate their need for forgiveness by freely admitting their own failures and mistakes ... instead of making a great pretense of infallibility ... then Adorers are more likely to be frank about their own mistakes – and to admit and own up to them ... knowing that forgiveness is easily both asked for and received.

The other side of forgiveness is honesty ... about our failings and shortcomings ... about our errors and mistakes ... and not to cloak them or hide them or to dissemble them – and not to think of them as trivial and inconsequential this unworthy of the attention ... grace and forgiveness ... of Christ.

Lesson Learned – 1/3. Jesus taught Peter to forgive *seventy times seven*, because God's willingness to forgive our failures ... our wrongs ... our sins ... is much greater.

Lesson Learned – 2/3. We find in the Epistles of Peter ... to the churches of Bithynia, Asia, Cappadocia, Galatia and Pontus ... the instructions of Jesus in Matthew chapter 18 ... how to conduct ourselves in the atmosphere and in the context of an oppressive and repressive State ... such as what we have in our government and in our Church (See 1Peter 3:1-12).

Lesson Learned – 3/3. What Peter himself ... had learned, seen and received from Jesus ... he now passed on to other Christians in Asia ... undergoing tests, trials and sufferings. Peter's epistles are a call to be *humble-minded* – the only place where the Greek word for it *tapeinophron* is used – and to be *compassionate* and *forgiving*; to *bless* rather than to return evil with evil.

Before they entered Jerusalem, one more conversation was recorded between Peter and Jesus ... which takes place in the region of Judea, outside of Galilee ... on the east side of the river Jordan. The conversation was about rewards.

(December 2013: What's in It For Me?)

Our God is in ... the business of forgiveness ... fortunately for us, for we all need forgiveness.



On the Spirit ... from my sister Louisa.

Two years after mother died, Louisa left home to join the Sisters of Charity of Saint Vincent de Paul. My life spiraled into perpetual housework and despair, cooking meals for father and the two of us eating in silence ... with me at the kitchen window sipping cold tea and praying for Louisa to return.

So, I dreamed of joining the Sisters of Charity ... not because I felt particularly suited to the vocation ... I simply missed my sister and imagined ... a blissful reunion ... reminiscing our childhood days ... playing the game hide-the-bat eliciting hysteria from both of us.

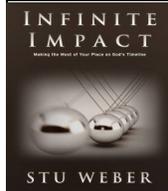
Father raised much opposition to my joining Louisa: Who would care for him? But, finally, at the great old age of 24, with his grudging permission, I joined the Sisters.

My first morning at the convent, the reverend mother granted Louisa and me a rare private visit in the garden ... a heaven of yellow buttercups, blue hydrangea and sprays of wild lavender ... I flung myself onto, and embraced her.

Louisa broke that glorious spell with a dry kiss on my cheek, pulled my hands from her waist, announcing: *I shall love you no more than any other sister of Saint Vincent de Paul.* Her childhood beauty was gone ... a claw wrinkled her skin.

She was right. I had to prepare myself for the rigors of the convent. Incessant structure of prayers ... physical labor ... lack of sleep and the enforced silences. Life at home was easy compared with this new-found austerity.

We slept dorm-style ... ten cots lined up on each side of the length of the room. We ballooned from the starchy food which was our diet. I struggled ... through my postulancy ... and was given the name Catherine. Wearing an ivory muslin gown and a crown of rosebuds ... I marched down the chapel aisle and married my silent, far-off bridegroom: Jesus Christ. **(To be continued December 2013)**



On Impact ... You are inseparably linked to that timeline and so am I. My timeline will end one day in the near future ... many people have had their timelines ended in a single year; a trio of famous people stepped off their timeline on the same day – 22 November

1963: English writer Aldous Huxley, Anglican theologian C.S. Lewis and USA-President John F. Kennedy. Kennedy's assassination eclipsed the deaths of the other two.

If the history of the universe were plotted on a timeline, our life-segments would be an inch or less. Albert K. Einstein added layers to the mystery of Time ... linking it with space, energy and matter ... and, without any resolution ... plunging us further into the depths of its mystery.

King David learned to affirm ... as I have ... that our life's timeline is in God's hands: *I trust in You, O lord; You are my God. My days are in Our Hands* (Psalm 31:15-16). That inch of our timeline shapes our destiny and the inter-locking destinies of many other people. **See next Column >>>**



His Eminence
Luis Antonio G. Cardinal Tagle, DD, STL, STD
Archbishop of Manila
Born 21 June 1957 at Sampaloc, Manila.
Sacerdotal Ordination: 27 February 1982.
Episcopal Ordination: 12 December 2001.
Elevation to Archbishop: 12 December 2011.



His Excellency
Most Rev. Rolando O.J. Tria-Tirona, OCD, DD
Archbishop Caceres
Born 22 July 1946 at Sampaloc, Manila.
Sacerdotal Ordination: 21 April 1974 in Rome.
Episcopal Ordination: 29 December 1994 Manila Cathedral.



His Excellency
Most Rev. Renato P. Mayugba, D.D.
Bishop of Laoag
Born 14 December 1955 at UST Hospital, Manila.
Sacerdotal Ordination: 25 April 1981.
Episcopal Ordination: 27 December 2005.

On Infinite Impact ... Yet, the secrets of Time – its simplicity we cannot even unravel – belong to the One Who created it ... Who set its limits and boundaries ... Who is above and outside of it. Solomon affirmed: *God has made everything beautiful in its time. God has also set eternity in the hearts of men ... who cannot understand what He has done from beginning to end* (Ecclesiastes 3:11).

St. Paul declared in Athens, among the Greeks (Acts 17:26) – From one man, God made every nation of men that they should inhabit the Earth; He fixed the time and the boundaries of each nation. Jesus' words on the subject of Time equally fascinate (Luke 12:25-26): *Who among you, by worrying, can add an hour to his life? Since you cannot do this very little thing, why worry about the rest?*

We will never be able to unravel ... much less comprehend ... all the mysteries of Time ... but, we can gain wisdom in how we use Time – that is not about *time management* but rather *time perspective* ... the usage of Time to our advantage.

Today's culture of instant messaging and nano-technology ... has altered our Perspective of Time though Time itself had not changed not has our progress along our timeline. Who can say ... if I am down to my last half inch of my timeline ... or if I am just getting started?

But, if I were on my last half-inch of my timeline, I would want that last half-inch to be the finest, most joyous, most productive half-inch of my life. How about you? Would you rather be a slacker and a procrastinator until you die?

From His vantage point, above and beyond the timeline, God has a perfect perspective on ... where we have been ... where we are ... and where, by His grace, we are going. I do long to see His face ... and I long to have a glimpse of God's perspective. Let us seek it together ... with the Holy Spirit as our Guide and Teacher.

(December 2013: Purpose and Power)

On Virtue ... relationship with victory over misunderstanding or a betrayal of sorts ... liberating us from the prison of the past and lets us begin afresh ... wiser than we were before.

(December 2013: Love is Patient)



His Holiness Pope Francis. Rev. Fr. Ruben M. Tanseco, SJ quotes Pope Francis on the poor and of poverty: *While the minority increases exponentially, that of the majority crumbles an imbalance resulting from (1) harsh ideologies which uphold the absolute autonomy of markets and financial speculation thus denying the right of control to States which are charged with providing for the common good; and (2) a savage capitalism that teaches the logic of profit at all cost ... of exploitation to the exclusion of persons and the result is the crisis we are living.*

Episcopal Ordination – December 2013: His Eminence Luis Antonio G. Cardinal Tagle, Archbishop of Manila; Archbishop Rolando O.J. Tria-Tirona of Caceres; Bishop Romeo O. Lazo of San Jose de Antique; Bishop Renato P. Mayugba of Laoag; Bishop Edwin A. dela Pena of Marawi.

Foundation Anniversaries – December 2013:

- 17th Year – Diocesan Council of Antipolo (18 Dec 1996).
- 57th Year – Section 16 Bulacan (16 December 1956);
- 31st Year – Section 74 Ticao Island, Masbate (12 Dec 1982)
- 10th Year – Section 134 Las Pinas (27 Dec 2003); and
- 4th Year – Section 148 Nangka (12 December 2009).
- 93rd Year – Turno 10 Quiapo (02 December 1920);
- 93rd Year – Turno 11 Santa Ana (20 December 1920);
- 93rd Year – Turno 12 San Francisco de Asis (29 Dec 1920);
- 90th Year – Turno 41 Laoag (31 December 1923);
- 80th Year – Turno 74 Mercedes, Zamboanga (12 Dec 1933);
- 60th Year – Turno 278 Magarao, CamSur (20 Dec 1953);
- 55th Year – Turno 638 Libmanan (December 1958);
- 55th Year – Turno 670 Mati (20 December 1958);
- 50th Year – Turno 856 Palanan, Makati (14 Dec 1963);
- 50th Year – Turno 857 San Vicente CamNorte;
- 45th Year – Turno 995 Santo Nino, CSF (24 Dec 1968);
- 45th Year – Turno 998 Santo Nino, Poro, Cebu;
- 45th Year – Turno 1009 Pagyuruan, Floridablanca;
- 45th Year – Turno 1394 Talipapa, Novaliches; and
- 45th Year – Turno 1396 St. Francis, Meycauayan.
- 45th Year – Tarcisian Turno 26 Singalong, Manila;
- 35th Year – Tarcisian Turno 99 St. John Bosco, Tondo;
- 30th Year – Tarcisian Turno 133 Aplaya, Calamba;
- 2nd Year – Tarcisian Turno 270 San Jose de Ampid;
- 2nd Year – Tarcisian Turno 271 Holy Family, Parang; and
- 2nd Year – Tarcisian Turno 273 OLA, Sto. Nino, Marikina

Birthdays – December 2013: Bishop Patricio H. Alo of Mati; Bishop Sofronio A. Bancud of Cabanatuan; Bishop Renato P. Mayugba of Laoag; Bishop Crispin B. Varquez of Borongan; Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus David William V. Antonio of Nueva Segovia; Archbishop Emeritus Carmelo D.F. Morelos of Zamboanga; Bishop Emeritus Jesus Y. Varela of Sorsogon; Bishop Emeritus Ireneo A. Amantillo of Tandag; Bishop Emeritus Jesus A. Cabrera of Alaminos; Bishop Emeritus Salvador Q. Quizon of Lipa; Bishop Emeritus Crisostomo A. Yalung of Antipolo; Bishop Emeritus Deogracias S. Iniguez of Kalookan; Bishop Emeritus Cesar E. Raval of Bangued; and Bishop Emeritus Angel T. Hobayan of Catarman.

Constantinople — Legacy: The Church

The Middle Ages: Antipopes

by Morris Bishop (1968)

[BroDuffy: The phrase *Middle Ages* is used by historians to refer to that almost-one-thousand-year period between the fall of Rome to the Goths in AD 476 to the fall of Constantinople to the Ottoman Turks in 29 May 1453. Constantinople is now known as *Istanbul*.]

Prior to the advent of postal service, satellite imaging and mobile phones, news travelled months even years. In AD 1316, the news of Pope John XXII's election took ten days to reach York in England from Lyons in France ... a mere 800 miles or 1,200 kilometers away ... comparable to the Manila-Aparri-Manila trip.

In 1377, Pope Gregory XI returned the seat of the papacy from Avignon in France to Rome. He died a year later. The cardinals, in conclave, physically threatened by a Roman mob, elected an Italian, Pope Urban VI. Fleeing Rome, most of the cardinals voided their action and elected an antipope – Pope Benedict XIII, who chose to re-establish the papal seat in Avignon, France. The Great Western Schism of 1378 had begun.

Rights of the Laity

From *Furthermore! Memories of a Parish Priest*

By Rev. Fr. Andrew M. Greeley (1999)

In the Confusing Church today, there is a form of oppression of the faithful carried out by parish staff ... often composed of laymen and lay-women who substitute their ideological clichés for education. Not all of the neo-authoritarianism in the Church is lay. The clergy continues to oppress. Just as I could not stay away from the fight against the *pedophile* ... *pederast* is better term ... I found it impossible to keep my big Irish mouth shut. See **Page 13, Column 2**

Errata – October 2013 Issue:

1. On Eucharist: Page 1, Column 1, paragraph 7, line 3: ... *of every* virtue; Column 2, paragraph 5, line 2: ... *the joy*; Line 3: ... *that is*.
2. On Mary: Page 2, Column 1, paragraph 3, line 3: ... *year old*
3. On Spirit: Page 2, Column 2, paragraph 5, line 4: ... *the enzymes*.
4. On St. Joseph: Page 2, Column 2, line 4: ... *every kind*
5. On Merton: Page 3, Column 2, paragraph 5, line 6: ... *doing*
6. On Mission: Page 5, Column 2, paragraph 1, line 4: ... *healthy*...
7. On Tarcisians: Page 6, Column 1, paragraph 3, line 6: ... *your*....
8. On Leaders: Page 8, Column 2, paragraph 7, line 3: ... *Acts 16:3*.
9. On Church: Page 10, Column 2, paragraph 3, line 2: ... *It is*
10. On Grace: Page 11, Column 2, paragraph 5, line 5: ... *if found*; Page 12, Column 1, paragraph 1, line 1: ... *the final triumph*

Need HELP? Contact us at:

Rev. Fr. Manuel M. Flores SJ, ANF National Director: 02-4266091.
 Rev. Fr. Socrates C. Montealto SSP, Tarcisian Director: 02-8314151.
 Bro. Manuel I. Granados, ANF National President: 02-3539977;
 Bro. Arnel C. Lagarto, President, Natl Tarcisian Council: 02-8314151.
 Bro. Duffy Lomuntad: aglomuntad@yahoo.com; 0916-4197050.

Prayer Requests:

From BroDuffy: (1) For the realization of supply contracts for nickel and fuel oil; (2) For the completion of the sale of rural banks; and (3) To be the Philippine representative of a multinational company in the market for high-precision metal/plastic parts.

Miracles

On Apparitions ... and (3) Clear relationship between the messages the person reports and changes in the quality of their own lives.

If an apparition were to be described as an opening-door, then the door can't open from this side and be authentic [BroDuffy: Recall the statement of Rev. Fr. Thomas H. Green on Prayer – God initiates the encounter.] No person can control that door from opening ... and if you think so, you deceive yourself because you have convinced yourself that man is at the center of things. But, the heart of religious life is God Alone ... at its center.

An apparition is a grace ... a gift from God ... a sacrament. Why it's granted to us, we really can't know. I draw on the Gospel of St. John to explain these things to myself: God so loved the world that He sent His only-begotten Son that we might be saved. Well ... God so loves the world that He keeps sending us those messages through angels, His Mother and the saints ... so that we never perish.

(December 2013: Authenticity Standards)

On Money ... 4. Materialism brings unhappiness and anxiety. The bait of wealth hides the harpoon-like hook of addiction and slavery. No wonder Christ's statement about not storing up treasures on Earth but in Heaven is immediately followed by an admonition (Matt 6:31-34).

People store up treasures on Earth rather than in Heaven ... because of greed and selfishness, of fear and insecurity ... *a rich man's abundance permits him no sleep* (Eccl 5:11).

A stockholder's hopes rise and fall with the market. If your treasure is deposited in the bank that fails, your heart will fail with it. One who hopes in God will be devastated only if He fails ... God never fails.

5. Materialism ends in futility. Ecclesiastes chapters 2-5, 8-10 is most powerful revelation written against materialism. Solomon one of the wealthiest men, recounts his attempts at ... finding fulfillment in life by searching for meaning in entertainment, alcohol, sex and possessions.

Solomon concludes that *it was all so meaningless like chasing the wind ... nothing really worthwhile* (Ecclesiastes 2:11). In contrast to materialism's emptiness, there is joyful liberty in Christ. Hold tightly to the true God and you will loosen your grip on money – thereby loosening money's grip on you. St. Paul writes: *We are poor but give spiritual riches to others. We own nothing ... yet we have everything* (2 Corinthians 6:10).

6. Materialism obscures many of life's greatest blessings. These blessings are often far more appreciated by the poor ... whose lives are less cluttered and distracted by material wealth. God's greatest gift of salvation is available to all and cannot be bought with money: *Come and drink – even if you have no money; it's free!* (Isaiah 55:1).

God's Son redeemed us ... freely giving Himself to all who seek Him. Money cannot but salvation nor rescue from judgment. So, See Next Column >>>

why do we ... Adorers ... mis-treat, mal-treat each other? Ecclesiastes 8:11 – *It is because sentence against wrongdoing is not passed at once ... that men turn to evil designs; they may do evil a hundred times and yet survive.*

7. Materialism spawns a false feeling of independence and self-sufficiency. Why pray ... and ask for your daily bread when you own the bakery? We pride ourselves on our self-sufficiency ... or financial independence ... forgetting that even our every breath is a gift of God. Wealth insulates us from discerning the true depth of our poverty ... our need.

God warned Moses ... before the Israelites had even set foot on the Promised Land ... that they would turn away from Him and *worship other gods, despise Him and break His Covenant* (Deut 31:20).

8. Materialism leads to pride and elitism. We, Adorers ... in our new-found material prosperity ... tend to believe that we deserve credit for what we have ... and to grow proud and thankless ... *more and more bold in our wickedness* (Psalm 52:7).

God gave us our intellect (Daniel 2:21), our abilities (Romans 12:6) and our capacity to earn money (Deuteronomy 8:18) ... and Jesus came to die for people of every race and creed ... of every social and economic level.

Elitism boosts our egos ... making us think we are somehow more worthy than others. Few things are more repugnant to the Lord than the rich despising the poor (James 2:1-9). Yet, our churches and our organizations ... such as the *Adoracion Nocturna Filipina* ... can foster this attitude.

9. Materialism promotes injustice and exploitation. Old Testament prophets often speak against the oppression of the poor by the rich ... through taxes and unfair rent (Amos 5:11) ... through extortion and violence, so used to lying that their tongues can no longer tell the truth (Micah 6:12).

Rich people will usually be materialistic ... and unjust. The wealthier the man ... the greater his opportunity for injustice. But, the poor is no less inherently sinful than the rich man – he simply has more means to fuel and impose sin upon others.

Profit-based abortion clinics are lucrative for abortionists and financially advantageous to parents who don't want to spend their time and money to care for a child. Promoters of junk-food, alcohol, tobacco, drugs, pornography, prostitution, gambling, TV etc. exploit human beings for financial gain. Do you promote such exploitation?

10. Materialism fosters Immorality and the Deterioration of the Family. The vast majority of illegal activities is founded on materialism – so too, the frequency of immorality among Christians – including Christians leaders. After all, those who indulge their material appetites are not likely to curb their carnal, sexual appetites. King David, spoiled by getting everything he wanted, did not deny himself one more possession – another man's wife (2 Samuel 11:2-4). The biggest temptation for leaders ... in business, in politics or in church – is to think that they are an exception to the rule ... that they are entitled to certain privileges *other people* are not.

Don't misunderstand. An Adorer may legally earn ... a billion pesos a year ... give generously and live modestly ... and avoid much of the temptation to act immorally. It is not how much money you earn that possesses your heart, mind and spirit. It is how much you keep for yourself. (December 2013: Fight Materialism)

Quality is always the result of high intention, sincere effort, intelligent direction and skillful execution.

The Grace Effect

Some of these missionaries pay for their own way ... others raise funds for their support. The team members are diverse ... consisting of high school and college students, young professionals and retirees ... stay-at-home mothers and high-powered executives – taking time from their busy lives to meet the needs of others.

In June 2008, Lauri and our three boys were part of such a trip to Ukraine ... a mission of mercy to Orphanage #17. The orphanage grounds did not lend themselves to anything elaborate. There was no soccer field or basketball court ... no gymnasium or swimming pool. Indeed, there was precious little grass.

The men worked to improve basic facilities... constructing picnic tables. The women and students busied themselves with the children ... engaging them in art-and-crafts activities, sporting events and a talent show ... thus were friendships forged and lives touched.

Back home, I was unaware of any of this ... consumed as I was with work. I recollected what happened the last time Lauri went on mission – she returned with a heavy heart for the children she had encountered. That started the discussion on adoption – to provide a home to a child in need.

While we did not adopt at that time ... for financial reasons, timing and lack of consensus ... God moved Lauri to begin circulating photos of these children via email. As a consequence, someone adopted a child.

But, Sasha, a ten-year-old girl (born in 1998), was different. She was not the infant we had discussed on previous occasions. Listen to Michael's email: *Sasha is energetic, fearless and vivacious. She's practically my shadow ... and there's hardly a picture that I'm in ... that Sasha is in too – somewhere in the background but, more likely, up front and center, which seems to be her place of preference!*

Sasha is in Mom's group and Mom discovered that ... Sasha has been shuffled from one orphanage to another since birth which means that she's considered adoptable. I think it's a wonderful idea. That amazing discovery this afternoon led us to another heart-wrenching, absolutely shocking revelation: According to the orphanage director, Sasha is one of four children at Orphanage #17 who has AIDS!

Mom wonders ... and thinks that maybe she is HIV-positive and hasn't yet developed AIDS. Still, we both feel devastated by this discovery as we sit here and imagine her future. So, this has not been an exhilarating, light-hearted afternoon ... and we have shed tears over it.

You have talked before about knowing ... why you were in a particular place and time ... and I have that feeling right now! There is so much that this girl needs ... that we could provide: A loving home ... medicines and vitamins ... but the greatest provision we can give her ... even greater than

I'm sure you can catch my drift ... and you can think of all the negatives of getting ourselves ... and her ... into a complicated situation ... and there would be a lot of those negatives from a worldly perspective.

As you have pointed out, Christ tells us that ... that which you do to the least of these, you do unto Me also. In Sasha, we have a fantastic opportunity to do as much for someone ... who has sooo little. Think about it; my opinion only grows all the stronger as I write ... From Ukraine with love, Michael.

Lauri then followed up Michael's email with one of her own, listen to her: *My dear, I was beside Michael when he sent you his email I am glad you are there to turn to with this difficult issue. I am also equally glad that you are a man with great compassion for people and I can trust you in this.*

There are so many difficult things in this. I know you already have so many of them ... bringing a child diagnosed with HIV into the USA. Please ... please give this request careful prayer and thought. I want to do what we feel God wants us to do for Him. If He has this difficult thing prepared for us, I want Him to use us ... I love you! Lauri.

Now, listen to my response: *Lauri, regarding Sasha, I am not against adoption ... of a child with or without HIV. But, we don't have that kind of money ... to pay for a very expensive and prolonged process as this. Until we know what is involved in this, I don't think I can give any kind of meaningful response. I am open. Beyond that, I don't know. Much love, Larry.*

(To be continued: December 2013)



On Mission ... The Principle is Clear. To Jesus, the work of evangelization is not subject to human convenience ... it is a definite command ... spelled out in no uncertain terms. No one who followed Jesus could escape the conclusion. It was so in Peter's time ... it is so today!

Mission means sending ... Christian disciples are sent-men, sent-women and sent-youth: Disciples are sent out in the same mission-work of world evangelization to which our Lord Jesus was sent ... and for which He gave His life.

With this principle of delegation clearly in focus, everything which is said and done ... in the Name of Jesus ... for the fulfillment of ... the Christ Commission – whether in educational institutions, social programs, hospital ecological projects, Church meetings of any kind – obtains its justification from God's redemptive purpose.

Principle Applied Today. For Adorers, it is not enough to make this principle of delegation an ideal ... which is not reachable. The principle must be given tangible expression ... in the world. How?

The best way to be sure that this principle is done ... is to give practical ... achievable ... do-able work assignments and expect them to be carried out. These assignments get ... men, women and youth started ... and, where they already have seen their work demonstrated in the life of their teacher, there is no reason why the assignment cannot be completed.

All authority have been given to Me, in heaven and on Earth. Go forth and make disciples of all nations See Page 13, Column 2 >>

A Footnote to the American Civil War

[BroDuffy: We, Adorers of Eucharistic Jesus, are at war hence we would do well to learn lessons from this war which we may apply to our own battles we face every day.]

Writes Adrian Gilbert in *Sniper: The World of Combat Sniping* (1994) – *The American Civil War (12 April 1861-09 April 1865) is referred to as the first modern war employing a whole range of technical and tactical innovations for the first time: Railways, telegraphy, aerial observation, rifles, machine guns and rifled cannon. The Union Army drew on the services of 3 million men; the Confederate Army enlisted one million men.*

In *The Brothers' War: Civil War Letters from the Blue and Gray* (1988), editor Annette Tapert observes: *These Civil War letters sound alike, showing little difference between the sentiments of Union and Confederate men – each side believed in the absolute rightness of their cause. But, the outcome of the war would depend less on moral superiority than on supplies, reinforcements, railroads and munitions.*

On the battlefield, the Confederacy prevailed though hopelessly outnumbered 3 to 1: Confederates killed 365,000 Union soldiers while losing 258,000 of their own. Confederate strategy seemed sufficiently sophisticated that, in the 1930s, German officers under General Heinz Guderian – the master strategist of tank warfare – journeyed to America to tour the Southern battlefields to refine their own tank tactics ... serving them well in Western Europe but suffering much in Russia against its more superior T-34 tanks with a little help from winter weather.

But, on the industrial front, the Confederacy had no chance for victory. It only had 8,000 miles of railroad to transport troops and supplies against the Union's 22,000 miles. The South had only 10% of the nation's industries and its industrial jobs; its coffers were filled with the revenues from cotton-produce obtained from the blood, sweat and tears of its African slaves.

All the men who enlisted as volunteers had this free-and-easy quality ... which the Civil War soldier of the blue and the gray never lost ... and the distinguishing characteristic of volunteer-armies. They could be led – by the right man, anyway – but not driven ... well, perhaps sometimes ... but not often.

Writes Carl Sandburg in *Abraham Lincoln* (1926): *The Union commander-in-chief understood their point of view perfectly well because he had first-hand experience of it:*

Abraham Lincoln was captain of a volunteer company in the Indian Black Hawk War of 1832. To the first order Lincoln gave his hard set of men, their response was – Go to hell! By court martial, Lincoln was ordered to carry a wooden sword for two days because he had been unable to prevent his men from robbing their regiment's whiskey cache and getting drunk. In Congress, Lincoln made a speech ridiculing his own military experience and his pretensions to command.

See Next Column >>>

From first to last, Lincoln knew them – what they could do, how much they could stand and how they could be persuaded to surpass themselves on occasion.

In Baltimore, Maryland, where sentiments in favor of the Confederate government ran strong, the Lincoln administration wasted no time in throwing into jail the city's mayor, 19 members of the state legislature and many indignant citizens. When its Chief Justice issued a writ of habeas corpus to set free one of these men, President Lincoln ... blandly, blindly and blatantly ... ignored the writ.

The Administration, in other words, was not ... afraid to act. Yet, it knew how to tread softly and speak in a soothing voice as well ... though it held a big stick. As far as the government was concerned, it was going to be ... a war to the finish. The Confederacy could win only by destroying the government of the United States ... no price for victory would be too high.

What price do you pay to win a war ... for the *Adoracion Nocturna Filipina* and for the Church ... to change what is to what could be? What is the cost of transformation ... from Abram to Abraham and Jacob to Israel ... from Simon to Peter and Saul to Paul ... for a notion of citizenship that draws no line to color, birth or creed?

Let us be determined today to use our lives today to make an impact ... on what is essential in eternity ... on what matters most and what lasts ... and on the life that awaits us in the presence of the God of Sacred History.



On Mission ... (Matthew 28:18-20) – is a very clear record of the proclamation of Jesus' command to His disciples to conquer the world. While indeed Jesus gave His disciples their assignments, He had not intention of turning them loose from His personal supervision and spiritual direction. His concern of dealing with it is so pronounced that it needs to be considered as another step in His strategy of ultimate victory. **(December 2013: Principle No. 7)**



On The Church ... Freedom is indispensable for virtue. Those who take away freedom ... in the name of whatever *virtue* ... makes virtue impossible. And, in recent years, we, humans, have been offered a vast expansion of choices which a person must make through the course of life. Choice means freedom. Freedom is a terrible burden but there is no escaping it.

So, humans ... in particular, the Church-going kind ... are astonished and offended when they are told ... that, in certain areas, they must simply do what they are told ... without any input into the decision-making process ... or any persuasive reason given for the decision. God ... while He did not need Mary to execute His plan for mankind's salvation – the perfection of man – desired and decided to obtain ... her assent and consent ... prior to the conception of Jesus in her womb.

Sometimes, we make wise choices ... sometimes unwise ... but we cannot escape the obligation of choice. To do nothing is also a matter of choice. Our personalities, our characters ... are shaped by a constant exercise of freedom – and the agony of decision-making that freedom imposes.

The Catholic Church has yet to accept ... See Page 14, Column 1 >>

An Adorer's duty is to work without ceasing in the service of God.



On The Church ... the inevitability of the freedom of its laity ... its right to make its own decisions ... its demand that it be persuaded instead of ordered. Catholics, the Church believe, still do what they are told ... not so now.

Today, the laity reserves to itself the right to say on what terms they will be catholic. Nothing will change that fact – neither orders from Rome nor hysterical ranting from the tiny fundamentalist Catholic minority. And, more personal pain is inflicted on the laity at the parish level than at any other level.

Parish Church personnel ... the quasi-clergy ... continue to search for ways to exercise authoritarian control over the laity, to force them to *act right* ... to impose on them their virtues as they define virtue. They feel that they must impose on the laity ... the practice of virtue in order to open them up to the work of the Holy Spirit.

The quasi-clergy assumes that ... the Holy Spirit is not yet at work among the laity ... that their experience of the Holy Spirit is much richer and deeper than that of the laity ... forgetting that *the Holy Spirit blows wherever She wills*.

The clergy and quasi-clergy tend to be neo-authoritarians in an area where they do have power which they have been exercising for 1,000 years or so – access to the sacraments.

In denying the sacraments to the laity, they often violate the Church Code of Canon Law ... which asserts that the laity has a right to the sacraments ... a right which only in *rare* circumstance may be denied. When one forces the laity to be virtuous, Canon Law is hardly likely to stop them.

The proper approach to the sacraments is to make the ceremony of administration ... so charming ... so moving ... so celebratory that the nature of the sacrament is luminous to everyone who is present ... and to make the preparation sessions ... so intelligent ... so excellent ... so sensible ... that the people in the community will want to come.

Guidelines, however, should not be enforced as if they were rules. Even the stern enforcement of the obligation to attend a Pre-Cana conference is a violation of the Code of Canon Law. One persuades people to attend; one does not order. One certainly accepts the decision of the laity.

What is wrong with this clerical neo-authoritarianism? **(1)** It often violates the rights of the laity as specified in the Code of Canon Law; **(2)** It is almost always a violation of justice, charity and compassion; **(3)** It doesn't work; the attitudes and behavior of the laity will not be changed in six sessions; **(4)** It ignores the truth that the liturgy of the sacrament, properly performed – which it usually isn't – can have a far more powerful impact on people than classroom instruction; **(5)** It makes the Church look horrible; and **(6)** It drives people away from the Church.

Why, then, must we bother ourselves See **Next Column** >>>

... with such rules? It is fun!!! It is fun to have the power ... to deny the sacraments to someone else – or, at least, one think he has the power. If one doesn't use the power often, then what is the point of having the power. To assume the seat of God ... and make such judgments about other human beings is an ... immensely rewarding experience. It is like being the Bishop ... even the Pope ... in your own Parish!!!

What can be done about the abuses of power by the neo-authoritarians? **(1)** The Laity has the right to appeal to the Bishop; **(2)** You can also write the Pope; and **(3)** The Laity are the ministers of the sacraments of Matrimony and are also valid Ministers of the Sacrament of Baptism. When appeals fail to vindicate their rites, the situation becomes *a case of necessity*. In such situations, the laity may administer Baptism. Moreover, if it is impossible to find a priest who will witness the Sacrament of Matrimony within 30 days, the couple is then automatically excused from the form and contract marriages without the priest and the two witnesses.

These are drastic measures ... resulting from the deprivation of the laity ... of the splendor of liturgically elegant administration of the Sacraments – which the laity often don't receive anymore anyway. Yet, they may, in some cases, be the only possible responses to irresponsible, power-drunk neo-authoritarians

I must confess though ... that this is a windmill that I love to charge. **(December 2013: Some Other Horrors)**



Points to Ponder

Book of Ruth develops an old tradition – the Levirate law ... spelling out the sacred duty of a widow to marry the nearest relative of her deceased husband – and narrated in the form of a delightful novel intended to promote nationalism. The story, written circa 4th century BC, gives us a peek into the simple life of farmers ... Christ's ancestors ... where we find true culture.

Habakkuk 2:1-5. Misfortunes equally affect everyone. One day, the Lord Jesus will make it clear that the good and the bad are not treated in the same way. Those who remain faithful will be saved.

Book of Amos tells of a lay person *Amos* to whom God personally entrusts a mission. Apparently, he loses out in the meeting with the religious authorities – the priests. He speaks in the Temple ... the equivalent of our Metropolitan Cathedral ... without permission from the clergy and they are scandalized by the action of Amos.

We, Adorers, think that if we go through our rituals perfectly and offer sacrifices ... then God will not pay attention to our evil ways – *that is not so!* God complains about His people in Isaiah 29:13.

Disasters seem inadequate to teach Adorers to straighten their ways. Another disaster looms ... the Israelites speak of *the Day of the Lord* as *the day of their triumph* when God comes to crush their enemy-nations. Amos gives *the Day of the Lord* new meaning – It means *God coming to make His people accountable for their actions and inactions* ... for what we did and for what we, Adorers, did not do.

The Day of the Lord is also the Second Coming of Christ when ... He fulfills the hope of those who put their faith in Him and judge those who rejected His Word.