



# The Real Presence

## Taga-Sambang Gabi ng Eukaristiya

(Nocte Adoratricum Eucharistia)



ANF National Council Office 3rd floor, Pius XII Catholic Center, UN Avenue, Manila. Tel. No. 353-99-77

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### Meaning of *Eucharist*?

From *Adoration – Eucharistic Texts and Prayers through Church History* Compiled by: Daniel P. Guernsey (1999)

**Saint Ignatius, Bishop of Antioch, martyred circa AD 115:** *Therefore, be eager for more frequent gatherings of thanksgiving ... Eucharist ... to God and for His glory. For when you meet frequently, the forces of Satan ... are annulled and his destructive power is cancelled in the concord of your faith.*

*Meet together in common ... in grace, in one Faith and in one Jesus Christ – Who was of David's line in His human nature, Son of Man and Son of God – breaking one bread which is the medicine of immortality ... our antidote to ensure that we shall not die ... but live in Jesus Christ for ever!*

*Heretics have no concern ... for love, the widow, the orphan, the afflicted, the prisoner, the hungry and the thirsty ... and they stay away from the Eucharist and prayer because they do not admit that the Eucharist is ... the flesh of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, Who suffered for our sins ... and Whom the Father raised up by His goodness.*

### Matthew 13:24-30, on the Parable of the Weeds.

Jesus answers those scandalized at seeing evil ... everywhere. Good and bad are mixed in us and in any human organization and institution such as the *Adoracion Nocturna Filipina*. Good and evil will always be found together.

God respects human beings. He knows that temptation is often the stronger force than their good intentions ... and people need time to find and choose steadily what is good. God is patient. The reconciliation of diverse and contradictory groups ... faces, concerns and issues ... will be attained at the end of time. In the meantime, label not any person as *good* or *bad*.

### The Holy Spirit

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

[BroDuffy: Novelist Mary O'Connell portrays a story of how the life of a female saint infuses ... influences ... the experiences of the women of today ... drawing us into their lives where the everyday overlaps with the everlasting. Below is her inspiration on **St. Catherine Laboure**.]

I had just been married off to my bridegroom: Jesus Christ. That night, shivering underneath my blanket because of the cold, I heard another sister singing; her voice deepened by an obvious chest cold and muffled by a pillow: *Ave Maria, gratia plena, dominus tecum.* See next Column >>>



The beauty of the sister's song and her voice pulled me out of my bed. I stood on the cold floor, wanting to dive into the *Ave Maria* to release my soul from the dark night. I shuffled out of the cold room ... though it was forbidden; I went to our chapel to pray in front of the altar.

*Jesus, Son of God! Oh, let me join my mother in Heaven* I whispered, eyes closed and head bowed. The smell of warm peppermint made me lift my head. To the left of the altar, a column of pink light funneled down ... upon the statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary. A translucent white band of light delicate as spun sugar shone from the ceiling. She appeared ... wearing the same drab gray robe of the sisters of Saint Vincent de Paul. I do not remember her descending feet first or if she appeared to me all at once ... whole, in the queer, candled light. She floated to the marble Mary – adorned in the usual sky-blue tunic; Mary imitated the statue's coquettish grin.

I laughed with pure delight! Her feet touched the floor with a slight thud; she crouched down and touched my forehead. Her fingers were cold, smelling of Christmas cookies ... and the sound of my childhood name warmed with: *Zoe* she said. She took my hand and wasted no time telling me her request.

The Blessed Virgin Mary wanted a medallion struck in her honor: An **M** intertwining a cross and two hearts – one forever crowned; one forever pierced – with stars floating in the background. The iris of her eyes showed the pattern and I memorized them. Mary blinked and her eyes turned back to cocoa-brown.

She was very beautiful and her skin had pores. She said: *Whoever wears the medal in good faith shall receive great grace from God.* Mary, the Queen of the Universe, and I inventoried my sorry life: Mother's early death ... the lonely life at home with father ... Louisa's recent betrayal of me ... and the miseries at the convent.

Kissing my hand with such tenderness that my anxieties vaporized into the coldness of the chapel, *Zoe Laboure* she said, *I still do not know why all those strange things happened to me. Why was it me?* Emboldened by her own questions, I said: *Oh, Mary! Why did God take away my mother when she was so young?* But, I really meant ... when **I** was so young. *What about His infinite mercy?*

Mary's eyes filled with tears. She took my hand and whispered: *So many mysteries of faith have not been revealed to me. I know how hard it is to be the one who is left behind.* She kissed me again, floated off the floor and raised her hand to say goodbye. The Blessed Virgin Mary's visitation relieved my adult loneliness ... someone was watching over me. (To be continued January 2014)

### The Blessed Virgin Mary

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

#### The ABCDEs of Trafficking for Sexual Exploitation – How It Works.

**A – The Cycle of Demand.** The trafficking business is now worth an estimated US\$ 17 billion globally. Traffickers are part of an international network supplying demand for sex as a commodity; the women and children whom they entrap are their food chain. The cycle is infused with deception and brutality.

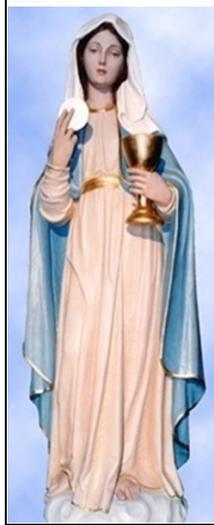
**B – The Sting Operation.** A young woman or minor is offered a new opportunity and financial rewards in Japan, Europe or North America – waitressing, secretarial, cultural events or light-end sexual entertainment work.

**C – The Plot.** The story behind the sting operation is that women may already be vulnerable to entrapment. CHASTE has on record testimonies of women caught in sex trafficking coming from backgrounds where there is domestic abuse and violence against women.

**D – The Sub-Plot.** This isn't everybody's story. Many trafficked women are seeking improvement and opportunities outside of their own countries – and are bitterly deceived.

**E – False Hopes.** For women who already have some history in prostitution (some do), they have no idea of what awaits them in their country of enslavement. Their passports and visa papers are taken away the moment they are through immigration control.

**Reflection:** Meditate on Luke 1:26-38. In what ways are your devotions to Mary diabolical illusions? Why?



But ... it also means that, in God's hands, a single minute or hour of our life can have a thousand years' worth of significance. Remember that: *Little is much when God is in it; and, with Him, every single moment of your life counts as much.*

God may not freeze the movement of Earth ... nor command floods and earthquakes to cease for us ... as He did for Joshua 10:12-14 but He achieves precisely the same effect by expanding ... stretching ... the reach and impact of each hour and moment of our lives [BroDuffy: We will touch on *the Fatima-miracle of the dancing sun* in 1917 ... in the February 2014 edition of *The Real Presence*].

But, what of the moments gone by? The time which have passed? Definitely, we cannot bring back the past. But ... remember ... God is the Lord of our entire time-lines. God walks in our past ... He is with us in our present ... and He goes before us into our future.

God tells us that the future is His concern and, although we may dream, plan and prepare, we are not to worry ... in Matthew 6:5-34 ... and our past? Listen to Colossians 2:13-14 and Isaiah 1:18 ... God has taken away our sins, but not our past. He has much to teach us from our past ... from poorly-invested days ... as we live out the remaining quarter-inches of our timelines.

As we realize that God possesses our past ... our present and our future ... and if we look back under His guidance ... we will see things we have never seen before ... truths that may directly apply to our present and our future [BroDuffy: Look back on *The Real Presence* – March 2013, page 7, column 1, paragraph 8 on what astronomers refer to as look-back time].

Far from being a loss to us, the past seasons of our lives are often the means of our deliverance in the present and the very preparation we need to face the future. If you find yourself ... paralyzed from taking action, the answer may very well be in your past. Why is this so?

God leaves us ... gems and treasures in the dusty back-trails of our past – which are life-transforming secrets on the trail before us. Observe cowboy movies when heroes traverse an unfamiliar stretch of wilderness in pursuit of, say, outlaws: They stop to rest their horses ... turn around in their saddles ... survey and study the trail behind them. Why?

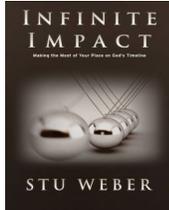
Because the land they just passed through doesn't look the same when viewed from the opposite direction. And, to find their way back ... where they started – and, remember, we came from Heaven and that is where we are headed ... back – the terrain will be unfamiliar ... unless they have seen the lay of the land ... looking behind them – into the past – while on their way forward in the present!!!

See Page 9, Column 1 >>>



### St. Joseph

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



**Purpose + Power.** At this very moment, your timeline is on fire ssssss racing down the seconds, minutes, hours and days of your life ssssss and, soon, it is gone ssssss!

Life is a brief snapshot of a moment in time: A bit of fog, a flash of sunlight, a whiff of fresh air ... then gone. That's the nature of life, it speeds by. But ... because we know, love, adore, serve and proclaim God in the Eucharist ... Who is beyond time and outside of any timeline ... we are confident – unworried – that, in God's hands, power and in His sovereignty ... the significance of our finite timelines will soar above all comprehension *into infinity and eternity*.

If we live to a thousand years, those years would register in Heaven like the passing of the sun across the sky ... from sunrise to sunset – insignificant ... thus notes 2Peter 3:8 *Do not forget, brothers, that, with the Lord, a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day.* >>>>



### Angels and Archangels

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

Matthew 24:30-31, on the second Coming. *The sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky and all the nations of the Earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory. And, He will send His angels with a loud trumpet call; and they will gather His elect .... from the ends of the heavens to the other.*



**On Prayer**

**Luke 10:38-42.** Look for a form of prayer in which ... before you begin a recitation of your concerns ... you take the time to put yourself in the presence of God – that is, to be in quiet listening in silence and attentive to God’s Word.

Silence the turmoil and concerns that is present in your heart and mind ... and direct your attention only to God ... Who is present in secret. Some non-Christians have learned ... to bring their minds to peace and silence – and reach serenity ... tranquility, while Christians ... Adorers ... enter into prayer without letting go of all their anxieties, concerns and worries ... until the so-called prayer is ended.

Back to *Experiencing God: The Three Stages of Prayer* (2010) by Rev. Fr. Thomas H. Green SJ – Knowledge of self is the opening up of ourselves ... which is necessary for us to be filled with Christ. No emptying of self, no encounter with God and no in-filling with Jesus ... no in-dwelling by the Holy Spirit. Honest self-confrontation allows the encounter with God.  
**See Page 9, Column 1 >>>**



**On Silence**

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

Looking back at the moment on the road when someone put a gun to my head ... death and life reached personification in one crystal flash ... transported to the edge of darkness and light. My heart stopped; I died and was re-born ... to discover that hidden at the edge of silence was healing ... for an angry mind and a restless spirit.

I was first exposed to the concept of silence as a teen-ager *in love with* the Trappist Order – the Order of Cistercians of the Strict Observance, founded in 1664, following the monastic rule of St. Benedict. They remove meat from the diet, cultivate a spirit of apartness from all worldliness ... are dedicated to prayer and penance ... and when I learned that Trappist monks maintain a vow of silence, I changed my mind.

I can not keep my mouth shut for a few minutes except when asleep. Ironically, ten years later – on my 27<sup>th</sup> birthday, 23 February 1973 – I found myself living the life of an ascetic ... walking through the countryside ... with a vow of silence.

I entered into a spiritual community of silence at two Trappist monasteries 500 miles and 4 months apart by foot: at Vina, the Abbey of New Clairveaux up at northern California and at Central Valley, at Our Lady of Guadalupe Trappist Abbey.

Someone once asked the Dalai Lama if he believed in God, and he replied: *If by God you mean the God of Thomas Merton, then yes, I do.* That reply was a testament to the ecumenical nature of Thomas Merton.

Rising in the morning ahead of the sun, I sat with monks singing quiet prayers. For them, silence is not the absence of sound, but a state of being ... of placement ... of allowing them to leave behind the busy-ness of their mind ... thus approaching the consciousness of all things ... of unity ... with the One.  
**See Page 6, Column 2 >>>**



**Brotherhood**

**Merton: A Biography**

By Monica Furlong (1980)

The early months of hermit-living were a good and fruitful one, punctuated by hospital tests for ulcers. Merton to Dom Jean in September 1965: *For the first time in 25 years, I am leading a truly monastic life. All that I had hoped to find in solitude is to be able to live unum necessarium – the one thing necessary.*

Electricity had arrived and, for all his dislike of technology, Merton loved it – he did not have to light a fire to read better at night or to cook his meals; and, it was easier to pray. Merton took particular pleasure in that *the blessing of light* showed up well ... the ink on the scroll that Zen master, D.T. Suzuki, had given him.

In 1965, there were more important matters: The protest march at Selma in April which he could not join ... the letter to President Johnson protesting continued involvement in the Vietnam War ... the birth control controversy and his respect for the lonely stand of Archbishop Roberts who supported use of contraceptives, arguing to re-examine natural law and ... the complacent adherence of many Catholics to war and racial injustice.

Merton was a formidable letter writer – thousands of his letters exist ... to all kinds of people, known and unknown. To a close friend approaching divorce, he writes: *Listen, man ... there are things you can intelligently do about ... the angst ... which is the result of truth and life being fouled up and bottled up by fiction, social forms and personal errors .... Get off that treadmill .... You think I got no angst? Man, think again. I got angst up to my ears .... God will take care of you. I pray for an angel to lift up the stone; you pray too. Everything will be okay .... Joy in Christ.*

Merton’s American priest friend, Daniel Berrigan SJ, found himself silenced by his Jesuit superior for encouraging the young to burn their draft cards to protest American involvement in Vietnam. Merton was unexpectedly sympathetic to the superior, believing his action to be a strategy to prevent higher Jesuit superiors from taking more damaging action.

Merton wrote gently to a woman whose husband had left her, complaining bitterly of her loneliness: *Have courage and do not expect too much of men. The more you fix your hope and love on God, the more He will tend to resolve these other conflicts. Yet, do not expect your perfect solution.*

In March 1966, a surgical operation removed bone from the hip and used it to fuse two vertebrae and then there was the problem with digestion brought about by stress. Merton lost 20 lbs during convalescence. **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

**Hungry** for love He looks at you ... through the eyes of the poor, the street children and the rugby kids; **Thirsty** for kindness, He begs of you ... through the hands of the poor, the street children and the rugby kids; **Naked** for loyalty, He hopes in you ... through the needs of the poor, the street children and the rugby kids; **Homeless** for shelter in your heart, He asks of you ... help the poor. Adorer: Will you be ... that one to Him?



Good Shepherd

## On Leaders

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

**Formation: What is in it for me?** Listen to Matthew 19:16-30, Mark 10:17-31. Luke 18:18-29 and 1Peter 5:14 as we try to be guided by the answers to the question: *What is in it for me ...*

*Ano mahihita ko diyan?* ... which, on this occasion, seemed to be what the disciples demanded to know of Jesus ... with Mark 10:35 recording James and John as saying *Teacher, we want to You to do for us whatever we ask ...* at the approach of the first Eucharistic celebration, with the mind and spirit of Jesus full of impending betrayal and death. Luke 22:24 writes of the disciples squabbling over who is greatest.

*What's in it for me?* Peter and the other disciples jostled for the position of primacy in any impending political structure which Jesus was building. Perhaps, the scene described above serve as inspiration to many of the world's politicians.

In *Cadillac Desert: The American West and its Disappearing Water* (1986), Marc Reisner writes: *Among members of the USA Congress ... the RP Congress too ... the intricate business of trading favors is commonly referred to as the courtesy or buddy system. Among its critics – a category that extends to anyone who has not yet benefited from it – it is called log-rolling, back-scratching or the pork barrel ... derived from the fond practice of some southern-states' plantation owners for rolling out a big barrel of salted pork for their half-starved slaves, but only on special occasions.*

*Near riots ensued ... as the slaves fought against each other to make off with the choicest morsels of pork ... which was a source of substantial amusement to the genteel families of the old American South. In the 1880s, someone observed that the habitual efforts by members of Congress to carry large loads of funds – the pork barrel – back home to their home districts resembled the feeding frenzies of the slaves.*

*In 1890, the term pork barrel showed up in a headline in The New York Times hence assuring its immortality. Members of Congress who believe in the system – many fervently do believe and, probably, an equal number dislike it but go along – argue that the pork barrel benefits the nation as a whole by distributing public works money to all the fifty states in more or less equal proportion. It doesn't.*

*If Congress cannot function without the pork barrel or courtesy system, it means that Congress cannot conduct its business without indulging in bribery, extortion and procuring.*

Luke 18:18-23 describes an encounter between Jesus and a rich young ruler ... who has an attractive self-confidence and seems assured of his own goodness and secure in his own righteousness ... but a little too self-assured for his own good. He crumbles when Jesus gives him a task which is well beyond his spiritual means ... and, if he admits to his inability to carry out this task, Jesus would give him ... the grace to implement it.

The task ... the demand of Jesus ... was too great for him to even start; the young ruler went away **See Next Column >>>**

## \* On Leaders \* On Virtues \*

sad. He did not trust Jesus enough ... to forgo some or most of his wealth to enter the Kingdom of God. Left to human ingenuity alone ... it is not possible to prise wealth off from the tight-fist of those who hold it ... but, with God, even this miracle is possible!!!

Jesus, seeing the reaction of the young ruler, gave another case study of the soul from which to instruct His disciples. Indeed, Luke 18:25 states: *It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God ...* with God, all things are possible. This study elicits ... draws ... a call or cry of the heart from Peter ... echoing the feelings of the other disciples: *We have left everything to follow You. So, what can we expect from You, Jesus? What reward do we ...* Adorers ... expect from our sacrifices in Eucharistic ministry?

On the face of it, this question seems self-centered ... and tarnishes an Adorer's service with self-interest and mixed motives ... thereby diminishing its nobility. Jesus redeemed us by the grace of God ... given us eternal life and made us children of His heavenly Father ... given an inheritance in Heaven, so *why ask for additional rewards for service rendered?*

Jesus gave these questions a serious answer – a recognition they deserved. Jesus responds to Peter's plaintive cry *What awaits our sacrifices?* not with a stern rebuke but with an answer which recognizes the substantial sacrifices Peter and the rest had made in the course of their discipleship. What is our reward? Jesus teaches that, indeed, there will be a reward.

**See Page 8, Column 1 >>>**



## On Virtue

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

Patience has an absolutely fundamental role in any form of reconciliation ... because, without the endurance and forbearance which Patience signifies ... love could never attain its supreme expression. There can be no reconciliation hence no liberation and no truly creative act if ... and where Patience has not been provided a room and found a place ... among those who have become strangers ... displaced persons to each other.

St .Paul asserts to the Corinthians that Christian love is always patient ... but, in reality, much of our loving is more intent on saving vulnerable people – such as our children – from peril ... than on providing them room to breathe. To those entrusted to our care, we offer them ... bread which always nourishes instead of freedom which is never without the potential for disappointment and harm ... certainty to those we love rather than confessing our own doubts which would confuse and demoralize them ... and security, the better to bind them to us than to leave them on their own in a darkening world.

Perhaps, the most difficult lesson any man, woman or youth must learn is ... to let a spouse or child or friend or beloved have room to make their own decisions and to make their own mistakes. Love can stifle and suffocate both lover and beloved ... if that love is not shaped and order in freedom ... by constant Patience.

Love is inseparable from Justice ... giving the other person his due ... and Patience is the bridge and the binding force which joins them – Love and Justice. Such love reflects the benevolence of our Creator ... Who never crowds nor hurries the creatures He has made.

**Remember your leaders who taught you the word of God ... imitate their faith.**



## On Mission

Taken from *The Master Plan of Evangelization*  
By Robert E. Coleman (1963)

### Principle No. 7 – Supervision: Jesus checked on the progress of His disciples.

Listen to Mark 8:17. Jesus made it a point to meet with His disciples after their tours of service to hear their reports ... and, then, by way of reminder, to share with them the blessedness of His ministry ... that they may do the same thing. His teaching style, in this sense, rotated between instruction and assignment.

Jesus was helping them to understand the reason for some previous action ... or preparing them for some new experience. His questions, illustrations, warnings and admonitions were calculated to bring out ... their traits, qualities and characteristics ... which they will need in order to fulfill His work – the evangelization of the world.

**Luke 9:10** is a terse record of the twelve reporting back to Jesus what happened in their mission ... but is silent on the element of time ... whether the disciples were out for a few days or a week. What matters is that, after the mission, they shared their experience ... *not just what they achieved* ... with the group then took much needed rest in body and soul ... and continued their training with the Master.

**Luke 10:17-25** records the seventy disciples who were sent out on mission and called back by Jesus to render their report. Joyfully, they say that *even the devils are subject to us in Your Name* (Luke 10:17) ... a rousing report of triumph ... and Jesus, visualizing the ultimate victory assured by their work, said: *I beheld Satan falling as lightning from Heaven* (Luke 10:18)

Jesus then alerted the twelve and the seventy to teach them the Truth that ... even their triumphant experience ... in His name ... might be swallowed up by their pride in their accomplishments (Luke 10:20).

As Jesus reviews with them their experience, He brings out practical applications of it in their lives, a few of which are:

1. The *futile* efforts of some disciples to heal a boy of an epileptic demon is a much-needed lesson on more prayer, fasting and faith in God's faithfulness to His promises;
2. The *catering operation* which fed the multitude impressed upon His disciples His power to do all things while teaching the vital lesson concerning spiritual discernment; and
3. *Right after* the catering operation, the spiritually dull disciples manage to bring with them only one loaf of bread for them ... and now, they wonder among themselves – within hearing distance of Jesus – where their next meal would come from! In reaction, Jesus warns them ... do allow yourselves to be influenced by unbelief in Jesus ... and by the teaching and the fame – the leaven – of the Pharisees. Jesus then sternly rebukes them: *Do you still not understand* (Luke 10:21)? Apparently not.

**The Others.** One of Jesus penetrating lectures to His disciples ... as He checks upon their actions and reactions in the course of His ministry with them ... See next Column >>>



## The ANF Constitution & By-Laws

### Part II, Section II, Chapter VI Diocesan/Archdiocesan Council

**Article 26.** [BroDuffy: As a reminder, the main aim of ... the *Adoracion Nocturna Filipina* ... is to hold as many night vigils as possible during the month ... each night by a different Turno.]

**Article 104-105.** Emphasizes the importance of impressing on the minds of *Turno*/Section Officers of the need to align their Plans and Programs with those of their respective Council ... of meeting with their Bishop/Archbishops at least once a year to report on their progress in attaining their Plans and Programs ... to submit themselves to Church authority as a way of submitting to the Will of our Heavenly Father. This task is the responsibility of Council officers.

**Article 106.** This paragraph seems better placed under any of Articles 110-114 as Consultant/Adviser of the Section Executive Boards under the Council's care and jurisdiction.

**Article 113d.** [BroDuffy: Our organization, as a whole benefits from the remittance of dues from *Turno* Treasurer to Section Treasurer ... to Council and on to National Council ... instead of *Turno* Treasurers remitting directly to Section and all the Councils concerned. It is better to follow the hierarchy from one level to the next. There are cases, though, when feedback at *Turno* level may go straight to the National Council which is how God designed the human body. Auditors are allowed to conduct surprise spot audits. Compliance is expected of Treasurers.]

[BroDuffy: Chapter VI is silent on the Annual Conference/General Convention at the Diocesan/Archdiocesan/Regional/National Council level. To their credit, as an exercise of initiative, creativity and risk-taking for Jesus, the Archdiocesan Council of San Fernando, Pampanga and the Regional Council of Central Luzon, on separate occasions, held such a 2013 Conference/Convention which serves as a good forum for target-setting for the years ahead of us and a review of the years past.] **(January 2014: The Regional Council)**

**On Mission ...** as they faced various situations – tests and trials ... was in connection with ... *their attitude toward others who were not members of their apostolic company nor of their denomination.*

On one occasion, Jesus deftly handles with gentleness His disciples who roughly treated someone who was driving out demons in Jesus' Name ... by saying: *Forbid him not ... he who is not against you is for you* (Luke 9:49-50). Four verses later, we hear James and John urging Jesus to call down fire from Heaven and reduce a Samaritan village to ashes (Luke 9:54) ... for refusing to give them lodging. Jesus *turned and rebuked them* (Luke 9:55). Fortunately, not all of us have the power to work miracles ... otherwise, *a lot of houses would be on fire* ... for our own personal revenge.

**Lesson Learned – 1/3: The Principle Observed.** Here was *on-the-job training* at its best. Jesus allows His disciples to gain some experience and make their own observations ... which He uses as a starting point to teach a lesson in discipleship.

Failures accompanied the disciples as they tried to do His work ... giving them greater awareness of their deficiencies ... hence they were more disposed to the Master's correction. Their encounter with life-situations enabled Jesus to See Page 12, Column 2 >>>



### 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 Eight: Theme** – Hypocrisy.

**Scripture Readings** – James 1:22-25.

**Overview:** The Group acts out the opposite of their words and discuss the problem of hypocrisy..

**Preparation:** Bibles.

**Experience:** Say: *Let us work on Simon Says in reverse. I will call out your name and read you a command. Repeat aloud that command but, do exactly the opposite of that command. Example: I say Stand Up! You say Stand Up! but you actually sit down. If you do what you say ... you're out!*

Tell the group to stand up. To each person, read a specific command from the list below. The faster you read, the more difficult it is to do the opposite. The commands: *Raise your Right leg; Scratch your Left ear; Face the window; Open your eyes. Open your palm. Recite the alphabet from A to Z.*

**Response:** Congratulate those still standing, if any. Keep them standing. Ask those seated: *What confused you as you repeated the commands and executed them? How did it feel to say one thing ... and do another ... in real life?*

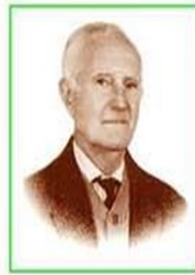
Form groups of three and read James 1:22-25. Have each group discuss these questions and appoint their representative to share their responses with the larger group: *Why do you have trouble living out what you believe in? What steps are you taking to reduce this troublesome-ness?*

**Closing:** Say – *Now, let us practice making our words match our actions.* You may then repeat the process by making them execute the command word for word.

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

**On Brotherhood ...** October 1966 began with a very important correspondence with Rosemary Radford Ruether, Catholic theologian and author of *The Church Against Itself* (1967), who commented on a remark of Merton that *he had no trouble with his vocation*, writing: *Maybe you should be having trouble with your vocation ... withdrawal and solitude is not a life-vocation but part of a larger rhythm of life.* She discussed the danger not only of *the theology of the big city* but also of the false ecstasies of woods, silence and the apparent communing with God because all too often she discovered *I have been communing with no one but myself.*

For Ruether, the alternative was prophetic community – the real struggle of encounter with others ... with all their pain and our own: *Only theology bred in the crucible of experience is any good.* Merton came out with an angry response to that attack: *I wonder if you realize that you ... are a very academic, cerebral, abstract type.* In reply, Ruether suggested: *I get the impression that* **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 Brotherhood ...** you are in some period of *crisis* which you are fighting off with loud arguments ... *I am just as fleshy as you, baby ... and as much a thinking animal.*

Never in his life at Gethsemani had Merton been spoken to like that. He was accustomed to politeness ... teasing but invariably kind. His women friends were brought up in the old tradition of absolute courtesy, if not adulation, toward priests. Comes Rosemary Ruether, a better Catholic theologian than himself ... and *contradicting* him ... questioning the validity of his vocation and refusing all attempts to charm her out of her cool dismissal of his motives.

Merton said honestly in reply: Yes, he *was* in a crisis ... he was much too defensive ... and frightened of her being cerebral *probably because I resented my mother's intellect.* Thank God, he said, for having found in her someone he could really talk to at last: *Will you please be my confessor for a while? I think you have already implicitly taken on the job anyhow.*

Their correspondence gradually opened up. Merton continued to justify himself and she continued to point out that ... if he needed to justify himself, then something was wrong: *People aren't swallowing that shit anymore .... You are really a shocking and dissolute fellow.*

Merton replied: *Ah, yes, I have become very wicked. This is due in great part to my hanging around with these women theologians ... like you. Let others be warned in time. Young priests can never be too careful. Tsk! Tsk!* **(To be continued January 2014)**



**On Silence ...** At the quiet of the morning-darkness around us, their prayers became *intertwined in quietude and silence* ... allowing us to become empty vessels waiting to be filled with the Mysterious – waiting to receive all that was necessary ... to be who we were meant to be ... and to do what we were meant to do ... here, at this moment.

Following the footsteps of Thomas Merton, David Steindal-Rast, a Benedictine monk and a pioneer in the dialogue between East and West of the Church, talks about *silence as an attitude of listening ... of a different kind of listening with one's heart ... one's whole being.* Being attentive to fellow human beings is being in communion ... a sacred act – a sacrament ... a sign and signature of God's grace.

At each of these sacred acts, the sense and grace of gratitude ... of thankfulness ... of Eucharist ... is very much present. When gratitude is at the edge of silence, your quietude – being quiet – becomes a prayer ... of listening ... attentively to God. **See Page 9, Column 2 >**

*A dying man does not wish he had spent less time with his children.*

## Apparitions & Miracles: Science vs. Religion?

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



Rev. Fr. Gabriel B. O'Donnell, OP caught me by surprise ... by repeating almost verbatim ... the statement Rev. Fr. Augustine DiNoia had made at the end of our interview the day before: *There's one person you absolutely must speak to before you finish this book – Rev. Fr. Benedict Groeschel, OFM Capuchin monk, author of A Still, Silent Voice* (1999) considered as Catholicism's most important work on *mystical theology*. He was born Peitre Woodward Groeschel on 23 July 1933 in New Jersey.

Father DiNoia sounded very reverential in speaking of Groeschel ... *as someone whom a lot of people already consider a saint*. To that, Father O'Donnell remarked in awe: *Well, I'm not sure if Ben is a saint but he is Groucho Marx in a monk's habit*. [BroDuffy: Groucho Marx was a stand-up comedian with brothers Manfred, Chico, Harpo and Zeppo.]

With the publication of his book, Groeschel assumed the roles played in earlier centuries by St. Ignatius of Loyola – whose *Rules for the Discernment of Spirits* was fundamental work in the field – and Rev. Fr. Augustin Poulain SJ, a 19<sup>th</sup> century Parisian whose *Graces of Interior Prayer* is regarded among theologians as the more authoritative source.

Poulain dared to catalog authentic visions into three (3): **(1) Exterior Visions** either divine or diabolical which were perceived by the bodily eyes; **(2) Imaginative Visions** which were seen without the assistance of the eyes; and **(3) Intellectual Visions** which were perceived by the mind alone without any interior image.

**Exterior Visions** came in four distinct varieties, involving: **(1)** Sensory perception of the true heavenly bodies of Jesus and Mary; **(2)** Seeing the *borrowed body* of a heavenly creature *formed by the ministry of angels*; **(3)** The visionary not perceiving a true body but rather saw the *luminous rays* of a body in Heaven with the assistance of angels who *produce undulations* as if they were sound waves – Poulain gives this third variety the term *semi-objective*; and **(4)** Angels imprint the image of the object directly upon the retina – this variety is given the term *purely subjective*.

**Exterior Visions** are considered to be the most remarkable of these graces, purely divine gifts granted without any pre-conditions. The most profound Catholic mystics have reported visions primarily of the latter two categories: **Imaginative Visions** and **Intellectual Visions** seemed to be both given and taken ... a product to some degree of the receiver's holiness.

Poulain explains the multiple ways ... by which visionaries err ... in understanding and reporting their visions ... all of which involve the imperfect natures of human beings ... whose ignorance, vanity or *plain inability* to distinguish their own thoughts from the message of a divine authority ... could garble, obfuscate or even falsify its content.

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 – Battling Materialism in Christian Families.

On parents reside the responsibilities to provide for the needs of their children: *Those who do not take care of their own ... especially those of their own household ... have denied the faith and are worse than unbelievers* (1Timothy 5:8). Conversely, grown-ups are responsible for the care of their parents and relatives ... in their old age or illness.

Jesus rejects any excuse for one's failure to provide materially ... for the needs of one's family ... and the *Adoracion Nocturna Filipina* is our extended family: *You have a fine way of disregarding the commandment of God in order to implant your own tradition ... and you do many other things like this* (Mark 7:9-13). Jesus, while on the cross, took the time to make sure His mother's needs were taken care of by entrusting her to John 19:26-27.

It is one thing to provide for ... the needs ... of our children. It is another thing to smother and flood them ... with wants ... until they turn into self-centered materialists ... growing up to become spoiled brats ... *panis at sira ang spoiled* ... and afflicted with a killer disease called affluenza. 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

Our principal concern was whether or not we were putting our children and other people at risk ... with Sasha's HIV and ... I confess that I know virtually nothing about HIV and, its more advanced stage, AIDS. So, we sought out, and consulted with, specialists in the field of HIV such as the Center for Disease Control, and individuals and their families who were coping with the disease ... and began to consider secondary issues with social ramifications ... because the very mention of the virus elicits fear in many.

How would we respond if Sasha's name was marked off a list invited to a party? Or, if mothers pulled their kids out of a bus pool because Sasha got in it? An atheist remarked: *If you do adopt this little girl, you'll become social pariahs. Now, you'll find out just how Christian the people at your church really are*.

There was the option of telling no one about Sasha's condition. One physician advised: *She's no threat to their health. They are a threat to her health!* Benjamin Franklin wrote: *Three men can keep a secret ... if two of them are dead*. Regardless, my wife Lauri and I felt that it was not our place to make that decision for other people.

We sought the counsel of a man who has always been a source of encouragement – Episcopalian priest Frank F. Limehouse III, dean of the Cathedral Church of the Advent. Frank had worked up close with AIDS patients.

We put before him the question: *How do you think people at a typical church would react if our family showed up with an HIV-positive child? Do you think they would act like Christians ... and embrace her ... or would they be fearful?* See Page 11, Column 2 >>

*What good is money in the hands of a fool? How would he buy wisdom? He has no sense.*



## Health Tips

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

Metabolic Syndrome (or *Syndrome X*) is a cluster of abnormalities which combine to increase the risk of diabetes and heart disease:

1. Elevated blood pressure (even mild elevations that do not indicate hypertension are significant);
2. Increased waist circumference – more than 40 inches for males; 35 inches for females;
3. Elevated triglyceride levels (the most common form of fat present in the blood);
4. Glucose intolerance; and
5. Low high-density lipoprotein or *good* cholesterol in the blood and elevated low-density lipoprotein or *bad* cholesterol levels.

Others may have a skin condition called *acanthosis nigricans* – dark areas of skin around the neck or armpit which indicate *abnormal* blood sugar levels.

(To be continued December 2013)



**On Leaders ...** Adorers, normally hesitate about ... are ambivalent to ... a theology of rewards that is integral to our faith. Our ambivalence is probably influenced by our self-effacing nature. Perhaps, we imagine ourselves saying to God: *Oh, no, Lord, I am not worthy; others are more deserving of reward!*

We serve, sweat and suffer in Eucharistic adoration ... and our humanity gives and receives recognition for what is brace, good and just. If we, adorers, can think of such recognition ... such rewards ... how much, much more our Father in Heaven Who seems to celebrate in style.

Examine the difference between a bribe and a reward ... particularly in connection with the education of children ... as we all are in the eyes of God.

Generally, but not exclusively, bribes are given now to influence and change a child to do something you want done. For instance, a parent may give a child a candy or pocket money to tidy up his room, knowing full well that, without the bribe, the child would not obey the parent. The incentive is ... not the tidied up room ... but the bribe itself – the candy or the pocket money.

In the *adult* world of politics and business, the instances of bribery or the system of patronage and favors cited on page 4 of this article are not unknown. The bribe consists of money or favors exchanged and given to order to make someone do something you want done ... to sway their actions to do something ... which is illegal or ethically wrong.

On the other hand, a reward is the outcome of achievement ... and is connected to the accomplishment of a task ... the attainment of a goal, objective or target ... in the future. Rewards celebrate one's obedience, discipline, faithfulness and fruitfulness ... among others.

A theology of rewards encourages ... See next Column >>>

performance ... acknowledges and celebrates achievement but such a theology does not guarantee performance nor secure achievement ... planning, action, feedback and control ... are its ancestors. No doubt ... Jesus promised rewards ... for our losses and sacrifices in leaving family and property ... we will *receive a hundredfold in the present time and, in the world to come, eternal life* (Matthew 19:29).

**Lesson Learned – 1/3: Rewards for Leaders.** In Matthew 19:27, Peter asks Jesus the question: *For following You, what will be our reward?* In 1Peter 5:1-4, written circa AD 64, more than 30 years after Jesus' ascension ... and now as Bishop of Rome, head of the entire Church, Peter offers a reward to faithful Church leaders: *If you serve as shepherds of God's flock ... not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock ... then, when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive a crown of unfading glory.*

The reward is essentially public recognition of a job well done ... the acknowledgment by Christ before others of faithful service rendered as an overseer. This service of supervision ... of overseeing ... is acknowledged, celebrated and rewarded ... with an unfading crown of glory – a visible and permanent accolade [BroDuffy: Please refer to *Principle No. 7 on Mission, page 5* of this edition].

**Lesson Learned – 2/3.** Supervision of ... overseeing God's flock ... is not a picnic ... nor for the faint of heart. Supervision carries with it responsibilities ... to teach and guide ... to nurture and care for ... to bring back and reconcile ... to bear with and correct the sheep.

Supervision of a flock ... is based on an extraordinary degree of trust bestowed by God on the overseer ... and that trust is, in itself, a great privilege ... a gift, a grace — a sacrament.

As with all human communities, there are moments of enormous pain, misunderstanding and rejection ... which at times overwhelm and consume us, Adorers. In such times ... remember ... do not forget ... the promise of reward ... of appreciation and acknowledgment which will be intertwined with our pains, wounds and scars ... our losses and sacrifices ... just as the redemptive scars of Jesus – transferred in Heaven ... by Heaven – are visible for all to see. If you do not have a scar ... what does that mean?

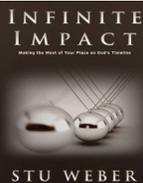
**Lesson Learned – 3/3.** Peter's question addressed to Jesus may have sounded ... a very pitiful childish cry *What about me, Jesus?* But then, we, Adorers, acting like adult-spoiled brats have cried out something similar: *Why me and not him? Do I deserve this? Have I not done a lot for You? Or, for the Adoracion Nocturna Filipina?*

The assurance Peter is given ... is that: *Everything is seen, noticed and taken into account* ... even a cup of cold water on the parched lips of a beggar ... and that, there will be the butterfly effect ... of rewards not bribes nor pork barrels ... for all our pains and sacrifices and rejections ... our wounds and scars ... our losses and sacrifices ... on our journey of discipleship and leadership.

Remember ... do not doubt: A theology of rewards is integral to our faith. Listen to Hebrews 6:10 – *God is not unjust; He will not forget our work and the love you have shown Him as you help ... and continue to help ... His people* .... And Hebrews 11:6 – *Without faith, it is impossible for us to please God; and, no one draws near to God without first believing that He exists and that ... He rewards those who seek Him earnestly.*

(January 2014: Spiritual Leadership = Receiving + Serving)

*An Adorer is a bearer of God's promises to the world ... accountable to Him Who chose you.*



**On Infinite Impact ...** It is the same with our lives. When the Holy Spirit shows us our back-trails ... and provides us flash-backs into our past, we find landmarks and vistas we never even glanced at the first time through. Our past will appear different when we're looking back from the present: Hindsight is 20/20 vision.

While we live our life forward, God has gone into our past ... leaving for us gems and treasures in the dust. So, even if the past seems like dust in your memory ... because of some bitterly unhappy memories and some dark passages ... you look for the gems ... seek out the treasures ... search for the life-transforming secrets ... in the past of your life. Apply the power of nurtured past-memories to shape your future.

Yes, our past has its full share of negative experiences ... but, do not allow the negatives of our past to eclipse our positive heritage. Reflect on the positives to bless and redeem the past .... Reclaim our positive memories ... which God has scattered in the dust of our timeline behind us .... Recapture the power that is hidden in our past to strengthen us for the timeline ahead of us. Remember ... don't forget!

Presbyterian minister Frederick Buechner in *Telling Secrets* (1991) writes: God's chief purpose in giving memory is to enable us to go back in time so that if we – as son, husband, father, friend and Adorer – did not play those roles right the first time around ... He gives us another chance at it today. Through the power that memory gives us ... of thinking, feeling and imagining our way back through time ... we can remove the power of what happened in the past which had affected us so badly and hurt us and other people.

Memory is the life-blood of character and identity ... forgetting is destructive. Remembering who we are is one of the most important things we do as human beings.

God, in His grace ... has and still does and will continue ... to provide us with reminders – that speak to us of who we really are ... of what He has done for us ... and of what our ultimate destinies will be – if only we will open our eyes, our ear and, most importantly, our hearts. This we must do ... for our own timelines ... and for the greater timeline that envelops us all.

**Reflection:** Tell someone close to you one story from your past. Why did you pick that one story out of so many stories in your past? **(January 2014: Strengthening Your Future)**



**On Prayer ...** The three main means to self-knowledge in our daily life, plus the first week of the Spiritual Exercises – the most valuable means – are the practice of (1) Penance; (2) the Examination of Conscience; and (3) the work of getting to know Who God is.

Penance is a means to purification, not an end. The real end ... maturity in God ... must always be kept in view. Granted that, Penance as a means ... is necessary. Penance lets the punishment fit the crime and, voluntarily chosen, should be suited to what we see is in need of purification in our >>>



**His Excellency**  
**Most Rev. Edmundo M. Abaya**  
**Archbishop Emeritus of Nueva Segovia**  
 Born 19 January 1929 at Candon, Ilocos Sur.  
 Sacerdotal Ordination: 21 March 1953 at Ilocos Sur.  
 Episcopal Ordination: 19 January 1979 at Ilocos Sur.  
 Elevation to Archbishop: 22 May 1999.



**His Excellency**  
**Most Rev. Martin S. Jumoad, DD**  
**Bishop of Isabela, Basilan**  
 Born 11 November 1956 at Pardo, Cebu City.  
 Sacerdotal Ordination: 07 April 1983.  
 Episcopal Ordination: 10 January 2002.



**His Excellency**  
**Most Rev. Antonio R. Tobias, D.D.**  
**Bishop of Novaliches**  
 Born 13 June 1941 at Manila.  
 Sacerdotal Ordination: 21 December 1965 at Mla Cathedral.  
 Episcopal Ordination: 25 January 1983 at Manila Cathedral.

lives. For example, at a retreat, a participant was convinced that she needed more penance in her life ... but that she ate just enough and so food was not a good penance for her.

She said: *I love to read. I get the morning paper before anyone else.* I said: *A good penance for you would be to postpone reading the newspaper until after lunch each day ... the very area where your curiosity is very strong. You are a teacher and need to be well-informed ... but not to be informed before noontime. Nothing in your work will suffer if you wait until noontime to read the paper.*

She agreed that ... that would be a very challenging penance. She committed to it. Why? It gained for her mastery over her instinctual desires. In and of itself, this penance is small but the intrinsic value to be gained by fasting ... is the training of the will ... to learn to be more restrained ... patient ...in the more unimportant areas of our life ... and not spontaneously jump to every stimulus, even in the more important situations in our life.

Thus, Penance is a very important part of purification ... an important way to self-knowledge. You can learn a lot ... about yourself ... by making resolutions ... and, by breaking those resolutions, you learn about the quality, level and character ... of your will ... what are the things that are easy for you to do and what are difficult.

As you mature, you learn a lot about your own selfishness ... and our own ability and capacity ... to deceive your own self ... your own person. **(January 2014: The Examen)**

**On Silence ...** When we gratefully listen ... patiently wait for that which is beyond words, beyond the experiential, joy flows into our lives right away ... no matter what is going on. There is always something to be thankful for. We may have all that we want, but, without gratitude, we will never have enough ... never be contented.

**Lesson Fourteen on Silence:** Keep your daily practice of silence. **Objective:** To encourage you to practice in your life, the attitude of being open to opportunities of contemplation and reflection.

While we can practice our meditation and listening ... without the people around us knowing of it, it is important to note that we can also share our practice. When we do so, our community becomes a part of our silence. **See Page 12, Column 1 >>>**



### His Holiness Pope Francis.

The Pope blessed a severely disfigured man Wednesday — two weeks after his warm embrace of a different man covered in tumors mesmerized people around the world. Pope Francis embraced and kissed the man and pointed to the heavens. The Argentine's papacy has been marked by his focus on helping those less fortunate

— particularly the poor and the disabled

**Episcopal Ordination – January 2014:** Archbishop Jose S. Palma of Cebu; Archbishop Ramon C. Arguelles of Lipa; Archbishop Ernesto A. Salgado of Nueva Segovia; Archbishop Jesus A. Dosado of Ozamiz; and Archbishop John F. Du of Palo; Bishop Dinualdo D. Gutierrez of Marbel; Bishop Emilio Z. Marquez of Lucena; Bishop Antonio R. Tobias of Novaliches; Bishop Reynaldo G. Evangelista of Imus; Bishop Martin S. Jumoad of Isabela; Bishop Angelito R. Lampon of Jolo; Auxiliary Bishop Julito B. Cortes of Cebu; Archbishop Emeritus Edmundo M. Abaya of Nueva Segovia; and Archbishop Emeritus Pedro R. Dean Jr. of Palo.

### Foundation Anniversaries – January 2014:

33<sup>rd</sup> Year – Archdiocesan Council of Manila (01 January).  
 59<sup>th</sup> Year – Section 8 Bohol (09 January 1955);  
 46<sup>st</sup> Year – Section 35 Isabela (11 January 1968);  
 44<sup>th</sup> Year – Section 39 Cabuyao (01 January 1970);  
 36<sup>th</sup> Year – Section 53 Bocaue (20 January 1978);  
 36<sup>th</sup> Year – Section 75 Minalin (06 January 1983);  
 36<sup>th</sup> Year – Section 90 San Pedro (17 January 1987);  
 36<sup>th</sup> Year – Section 101 Nabuturan (January 1989);  
 36<sup>th</sup> Year – Section 107 Padada (January 1990);  
 36<sup>th</sup> Year – Section 123 Valenzuela (14 January 1998); and  
 36<sup>th</sup> Year – Section 133 Liloan (21 January 1999).  
 90<sup>th</sup> Year – Turno 50 Sariaya (27 January 1924);  
 90<sup>th</sup> Year – Turno 63 Baybay, Leyte (01 January 1924);  
 60<sup>th</sup> Year – Turno 286 Guiguinto (16 January 1954);  
 60<sup>th</sup> Year – Turno 293 San Jacinto, Pangasinan;  
 60<sup>th</sup> Year – Turno 319 Taguddin, Ilocos Sur (01 January);  
 55<sup>th</sup> Year – Turno 665 Masinloc (17 January 1959);  
 55<sup>th</sup> Year – Turno 666 Cabagan (17 January 1959);  
 55<sup>th</sup> Year – Turno 667 San Narciso (17 January 1959);  
 55<sup>th</sup> Year – Turno 710 Inabanga, Bohol (24 January 1959);  
 50<sup>th</sup> Year – Turno 858 Sta. Rita, Concepcion (09 January);  
 40<sup>th</sup> Year – Turno 1102 Guindaruhan, Ming-lanilla;  
 40<sup>th</sup> Year – Turno 1114 Madridejos, Alegria (07 January);  
 30<sup>th</sup> Year – Turno 1280 Dasmaringas, Cavite (08 January);  
 25<sup>th</sup> Year – Turno 1401 Banay-banay, Lipa; and  
 10<sup>th</sup> Year – Turno 1627 Don Marcelino, Davao del Sur.  
 40<sup>th</sup> Year – Tarcisian Turno 60 San Rafael, Bulacan);  
 40<sup>th</sup> Year – Tarcisian Turno 61 Mabalacat (20 January);  
 40<sup>th</sup> Year – Tarcisian Turno 62 Krus Na Daan, San Rafael;  
 30<sup>th</sup> Year – Tarcisian Turno 141 San Antonio, Binan);  
 30<sup>th</sup> Year – Tarcisian Turno 142 Binan (28 January); and  
 30<sup>th</sup> Year – Tarcisian Turno 143 Sorsogon (1984).

See Page 14, Column 1 >>>

## Constantinople — Legacy: The Church Rights of the Laity

From *Furthermore! Memories of a Parish Priest*  
 By Rev. Fr. Andrew M. Greeley (1999)

I herewith submit a litany of horror stories about the oppression of the laity by Church personnel. I lack empirical data to say just how typical these abuses of power are, but I have enough information to say that these stories represent abuses that are widespread. Many of my horror stories are clear violations of Canon Law:

1. A couple, graduates of Catholic colleges, presents itself at the parish rectory and asks to be married in three weeks; the bride's parents work overseas and were granted a two-week leave. The couple wants to get married when the bride's parents are present and, aware of marriage banns, they have come to the rectory in time for the bann-requirement to be met.

The unsmiling priest tells the couple: *We have a rule here that you must be a registered member of the parish for six months before we permit you to be married in our church, and diocesan guidelines require six months of marriage preparation.* The bride says: *We have been here at Mass every Sunday for the last year and a half.*

The priest replies: *I don't recognize you. How do I know you're not lying to me?* This time the groom chimes in: *Guidelines are not rules, are they?* The priest replies: *Sure they are, why else would we have them. You can forget about being married in my church.*

The couple goes down the street to the local Lutheran church and are married there. After the honeymoon, they continue to attend the Eucharist at the parish. Their first child is baptized by the Lutheran pastor. The clerical mind cannot conceive of anything but rules. Guidelines, worthy as they are, are not rules that deny the laity legitimate access to the sacraments. See Page 13, Column 1 >>>

### Errata – November 2013 Issue:

1. On Eucharist: Page 1, Column 1, paragraph 5, line 2: ... *from Manila to* ....;
2. On Eucharist: Column 2, paragraph 6, line 4: ... *our* situation ....
3. On Mary: Page 2, Column 2, paragraph 1, line 4: ... *do have tough sentences for* ....
4. On Leadership: Page 4, Column 2, paragraph 3, line 9: ... *available fair or* ....;
5. On Health: Page 8, Column 1, paragraph 1, lines 5 and 6: ... *are in contact ... propagation* ....
6. On Leadership: Page 8, Column 1, paragraph 1, line 2: *are of the* ....; paragraph 3, line 1: ... *from our* ....; Column 2, paragraph 6, line 4: ... *thus unworthy* ....
7. On Impact: Page 9, Column 1, paragraph 3, line 3: ... *in Your hands* ....; Column 2, paragraph 4, line 3: ... *nor has our* ....
8. On Grace: Page 12, Column 2, paragraph 1, line 1: ... *our* love ... *is the hope of the Gospel!*

### 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.



**On Apparitions ...** Saints Teresa of Avila, Joan of Arc and Simon Stock were *subject to such errors*. St. Peter himself

was at the receiving end of a sharp rebuke from Jesus – see the August 2013 edition of *The Real Presence on Leadership* – hence giving evidence that ... nothing, even what the greatest mystic said, should be accepted without critical thinking and analysis.

The separation of the Divine from the merely human was what made the administration of mystics and their revelations such a thorny but challenging problem for the Church. However, to shun claims of the miraculous is to deny God.

Back to Groeschel. Obtaining a phone number of Groeschel was easy ... making actual contact was playing the lottery – hoping to be the lucky one who rang it at the right moment. After my fourth failed attempt, a sympathetic woman took my call. However, it was almost impossible to communicate with her. The woman did not just ramble ... she repeated herself so many times that I lost count.

After a while, I found myself repeating after her ... so I stopped speaking and tried to start a conversation with her ... without success. She was very sweet and obviously wanted to help ... but her capacity for digression was breath-taking. She seemed to keep on missing my point.

Several times, her voice trailed off in mid-sentence ... and the line went quiet ... and at least a minute passed without either of us speaking a word ... until I started all over again from the beginning, hoping that I might register my request if I repeated it often enough.

Out of nowhere, the woman repeated every word I said to her ... suggesting I fax Father Groeschel my project and let him know when I intended to follow up with another call. If I interested him, Father would come to the phone ... she assured me. And, Groeschel did: *Come and see me*.

What no one had told me was that Groeschel's patron saint was *Benedict Joseph Labre* – born 25 March 1748, became a Franciscan tertiary, died 16 April 1783 and canonized in 1881; patron saint of the homeless and also known as the *saint of the Forty Hours* for his dedication to *Eucharistic adoration* – the *only presumed schizophrenic* ever to have been canonized by the Roman Catholic Church ... an unwashed beggar who was shoo-ed away from town to town during his life ... yet whose death resulted in a funeral attended by thousands of people who made hundreds of miraculous claims on his behalf. One of Father Groeschel's callings involved ministering to the mentally ill ... several of whom served as his assistants :-)!!!

(January 2014: Rev. Fr. Benedict Groeschel)

**On Money ...** Children raised on wealth and possessions ... on wants, excesses and prodigality ... show many symptoms of children in abject poverty: depression and anxiety ... alcohol and drugs ... envy, lying, stealing and shop-lifting ... despair and suicide – money can't buy what is truly precious (Hebrews 13:5-9). Parents and grandparents who spoil children ... See Next Column >>>

by over-indulging their wants ... are performing acts of child abuse ... and this spiritual mistreatment may result in as much long-term personal and social damage as the worst physical abuse.

Unless these children overcome their upbringing ... they will misuse their credit ... default on their debts ... be over-bearing employers or be poor employees ... functioning as irresponsible members of their family, church and society ... quick to blame others ... pout about trials and misfortunes ... and believe that their family ... church, employer, society and country ... owe them a lot.

Is there a worthy substitute for a parent? Albert Schweitzer put it this way: There are only three ways to teach a child – the first is by example; the second is by example; and the third is by example.

Remember ... do not forget ... the lesson of the Ukraine in child upbringing ... in *The Real Presence – October 2013: The Grace Effect*. Children learn most effectively from what their parents do. Our actions speak so loudly that our children can't hear a word we are saying ... *magka-iba kasi ang sinasabi sa ginagawa*. Children remember not what we did for them but what we did with them.

What to teach your children? Visit a junkyard or a dumpsite with your children. Point out to them the treasures that were presents ... rusted robots and battered dolls ... electronic gadgets and cannibalized vehicles ... tattered clothes, shoes and bags ... which cost a lot of money ... and over which children quarreled ... friendships were lost ... honesty was sacrificed for ... and marriages broken up.

These treasures now lie useless after a brief life-span. Point out to them that what your family owns will one day end up in a junkyard ... and consumed by fire as 2Peter 3:10-14 warns us. Ask them: *When all that you own lies abandoned, broken and useless, what have you done that will last in heavenly eternity?*

(January 2014: Theology of Health & Wealth)

## The Grace Effect

Frank replied: *They would probably try to act like Christians and be fearful. But ... the heck with them! If this is a door God has opened, you must walk through it.* Frank is candid to a fault.

But, the biggest hurdle remained – Money!!! We needed thousands of dollars. Humbling myself, I made a list of some people who might be willing to help ... and God opened doors ... almost as though He were kicking them in. Moved by the grace of God, Christian men and women began stepping forward and paving the way for Sasha's recognition.

Generosity overwhelmed me: *Put me down for US\$10,000, Larry!* One committed US\$5,000. The next day, he called back: *I discussed this with the wife last night. She wants me to make it US\$10,000.* Together with Dan Edwards, the children's minister at my own church, we made arrangements for an HIV specialist from the University of Alabama-Birmingham to address the church staff ... to familiarize them with the disease ... and we would honor the staff's wishes if they then decided that it was best for Sasha not to participate in the children's programs.

Bill Hay, senior pastor of Covenant Presbyterian Church which he founded on 01 October 1978, approached me after the HIV seminar and said: *If you are able* See Page 12, Column 1 >>>

## The Grace Effect

to adopt her, bring her to church. This is what it means to live the Gospel. A few days later, I again saw Frank Limehouse. He pressed a cheque into my hand and said: *That's from the people of the Cathedral Church of the Advent. Get that little girl and bring her home.*

[BroDuffy: For our information, *Sasha* is Russian for *Defender of Men*.]

(January 2014: Importance of Identity)

**On Silence ...** As an exercise, observe your morning routine when you wake up, Brush your teeth; prepare and eat breakfast; listen to the radio; read the paper; and interact with your family and friends. Are you silent? If not, carve out a 10-minute space of time while doing your usual routine each morning ... try not to speak during that time. Be silent while you eat breakfast.

If you are silent, be conscious of our decision to be silent. Inform your household members beforehand of this decision. (January 2014: Barriers to Listening)

**On Virtue ...** when Patience is not vigilant in the defense of what Justice requires.

To insist then as St. Paul does ... that the first work of the hands of Love is Patience ... is to affirm that Love and Justice are two sides of the same coin. Why is it written in 1 Corinthians 13 that Love is not only patient but kind? What new element does kindness contribute?

In part, the answer is ... Patience can be exercised in sterile ways ... when some loves are no more than selfish attempts to assume the continuation of our lives through others ... so that they become more like us ... which is no virtue but a work of Pride, a great a vice as Impatience ... and Patience without Justice cannot display Kindness ... committed to diversity, variety and differences ... to novelty and genuine change.

Human Patience is meant to reflect in *some fruitful ways* ... the forbearance – patient endurance and self-control – of God Who made men, women and youth *to offer their own distinctive contributions* ... not only in what they produce but also in who they are.

Patient love is kind ... because it guards the time and space of others so that they may become whatever they choose to become – in their own way and at their own pace ... because it hopes for genuine diversity, variety and novelty and not mere replication ... hence Patient love does not ask that sons become clones of their fathers nor for daughters to be copies of their mothers ... nor that they live where they were born or travel the same paths as their parents.

God is in the details ... in the small and ordinary things of life ... but, so is the devil. Do you see ... a direct relationship between Impatience and **See Next Column >>>**

... the Indifference we see all around us every day ... in the details of our ordinary activities ... and the great brutalities humankind has inflicted upon itself in the preceding one hundred years?

Can great and horrific events emerge from such small beginnings ... from such minor and mundane details? If *the butterfly effect* were to be applied to heroic acts, is it also applicable to the PDAF/DAP of greedy politicians who leave their Christianity behind when they go to work in the halls of Philippine Congress?

When we choose to become ... inhabitants and residents ... of the most trivial and minor forms of vices ... we begin a process of moral hardening ... a sclerosis of the spirit which eventually leads to ... our complicity with terrors and horrors which were, at first, beyond imagining.

Such is the banality of evil: From the smallest of beginnings arise consequences ... that are wholly unforeseen, unintended and irreparable. *Wherever Patience is absent, nothing might happen or anything could occur.* (January 2011: The Slowness of the Good)



**On Mission ...** emphasize specific needs in terms of practical experience. Education is appreciated given the opportunity to apply knowledge.

**Lesson Learned – 2/3: The Principle Applied Today.** The Adorer never is without, and outside of, personal supervision. The Holy Spirit continues to supervise our work. An Adorer who rejects His supervision

is under the direction of the evil one.

He keeps us moving toward the goal Jesus has set for us – evangelization of the world. He expects us to do our best ... and to *keep on improving* our men, methods, materials and means of funding our operations ... as we grow in knowledge and grace.

His plan of teaching us ... by example, assignment and constant supervision ... is designed to bring out our ... excellence: the best in us. So, if someone is intent on bring out the worse in us ... who is his director?

Patient and determined supervision is required among those being trained for evangelization. Do not assume that the work will be done well ... by one who shows willingness because the worker may be easily side-tracked and become discouraged and defeated.

Those engaged in the work of evangelization must always be under personal supervision and guidance ... until such time as they are mature enough to carry on alone.

**Lesson Learned – 3/3: Keep the Vision Clear.** Remember ... do not forget ... the goal is world conquest.

The Holy Spirit has sent us many men, women and youth ... for our supervision and guidance ... and, if we discharge them for the mission of evangelization without proper training and inspiration, these promising leaders will be ... despoiled, discouraged and eventually discarded ... for lack of supervision. One who looked so promising becomes a *stumbling block* to the best.

We fail ... because we allow our little efforts to become an excuse for not doing better. The result is ... losing by default ... and wasting the advantage of years of hard work and sacrifice. Learn the lesson of Jesus: Do not be satisfied with the fruits of the labor of those who have gone ahead of us ... **See Page 13, Column 1 >>>**

*Light up the world by reflecting the Light of Jesus ... in everything you do ... and do not do.*



## On Mission ... to evangelize.

Disciples ... Adorers ... must be trained and supervised to maturity ... which assures us of victory as we move to do battle in our field of mission – the world. Adorers are not called to keep to their comfort zones ... but to get out of their boats ... and storm the enemy.

The goal of Jesus is world conquest; His strategy is evangelization. We ... Adorers ... work out of that strategy. If we do not do our part of that strategy ... we do the work of the evil one. [BroDuffy: Please refer to Leadership Formation, on page 4 of this edition.] (January 2014: Principle No. 8)



## On The Church ... 2.

A young married couple is delighted that, eighteen months after the birth of their son, they now have a little sister for him. The mother calls the rectory to arrange for her Baptism. She is turned over to the Director of Religious Education

(DRE) who informs her that she and her husband must come to class every Wednesday for six weeks so that they may be properly prepared to be parents of a newly baptized Christian. Another class is scheduled three months later.

The mother replies: *We did not have to do that when my son was baptized.* DRE says: *That's because I wasn't in-charge here then!* The mother explains that she and her husband have had sixteen years of Catholic education. In turn, she gets a stiff reply from DRE: *That is irrelevant!*

The mother pleads: *But, I work during the day and my husband works at night; we could not possibly come to a class and leave the two children home alone.* Get a baby sitter is the curt reply. The mother admits that they can't afford a baby-sitter and that their daughter is too young to be left with a baby-sitter. DRE hangs up after saying: *That's your problem.* And, the Code of Canon Law is shattered.

3. A priest preparing the documents for a marriage discovers that the couple has the same address. Are you living together? He asks – which is none of his business. The couple admits they are. *We don't marry people here who live together before marriage,* he informs them.

As a compromise, the priest insists that they must sleep in separate bedrooms if they wish to be married in this church. The couple promises him that they will and he's ignorant enough about the human condition to believe that they will.

In *Search of the Sacred* (2003), Herbert S. Heavenrich writes: *An accredited correspondent to the Second Vatican Council for Grailville Publications, Catholic Eva Fleischer, a pioneer in Jewish-Christian dialogue, was refused communion at the weekly Mass to which journalists were admitted at the rate of one country each week.*

*As she approached the communion rail, a Swiss guard blocked her way to the altar. She turned away in tears of rage, the only woman in the U.S. press corps. The incident was reported in various media.* See Next Column >>>

In *The Open Church: Vatican II, Act II* (1964) Michael Novak writes: *A protest on the incident was lodged with Council authorities. The guard acted without any authority and on his own impulse; apologies were tendered to Miss Fleischer. But, the next time journalists were allowed to enter St. Peter's Basilica, women were expressly excluded.*

As a footnote, Novak adds: The explanation ... is that Pope John XXIII was being besieged by Sisters Superior that nuns be allowed in the Council. To avoid further argument, the Pope sacrificed recognition of other women. American press corps officers knew that this decision came from the Pope. (January 2014: Laity – Future)

## Movements of Earth

On the trail of the 7.2-Richter scale earthquake that rocked Central Visayas recently, note that both Matthew 27:51 and Luke in Acts 16:26 record an earthquake happening on three separate occasions which Matthew describes as *violent* and Luke as *severe*. Earthquakes and redemption ... come at a time when least expected.

In *The Myth of Solid Ground: Earthquakes, Prediction and the Fault Line between Reason and Faith* (2004), David L. Ulin writes – *Even the most basic assumptions about earthquakes contain a great deal of uncertainty. Hence, earthquakes offer us a profound ... and lasting ... sense of mystery. In order to enter into the landscape of this mystery ... we need to walk away ... from our great craving for control of our own life and of other people's lives ... from the idea that order is something that can be seen ... and from ourselves and our narrow view of time and geology.*

*The Earth is a living planet ... in a constant of flux ... of motion ... inwardly and outwardly ... always changing ... which means that, on Earth, there is no such thing as solid ground. In a hundred million years, none of what we will see will be here ... the mountains, the oceans, the continents, the very shape and texture of the world.*

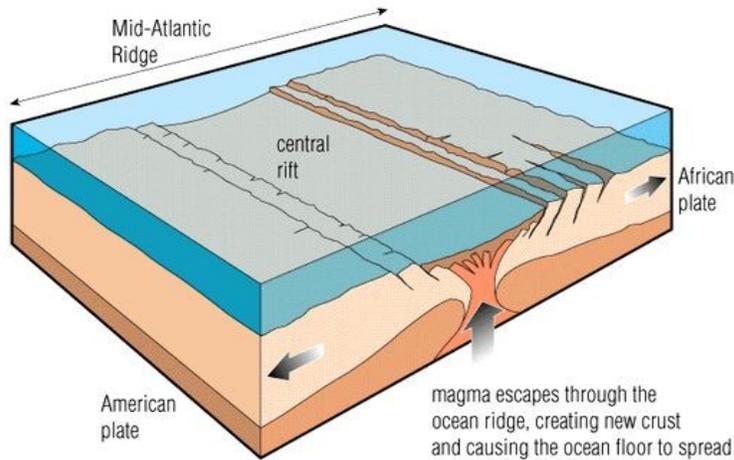
*In a very real sense, this thought of our planet Earth in constant movement ... in and out ... somehow diminishes us ... and reduces our lives to some kind of a biological side-effect – an ephemeral sideshow to the geologic drama ... the fluid dance of plate tectonics ... and the inter-play of movement along faults.*

*Yet, if we open our minds a little and look at that thought in a different light ... we may find ourselves enlarged. Human life is only ephemeral on its own terms ... when we consider our life independent of everything else. But, if we place life in context ... in conjunction with something larger – such as a timeline ... God's timeline – and our life immediately takes on a more complicated shape. When it comes to earthquakes, eternity is right in front of us ... staring at us in the face ... if we allow ourselves to see.*

Roy Chester, in *Furnace of Creation, Cradle of Destruction: A Journey to the Birthplace of Earthquakes, Volcanoes and Tsunamis* (2008), describes Earth's constant flux in this manner: *The entire universe is expanding on all fronts at thousands of miles per second; the planet Earth reflects in microcosm this cosmic expansion at the rate of one to ten centimeters per year.*

*The convection currents, resulting from the flow of heat inside Earth's core, cause the seafloor to spread by 1-2 centimeters per year in the Atlantic Ocean and 4-8 centimeters per year in the Pa-*

**On Movements of Earth** ... is pulled apart as it spreads, the tectonic plates of the landmasses on either side of the opening ocean are forced to move against each other, such as the African plate against the Arabian plate, the Nazca plate against the South American plate, the Pacific plate against both the Eurasian plate and the North American plate, and so on.



When a plate boundary exists between an ocean and a continent, subduction – the process that takes place at the boundaries of converging tectonic plates by which one tectonic plate moves under another tectonic plate and sinks into the Earth's mantle – of one plate against another occurs ... resulting in intense seismic activity. The same may be said in converging plates within landmasses.

The expansion of the Earth due to convection currents in its core ... sea-floor spreading ... cause the continents to drift around the surface of the Earth because they ride on large tectonic plates that are continually in motion. There is still much to be known about the science of Tectonics (Vulgar Latin tectonicus means building) which attempts to describe the processes of mountain-building, the growth and behavior of the strong, old cores of continents, and the ways in which the relatively rigid plates that comprise the Earth's outer shell interact with each other.

### On Anniversaries ... Birthdays – January 2014:

Bishop Vicente M. Navarra of Bacolod; Bishop Carlito J. Cenzon of Baguio; Bishop Joseph A. Nacua of Ilagan; Auxiliary Bishop Jose Colin M. Bagafor of Cotabato; Archbishop Emeritus Edmundo M. Abaya of Nueva Segovia; Bishop Emeritus Prospero N. Arellano of Libmanan; Bishop Emeritus Honesto C. Pacana of Malaybalay; and Bishop Emeritus Teodoro C. Bacani Jr. of Novaliches.

### Prayer Requests:

- From Sis. Cora Soriano: For the eternal repose of the soul of Sis. Teresita Sadaya Lubin who passed away on 21 November 2013; and
- From BroDuffy: **(a)** For the realization of supply contracts for nickel and fuel oil; and **(b)** To be the Philippine representative of a multinational company in the market for high-precision metal/plastic parts.



### Points to Ponder

**2 Kings 5:1-19.** Naaman expected words, gestures and power – magic! Healing is a gift from the Good ... Who has no need for Naaman's treasures. Jesus will proceed the same way in John 4:46 – He asks obedience to His commands ... that we follow His simple instructions.

God does not require of us the achievement of extra-ordinary things ... but to do well what He wants us to do for Him. We often miss, and do not find, His Kingdom because ... we want to make great efforts ... brilliant moves ... spectacular presentations and magnificent impressions – all of these are designed to please our selves ... instead of doing the simple things God asks of us.

**Jeremiah 7:1-11.** Amend your ways and your deeds and I will stay in this place ... in the land I gave to your fathers in times past and forever. Do you believe that, because you are a Catholic, you can continue in your evil ways and remain indifferent to the Word of God, or the renewal of ... the *Adoracion Nocturna Filipina* ... or the Church? What is the value of rituals ... if there is no change in behavior?

**Psalms 81.** If My people would hear Me, then I would subdue their enemies. If we are weak and we lack dynamism to evangelize and be the change we want to see in the world, this is because we do not completely let go of our many fake gods ... idols.

**1 Thessalonians 5:9-11.** God has not willed us to be condemned but to win salvation through Christ Jesus our Lord. But, Christ comes to us when He is least expected ... at night ... when the unbeliever sleeps the sleep of the contented and complacent ... while the believer stays alert and awake ... having ordered his life, his work, and is outreach programs around the unknown day of the Master's arrival ... even as he awaits to welcome the arrival of his Master.

Children of the light are beyond reproach ... transparent before God ... and with nothing to hide from Him. Those who follow their own will and evil desires are people of darkness ... hiding, waiting and scheming to do evil. Thus, encourage and build up one another ....

**1 Corinthians 3:13-15.** Whatever you, Adorer, did not do ... according to the Will of God and with the means He wanted ... will amount to nothing ... as with many apostolic projects in your *Turno*/Section/Council levels which produced no durable fruit. You who did not work with the one purpose of ... serving, glorifying and magnifying the Lord ... will not be condemned to Hell, of course, but you will have to pay with personal suffering.

### Invitations:

- 01 December 2013 Sunday 8AM-5PM.** Advent Recollection with talks, confession, Mass celebration, lunch and snack at Montfort Center, 47 Scout Madrinan, QC. Fee: P100.00. Contact Rev. Fr. Carmelo C. Esteban SMM at 02-9255529/0927-9101991. Bring your friends ... KKK.
- 01 February 2014.** 17<sup>th</sup> Montfort Pilgrimage to the Archdiocese of San Fernando, Pampanga 5AM-7PM. Contact Rev. Fr. Carmelo C. Esteban SMM at 02-9255529/0927-9101991. Bring your friends ... KKK.