

Magis

Formation for Mission



*Stewardship
Simplicity
Sharing
Service*

Official Publication of the Magis Deo Community
December 2017 Issue



Advent

Joy awaits in the
season of waiting

Now!

Be guided by Jesus'
supreme law of love

Service of music

Decide to be happy

The Silent Hero

His wisdom commands respect

Magis hits the fairway

Witness the fund-raising
golf tournament

About the Cover



In this month's issue, respective writers contribute their insights on their preparation for the incoming Advent season, otherwise known as the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus at Christmas. One of the most common activities would have to be the lighting of the Advent candles, until His birthday arrives.

And as we celebrate this, we do it with our families, with Christ at the center of our hearts.

That is why illustrator Levenspeil R. Sangalang of Magis Youth, visualized this familial celebration with the Advent candles present. These candles are then illuminated by the hands of three family members: the parents' and their child's, clasped altogether through a firm affiliation that is cemented by hope, peace, love, and joy.

EDITORIAL

MAGIS

The Latin word **MAGIS** can be translated as "more, better, fuller." Saint Ignatius of Loyola used this word to describe how authentic Christianity cultivates a deeper connection with Christ and more zeal in serving others. This is the "more" of MAGIS. From this perspective, the "+" (plus) sign can also be interpreted as the Cross – the symbol of divine love to the very end. MAGIS shows us the Ignatian way towards a fuller life.

St. Ignatius, the patron saint of our community, summarized the forces at work in our Christian life in three words: **know – love – follow**. Prayer is the first tool. Through prayer we contemplate the mystery of Christ's life. Through prayer, we immerse ourselves in His message and we study His ways through the Gospel. We get to know, really know, the Person and that is Christ.

Christ fascinates us and makes us yearn to follow His footsteps on our own paths in life. It is the knowing, the loving Christ that makes us want to follow him, to be with him, to love as He loves, to serve as He served. The old spiritual masters

used to call our vocation "an imitation of Christ." There is still so much truth there – how can one serve, if one does not love, how can one love, if you do not know the one you love? We become better persons, live fuller lives, make choices because of values rather than satisfaction, learn to love as Christ loves. That is the MAGIS.

And guess what (as though we didn't already know) living a life of MAGIS is ALWAYS done in community. And wasn't it just a couple of Sundays ago, that the Gospel was on the Beatitudes, which is actually a template for living in community? That's why no one, not a single couple, not a single person is here in Magis Deo by accident. We are here to give ourselves to one another. Community is the risen Body of Christ.

So as we enter this blessed season of Advent, let us pray to serve the community we have been given passionately and deeply, in actions, not words. And in this way know Christ more clearly, love Christ more dearly, and follow Christ more nearly.

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Magis

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Now!

12 November 2017 / Ruben M. Tanseco, SJ

The Gospel reading for today is very short but very challenging and inspiring indeed.

The words of Jesus are clear and compassionate:

"Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour." (Mt. 25:13). In other words, do not keep looking back on the yesterday nor keep focusing on the tomorrow. Now! Today! This is more important, because this may be your last. Only God knows. Your journey to sanctification and your loving relationship with God and neighbor, starting with your family, focuses on the now. Unfortunately, so many of our fellow Filipinos tend to focus more on the "mañana habit," as the Sam-buhay for today emphasizes. Postponing for another day what I can do today is a habit that many of our fellow Filipinos are used to. The reason? For some, because it is "mahirap gawin." For others, it is because they are "tamad." Or it could be for some other reason. And the result? They miss the opportunity of loving God and neighbor.

Take this man who came home from work one early evening and found out that his wife brought his mother to the hospital for a serious check-up. Tired from work, he decided to go to the hospital the following morning. At midnight, the mother died from a sudden stroke. For many months, this man was not only in deep grief, but he could not forgive himself for not rushing to the hospital that evening.

He loved his mother dearly, and lost the opportunity of being with her before she passed away.

On the other hand, here was a married couple whose relationship was breaking apart due to some problems. The husband was seriously considering a separation. When he told this to his wife, she immediately asked him if he would be willing to seek professional marital counseling. The husband agreed, and so they immediately went for professional help. The process took a long time, but they were able to finally save their marriage and became close friends and lovers again. Their loving relationship with God was a strong part of the whole process. I



admire the wife for seeking help as soon as the husband proposed a separation. And I admire the husband, too, for accepting the proposal. There are couples who keep delaying the process and end up separating.

Out of deep gratitude to the Lord, allow me now to share my own experience of God's love and compassion. So many years ago, I already had two college degrees when one, ordinary day, I read a newspaper article about the Jesuit priestly life and ministry. God's grace touched my heart to the core, and led me to seek spiritual guidance that led me to apply to the Society of Jesus. It was definitely God's intervention that I responded to. Just like that. This year, I am entering my fifty-third year as a Jesuit priest. The more than ten years of formation before ordination were simply incredible. And all the years from my priestly ordination are even more incredible. God's ways of loving are just beyond words, for as long as you follow where He calls you. The "today" is every day. You just have to follow Him. His love for you and everyone else is the one and only source of your love for Him and neighbor. As Jesus said: "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind... You shall love your neighbor as yourself. (Mt. 22:37-39)." And neighbor here means all, including those who hurt and persecute you. "But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your heavenly Father, for he makes his sun rise on the bad and the good, and causes rain to fall on the just and the unjust..." (Mt. 5:44 ff.). All the other laws of God and His church flow from this one, supreme law of LOVE. The many teachings of Christ were all related to His teaching on love, including the inspiring Beatitudes, from the Sermon on the Mount. The ever-loving Jesus.

Let me end by focusing on our beloved Fr. Romeo Archie Intengan, SJ who suddenly passed away last month after a cardiac arrest at the age of 75. He was already a medical doctor when he entered the Jesuit Novitiate in 1970. The homilies at his wake Masses were deeply inspiring. Aside from being a professor at the Ateneo de Manila University and the Loyola School of Theology, his dedicated involvement in many programs for our country's political and economic progress were admirable.

He was an active leader in the Partido Democratico-Socialista ng Pilipinas (PDSP) and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) against the Marcos regime. As a fearless promoter of justice and human rights, he was imprisoned, and after his release, he went into exile abroad. After he came back, he became our Provincial from 1998 to 2004.

Let me just quote from two Jesuits, one during his wake, and the other at the Funeral Mass. First, from Fr. Ben Nebres, SJ. "While the news reports of his stay in Sabah focus on the Marcos opposition part, it is his ministry as a doctor among our Muslim brothers and sisters in exile that I remember most deeply... Archie, thank you so very much for being such a great patriot, social reformer, doctor, priest, and Jesuit."

From our Jesuit Provincial, Fr. Tony Moreno, SJ, let me end with a part of his tribute at the Funeral Mass: "Fr. Archie meant so many things to different people: Jesuit priest, father, brother, patriot, medical doctor, walking encyclopedia, religious formator and guide, leader, visionary, social activist and reformer, friend, political educator, moral theologian, thinker, and so much more... His political thought, his advocacy to present an alternative political movement to the extreme right and the extreme left offered some ray of hope in a society that was deeply polarized by martial law."

Maraming, maraming salamat, Fr. Archie. You will continue to be our inspiration and apostolic model, especially to our young generation of priests, seminarians, and lay leaders.

PROSE AND POETRY

Chacho Angeles, Thessalonians BCGG

BEFORE ADVENT

The gospels that speak of the end of the world are daunting.

Jesus foretold the destruction of the temple of Jerusalem, death and suffering because of wars among nations and natural calamities, because the people forgot the ways of peace and ignored His visit on earth. Talks of the apocalypse were common during the time of Jesus, and He is Himself deathly anxious about His coming trials. Despite this feeling of foreboding darkness, He continues with His loving ways, and assures His disciples that He will be with them, while on earth and in the afterlife. He encourages them to be steadfast in their faith despite coming persecutions because of faith in Him, and to continue His mission when He is gone.

Merong nagsabí na ang kadiliman
Ay hindi ang kawalan ng liwanag,
Nguni't and kawalan ng pag-asa na
Ang liwanag ay hindi na manumbalik!

The gospels before Advent are rather disconcerting for me, as if they are leading up to Holy Week and Easter. They speak not only of apocalyptic events, but also of the last days of Jesus as He comes to Jerusalem, expecting His persecution and death. They talk about the anxiety and the pain of the human Jesus as He confronts His impending death. And yet they also talk about steadfastness, faith, love and hope. Jesus continues with His ministry of teaching and healing, showing the people and His disciples how to continue to love others despite difficulties. They even talk of His return in glory to effect His kingship and fulfil His Messiah-ship.

"Sa bundok na ito maghahanda ang Ama,
Ng isang píging para sa buong sangkatauhan,
Sagana sa pagkain; bulalo at mga píli at masasarap
na alak.
Sisírain Niya dito ang belo ng pagluksa
Na bumabalot sa lahat ng mga bansa,
At wawasakin Niya ang kamatayan
Magpakailan pa man."
Isaías 25: 6-9

I see the interplay of so many symbols in these gospels: of war and peace; of defeat and triumph; of prejudice and acceptance; of ignorance and faith; of hatred and love; of fear and

hope; of darkness and light. This is so true for me since I too experience alternating episodes of failure and success, despair and joy, light and darkness. There are episodes where love and joy shine forth, like the birth of my children and the love of my wife and friends; and episodes where my spirit falls into the dark abyss in times of loss of loved ones, resources, and even of self-respect. But I never let these dark episodes take control, especially when I learned how to really pray and lean on the love of my God for me, for all of us. His kingship is not of flowing purple robes, crowns and scepters, power and pelf. His robe is His bruised and bleeding body, His crown is a crown of thorns. Well, I will concede one jewel – His brightly glowing heart – full of compassion and love. This love is the light that dispels the darkness, and it comes as surely as the rising of the sun in the morning to bring comfort, purpose and life.

Ako'y isang larawan, ítíman at putian,
Ang ítím ay ang aking katauhan,
Mga yaman, kasíkatan, kahambungan,
Ang bukal ng aking mga sala.
Ang putí ay ang iyong diwa,
Ang hininga ng aming buhay, na
Bumubuo ng aking tanawing tigang.

Sa pamamigitan ng iyong kalooban,
Tulungan Mo ako makumpleto ang
Larawang ito, at basagín ang mga bato,
Upang bumulwak ang tubig ng iyong
Pagmamahal, at daluyan ng malinaw at
Dalisay na bukal ang aking buhay na tigang.
Buhayín mo ang aking katauhan at
Punuín ng sari-saring mga bulaklak
Na may iba't-ibang kulay at anyo,
Upang ang puso ko'y maging isang
Maganda at maalikayang tanawin,
Puno ng iyong pagmamahal,
Kabigha-bighaning pagmasdan!

Turn On Magis: Initiatives for 2018

Philip & Malu Panlilio, Mustard Seed BCGG



The 2017 and 2018 Pastoral Council, ministry heads, and BCGG heads/representatives from 20 out of 23 BCGGs gathered and prayed together on November 30, 2018 on where God is leading Magis Deo for 2018.

It was a grace-filled coming together, drawing inspiration from Fr. James Gascon, Magis Spiritual Director, and from the open, frank yet humble, and empathetic prayer reflection inputs from members of 21 BCGGs.

Fr. James reminded us of the importance of fidelity to our mission and vision and to the family ministry which God all called us to. Our strength as a community comes not from our achievements but from the grace of peace we have, knowing that we are not alone in all our endeavors.

The Magis Deo Community Canvas (shown here) captured where the Community is at present, our value propositions, beneficiaries, key activities, key partners, key resources, and costs. Value propositions include loving and caring couple and family relationships; spiritual growth; life of stewardship, simplicity, sharing and service; love for the poor and love of country. The Canvas helped us understand where the Community is now and where we should go in 2018.

BCGGs traveled through various roads, predominantly through the roads of faith and forgiveness as well as the roads through the desert and the wilderness, where trust in God prevails despite challenges in Community life.

Many recognized Magis community life as the road to Bethany where the comfort of friendship in the BCGGs serves as anchor for comfort, easing the demands of a tough journey and more importantly, transformative as well through the faith sharings.

Gratitude was expressed for deepening prayer life, spiritual growth, and support in the BCGGs as well as the graces of humility, patience and perseverance, empathy, compassion, silence amidst the noise, and couple witnessing.

BCGGs expressed concern on the declining participation in Community celebration which affect the disposition of attendees; the decreasing number of ME candidates and their retention; future possibility of lesser number of candidates for the Pastoral Council than seats to fill; which all point to the viability of Magis Deo in the medium-term.

BCGGs clearly identified the following as their needs: spiritual guidance, continuing spiritual formation, marriage and family enrichment formation, listening ear, need to feel "welcome", sense of belonging in the community, more ME recruits, ME recruits retained and formed, new BCGG members, more active participation in Community Celebration, shepherds who can be leaders, revive Suyuan sponsorships and interface, healing of community hurts, cascading of information, leadership succession, strengthening Ignatian Spirituality practices to make Magis Deo a discerning community, little sense of larger Community as Magis is like separate little communities.

To address the concerns and expressed needs, there was commitment agreed among the Pastoral Council, ministry heads and BCGG heads/representatives on the following actions to revive the Magis spirit:

1. Community Celebration to be held every first Sunday of the month, 9am-12 pm.
2. BCGG shepherd to bring at least 2 couples from their BCGG to attend the Community Celebration.
3. Each BCGG to recruit 1 couple per year for the ME Weekend.
4. Each BCGG to sponsor 1 Suyuan per year.
5. Revive interface between 2 BCGGs in the same sector for 4 months to know more deeply other members.
6. Strengthen spiritual formation and leadership potential of shepherds.

Merry Christmas and a grace-filled 2018!

Magis Deo Community Canvas (2017)

KEY PARTNERS

- Spiritual Director
- Council
- Ministry Heads
- Sector Heads
- Shepherds
- Resource Persons
- CEFAM
- CIS
- Parishes & NGOs for Suyuan / Outreach
- Donors

KEY RESOURCES

- Organization
- Mission/ Vision
- Members
- Values/ Practices
- Accounting & Auditing Systems
- Office Space, Staff & Office Equipment

BUY-IN

- Support Group
- Family

VALUE PROPOSITION

- Loving and caring couple and family relationships
- Spiritual growth
- Life of stewardship, simplicity, sharing & service
- Dedicated & persevering shepherds
- Community support
- Responsible youth
- Love for the poor
- Love of country

DEPLOYMENT

- ComCeleb
- Family Day
- Magis Night
- Newsletter
- Website
- Seminars and
- Retreats

BENEFICIARIES

- Members - 281
- BCGGs - 23
- 3 ME classes
- 48 couples
- Magis Youth

KEY ACTIVITIES

- AIR – 46 pax
- Family Encounter – 6 families; 29 pax; 3 from Magis
- Heroic Leadership – 20 pax
- Formation Series (Amigos del Señor) – 56 pax
- Community Celebration Talks – 84 pax ave.
- MEWs – 3 classes; around 50 couples
- Suyuans – 3 Suyuans with 70 couples
- SDR-organized 1 for CEFAM; no participants from Magis
- Prayer Workshop – 9 pax
- Prayer Workshop for BCGGs
- Orientation Workshop for New BCGGs
- Training for ME Shepherds and Sharers
- Sector Fellowships – 1 from Central Sector
- General Assembly and Election of Council Members (2017) – 71 attendees and 4 candidates / 4 positions
- Bilibid Recollection – 2 recollections (Lent & Advent)
- Magis Night – around 90 pax
- Family Day – 230 pax
- Damayan – 9 members
- BCGG Prayer meetings- Average 3 meetings/mo./BCGG

COST (as of end September 2017)

DISBURSEMENT – Php 1,288,295.13

- (27%) 353,863.08 General & Admin Expenses
- (16%) 201,855.50 Formation Ministry
- (27%) 353,915.00 Marriage Encounter Ministry
- (10%) 122,651.62 Outreach Ministry
- (18%) 235,936.57 Community Services Ministry
- (2%) 20,100.36 Youth Ministry

RECEIPTS – Php 1,254,337.00

- (28%) 350,980.00 Membership Dues
- (17%) 216,000.00 Love Offering & Tithes
- (25%) 310,594.90 MEM
- (10%) 123,784.00 Donations-Scholarships
- (0.05%) 67,000.00 CSM

YOUTH

- MY Kaibigan Retreat
- Monthly Youth Talks during ComCeleb
- Summer Youth Camp
- Youth Outreach

ACHIEVEMENT

- Friendship, Companionship & Support in BCGG
- ComCeleb Attendance – 84 pax average

COMMUNITY CELEBRATION



Many are called, but few are chosen.

- Matthew 22:14

During our October community celebration, the Magis Deo Finance Committee presented their financial report for the year, and shared with the community what transpired, what activities were done and where the funds were allocated.

Prior to the ComCeleb, we had 19 eligible couples for the Pastoral Council. Out of the 19, only 4 couples accepted the call to be members of the Pastoral Council. As there were only 4 slots that needed to be filled up, they were affirmed by the community to the Pastoral Council without the need for an election. We are fortunate that these couples remained to serve the Lord through our community. Congratulations to new members of the Pastoral Council:

1. Jojo & Jane Aldeguer
2. Ramie & Mimi Santos
3. Regie & Daisy de Guzman
4. Kit & Nancy Palmario

We, the outgoing Council Members – Cesar & Marivic Pareja, Jojo & Rhea Gaddi, and Lito Gonzales – thank the Magis Deo Community for the support they gave during our leadership. Most importantly, we thank the Lord for giving us the grace to lead the community, for granting us patience and strength, and for providing us with everything we need to serve the community. Peace, contentment, patience, hope – these cannot be objectified but are there.

- Cesar & Marivic Pareja,



14 October 2017 Community Celebration



List of Eligibles for 2017 Pastoral Council Election

1. Jojo & Jane Aldeguer
2. Harry & Helen Chua
3. Regie & Daisy De Guzman
4. Jay-R & Leila Leccio
5. Kit & Nancy Palmario
6. Ramie & Mimi Santos

REFLECTIONS ON THE ADVENT RECOLLECTION

Archangel Gabriel BCGG



Yella Castillo:

"What stood out for me from the Recollection was Fr. James' emphasis that Advent is the season of waiting, and that the watchful and hopeful attitude befitting Advent is necessary throughout all of one's life, as we wait for the Lord's second coming. Indeed, patience is a virtue I need to be working on, as my attention span seems to be growing shorter with age. Fr. James also struck a chord when he shared his observation that it is not in the Filipino culture to be good at waiting, as seen in our difficulty in falling in line to wait for our turn, or our penchant to decorate for Christmas as soon as the "ber" months roll in. Traffic gridlocks also come to mind. Lately, life has given me a serious blow that stopped me in my tracks and taught me to wait and surrender. Forced to slow down, the exercise in waiting has been grace-filled and made me keenly aware that God was by my side. The Advent recollection was reminder of the graces that abound in waiting and the joy that awaits beyond the darkness."

Marcia Balderas:

"Fr. Gascon mentioned in his talk that Advent means "coming," the coming of Jesus in Bethlehem and His second coming at the end of the world. This makes me think of Christ's coming at Christmas to my soul in grace. I find more time to pause and interiorize the meaning of Advent through more intense prayer, self-denial and wider works for generosity like my yearly giving of "Pandesal" booklets of bible readings and reflections to the Suyuan couples of Payatas. Fr. Gascon's talk has made me ponder on how I have used the talents and gifts the Lord bestowed on me to the fullest. I do hope and pray that I use them for the good of the community – my BCGG, Magis Deo and my parish. The one corporal work of mercy I have not done is prison visitation. I have not been to nor seen any prison. I do hope I can do this now."

Ted Concepcion:

"There are new insights that I learned from Fr. James' talk during the Advent Recollection. He said that "Our ordinary, day to day life, whatever season we are in is always an experience of Advent." He also mentioned that we should "become Christ to others and recognize Christ in others." This is always a challenge for me, and difficult when I am engrossed in work or a task. It is difficult to stop and give a moment of my time to see and listen to what somebody is saying, more importantly, when somebody is asking some help while I'm in the middle of a task. More often, I ignore them or say: let me finish what I'm doing first. I guess that moment of urgency to focus on myself or take a moment to give time to others is very difficult. To become Christ and recognize Christ in others becomes my challenge this Christmas season and thereafter."

Susan Concepcion:

"During the Advent recollection, I enjoyed the group sharing and as I was listening to the sharing of each member, I was struck by how differently a new member views our community as compared to those of us who have been here for some time now. Some old members, like me, tend to look at the difficulties in serving the community. On the other hand, new members are more optimistic and tend to view the community through rose colored glasses. The challenge for me is how to put aside my disillusionments and discouragement and see Magis Deo as if I were seeing it for the first time. How can I look at all that is beautiful in the community, and use this as a springboard to inject new life and bring back the enthusiasm for service? As we approach 2018 and as we make our plans for the community, I pray that God opens our eyes to see our mission as we live our advent waiting for His coming."

FOLLOW ME...Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John

Sally Chua Chiaco, John BCGG

The BCGG Johns took what seemed to be a momentous decision in August to undertake a study of the Gospel of John to increase their faith through knowledge of God's Word.

"Momentous" because the course would cover 21 chapters and entail reading and serious study in eight sessions or classes. The question was, kakayanin ba natin? The collective decision was yes! We would hold our classes every other week in lieu of our regular BCGG prayer meetings. So in a month, we would have two regular prayer meetings and two Bible classes.

In September and October, our classes were suspended to allow the students to enjoy their previously planned travels. When all were back home, with four more classes left, we decided to hold our classes every week to finish by end November. So we did graduate on November 29, 2017. Congratulations to the Johns!

FOLLOW ME...

Is a Catholic program by Edward Sri, a theologian, author, and world-renowned speaker who appears regularly on EWTN. Dr. Sri holds a doctorate in sacred theology from the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas in Rome. The program is part of The Great Adventure Catholic Bible Study Program created by Jeff Cavins.

The Great Adventure program is a continuing project of the St. James Parish in Alabang. Anchit and I have been in the program and done studies of the Bible as a whole and seven books specifically since 2012. We were inspired to bring FOLLOW ME... to our BCGG. After all, our name is John.

How the Study works: Serious, hard work.

1. Each participant prepares at home by reading the prescribed chapters and completing the assignment which is 10 to 12 questions on the subject. There are cross-references to other books of the Bible and to the Catechism of the Catholic Church.
2. The group meets to discuss the assignment.
3. They watch a video by Dr. Sri to expound on the chapters.
4. "Official" responses to the questions are distributed.
5. Fellowship

Simplifying John's Gospel:

21 chapters in 8 sessions

- 1 – "In the Beginning": Jesus at the Center
- 2 - "Come and See": Becoming Disciples
- 3 – "At the Well": Our Deepest Thirst
- 4 – "Believe in Me": Trust and Surrender



5 – Encountering Mercy

6 – The Law of Self-Giving

7 – The New Commandment and Life in the Spirit

8 – "It is Finished": A Dying and Rising Love

Very much like our BCGG prayer meetings:

We are reminded that the Bible is not a subject to master but a place where we can experience an encounter with God. If we come to the Word focused on having an encounter with God, He will speak to our hearts and we will be transformed by it.

We have a facilitator for our group discussions. I have taken that role.

Our home assignments include questions that force us to reflect on our own lives. Consider Who is Jesus for you? How are you as a disciple of Jesus? In a scale of 1 to 10, how much do you live your daily life recognizing your dependence on God? How might the Holy Spirit help you in your daily struggles?

Our insights from the study of John:

Enlightening – I now have a deeper appreciation of Jesus and what He calls me to do when He says "Follow Me."

I now see how Jesus in the New Testament is the fulfillment of the Old Testament. My faith must be the true faith.

Jesus' ways (mercy, compassion, forgiveness, self-giving) are all about love. Very positive and uplifting.

A refreshing change from the "almost static" BCGG meetings.

The Johns are still hungry for more of God's Word. The plan is to move on to another program by Dr. Edward Sri in January or February, 2018, A Biblical Walk Through the Mass – Understanding What We Say and Do in the Liturgy. It's just five sessions but will be hard work too starting with reading a book on the topic of 148 pages.

“Christmas is the most wonderful time of the year...” as the song goes.

Jojo & Rhea Gaddi
Youth Ministry Head / Overseer



Is this true, why is it so?

- This is the time of the year when people are kindest, compassionate and most understanding towards one another.
- This is the time of the year when people are most generous.
- This is the time when they make amends to those they have wronged and offer forgiveness to those who seek it.

This is what has been taught us; hence this is also what we teach our children. However, we should ask: Why only during Christmas? Shouldn't we behave like this all the time?

A few days ago we were fortunate to be invited to a fundraising movie premiere of “Wonder.” The story is about Auggie, a boy born with numerous abnormalities, who had to undergo 27 operations in order to survive. He did survive, and it turned out, he was also very intelligent. The surgeries, however, left him with a disfigured face. This became his greatest challenge.

When he began 5th grade, most of the kids avoided him. He was even bullied by some. Auggie caught the first kid who became his best friend, talking behind his back. This led to their falling out.

Because of proper values instilled in him by his parents and the constant encouragement from his sister, he persevered. This endeared

him eventually to the rest of the school community. He was shown compassion and kindness by his peers, and Auggie's best friend sought his forgiveness after he realized he had hurt Auggie... and of course Auggie forgave him.

We do not have to hurt others before eventually showing them compassion, kindness, and seeking forgiveness. This is something we should be doing immediately.

If we put this into practice, then every day would be like Christmas. Now that would be most wonderful indeed.

An Open Letter to My Son

Anonymous

Dear Son,

I love you very much and I miss you. I know by this time you are full of anger for my bringing you to the rehabilitation center against your will. I'm haunted by the difficult life you are living. I'm sad for the life you could have but are missing, and I grieve for the loss of my son who is still alive. I made a lot of mistakes trying to help you, treating you like an adult when you were acting like a child. At times, I treat you like a child, though you are already an adult. I struggled to recognize the difference between helping and enabling.

The past four months have been difficult. Your eldest daughter celebrated her birthday asking where her dad is. I was struggling to lie. I know she will understand someday why I have to tell her a different story. Your other children will wake up at times, looking for you. Crying during the unholy hours of the morning asking for their father. Your second child requested her birthday to be celebrated in school. Her classmates were looking for you. Your mother went to her school with your wife to the delight of your second child. Their innocent eyes pierce through my soul when I look at them during the times I have to fill in your role as a father.

Your wife is a symbol of strength. The family is grateful that despite all your mistakes, she held on to her commitment to you in matrimony. At times, I know she is hurt. I know she misses the husband she married more than a decade ago. I assured your wife that the entire family is behind her. But, you know it is a different story when she sleeps at night, alone and without you. Added to that pain is having to confront the questions of your children about your whereabouts and how you are doing.

“I command you be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you whenever you go.” (Joshua 1:9). Going through this for the second time, is more than what I can bear. I question my role as a father to you, asking myself where I failed. At times I almost gave up. When all of those around us are quick to blame why I chose to trust my son despite the obvious signs of your relapse and your loss of direction. These are difficult times. Senseless killings have brought unimaginable fear in our society. Out of desperation, I asked you to leave and stay abroad, with a glimmer of hope that you will change. But this proved to be just that, rather than a reality.

The center was kind enough to send us some of your photos. Of course we are happy to see that you look healthier, nourished and recovered. But we know it is just one of the facets of what you are going through right now. You mother and I will go to where you are, bringing you your favorite food and toiletries. We will sneak in a letter, connive with the staff of the center, just to remind you that even if we are not allowed to see you and talk to you, we are here. More than the guilt, we feel that it is just proper to tell you that your family, your children and wife never gave up on you. I am almost 70. People look at me and say, I am accomplished, that I inspire people to do well in their lives. But if God will ask me what else I yearn for, without hesitation I will humbly ask for your renewal, and that you will be able to go back to the old self we came to admire and love.

Your Loving Father

The Silent Hero

by Milo Parada, Magis Youth



The sight is modest: upon entering the room, you see a neatly-folded bed, beside it an old wooden cabinet, and on the opposite side, a study nook containing a collection of books and journals.

Very frugal, yet very organized. It surprised me how he was able to keep everything neat as a pin, given his difficulty moving around. I, probably being one of the rare people to visit where he lives, entered his humble abode, where he handed over a long, white envelope. A mass card, I supposed, before opening it to reveal the beneficiary of the intentions:

MYLO PARADA

"I'm sorry Father, pero 'M-I-L-O' po yung spelling ng name ko."

"Oh sorry, Milo. I'll have it replaced don't you worry."

It's a forgivable slip which I could perfectly understand; what he did was a very thoughtful gesture after all. Very much in his old age, Father Ruben has met so many people, he probably already forgot the names of a majority of them. He doesn't even remember the names of my parents as consistently as before!

Yet here he was, handing me over a mass card, something I've always thought was made for funerals. Never mind the misspelled name, Father. It's very much appreciated. After all, who wouldn't love to know that someone who has been asking for more and more prayers has also been praying for me? Very selfless of a man, indeed.

I left his room and took the grand staircase of the Loyola House of Studies going down the building. It's the same staircase which Father Ruben always used to welcome me on my visits to him before. This same staircase now poses a huge hurdle for his weakening knees and limited energy. I'm very much sure he has welcomed a lot more people, especially many of the readers, using that staircase before:

my parents, other other couples and families, his friends and colleagues, and those who came to seek his help. The last time I saw him use that staircase, it was my visit in which he mentioned,

"Hindi pa ako pwedeng mamatay unless you graduate ha?"

Supposedly siya raw magkakasal sakin. Maybe wait a lot more years, father? Humorous man, indeed.

Nowadays, he uses the elevator. I used the elevator with him to assist him back to his room. He walked slowly but steadily. I was willing to assist him, but he hesitated and insisted on walking on his own. As always, he likes doing things by himself, from carrying his satchel, which seems as old as his age, to slowly dressing up for mass on his own to make sure the last bits of his remaining hair, dressed up like a tonsure, never get messed up. I asked him why he doesn't request for a helper; he simple said he doesn't need one for as long as he can still do what he needs to do. If there's anything I learned from how he moves, it's that there's nothing wasted when you do things surely, even if it takes time to accomplish.

Even in the sight of his very animated way of walking, one can't help but admire him for his wisdom, knowledge, and especially his faith in the Lord. Goodness, I've been lucky to have experienced Father Tanseco's ripe side; my mom would often narrate how much of a disciplinarian he used to be, and how he paid strict attention to detail and punctuality. Magis Deo was definitely born and molded out of his desire to be "Magis" and bring out the "magis" in every member of it. No wonder he's still very much respected despite his seldom appearances. Kahit sobrang strict daw niya dati (pls validate my statement pls!), members still flock to him, asking for photo-ops as well as advice. Artista lang?

In spite of his celebrity-like status in the community, there's no doubt that he is bound to have his limitations. Joking about his "hour" all the time, it gives a glimpse on the realities of being a human: we all have the potential to reach our successes, but we are very limited by our nature; our bodies eventually get weaker than they huff and puff faster than the desires of our minds and souls could ever reach. But if man is indeed created in the image and likeness of God, I'm very certain that Father Ruben, a man who chose simplicity and gave himself up to the service of the Lord, may probably be one of the best manifestations of that, for his spirit of service and faith doesn't seem to possess a retirement date.

Every word of wisdom that comes out of his mouth commands respect, even if the snail-like pace of his homilies at times could get you sleepy and reaching for a yawn. He helped grow, nourish, and in many cases, save dying or lifeless marriages. The communities he founded and the lives he touched are way too many to count, that sometimes it's just a wonder how he was able to execute all of these, in spite of the realities of life.

I once asked him how he was able to do all these.

"Why? Because of love."

And there I learned another lesson: the best way to learn about love is to taste how it feels, and share how it feels with others. Father Ruben knows that it isn't exactly effective to tell people to love one another; instead he lets you experience it from him first, just so you get a taste of how teaching about love to others should be done. Indeed, Father Ruben has a different way of teaching. Very old school but very much substantial and relevant these days, when the meaning love for many people meant posting FB pictures and collecting likes. It doesn't matter how he relies on the telephone at the lobby to call me up (which I dismissed as another wrong caller many times na), or do old-school things. I mean who says love can get old-school in the first place? He teaches by giving the experience of love, and love will definitely last longer than our FB accounts anyway.

Despite all of his achievements in life, it's humbling to see how simple of a man he was. He definitely came from a very influential family, but in no way does it feel the part. His room is very much a representation of his very simple lifestyle, and yet his happiness is just there. People often talk about not being happy enough with what they have now: cars mansions travels abroad and other luxuries, but there he went inside his room that resembles a retreat house, and with his unfinished books and some writings on his journals, his happiness and peace just made me reevaluate my room.

Does it mean I have to be a priest like Father just to have that sense of peace that he has?

ME WEEKEND

Dear God...

Dear God, thank you for You have led us to attend this marriage encounter weekend. It has taught us to be aware of our feelings and how to express them in a non-hurting way. It taught us how to empathize with each other, and make me and my husband closer. It made us see, understand and love one another in a deeper way. The marriage encounter strengthens us as couple.

We hope we can share and show what we are now as a couple, first to our children for we owe them a lot because I know they are the ones who are hurting when they see us

Maybe? Maybe not? After all, I became his San Pedro Calungsod to his Diego de San Vitores, minus the threat of being martyred to death, of course. But even Pedro Calungsod may have found peace in just being a sacristan, a servant of God. Everyone of us in the community that Father Tanseco himself formed is called to live a life of love, peace, and above all, gratitude and contentment for what we have. Father Tanseco was able to strike a balance between the magis spirit of being more, and using what he has in the service of others, especially Magis Deo Community. If indeed loving God is loving our neighbor, then there's definitely no other person to demonstrate better that God is love, than our beloved Father Ruben Tanseco, SJ.

We love you and we miss you, Father Tanseco, and know that we are always praying for you and your health.



fight and argue. Second, to our parents so that they will see the change in us and for them to stop worrying. Hopefully in time we are to extend our help in any way possible to help other couples who are having a challenging time in their relationship. Thank you God, for showing how special we are as an individual and as a couple. Thank you for using ME 124 to reach us and the others behind this wonderful endeavor.

Happy and Ronnie Pascual
ME Class 126

Marriage Encounter Weekend

November 24-26, 2017 / BLD Retreat House, Dasmariñas Cavite



Sponsoring Class ME 124 (from left to right): Zaro & Levy Pingol, Domeng & Zarah Gagatiga, Roel & Neneng Claros, Mon & Nina Vinluan, Jun & Cecile Gacias, Winston & Mae Cruz, Ricky & Trixie Sun, Eastley & Elaine Larosa / **Front** : Tita Josie Llamas, Fr. James U. Gascon



ME Class 126 (not in a particular order): Keith & Kaye Angeles; Medic & Marie Apan; Michael & Tun Banzon; Ernie & Sylvia Gagto; Poch & Via Niebres; Ronnie & Happy Pascual; Larry & Jeng Salvador; Manny & Betty San Luis; Sonny & Mariel Talipan with Fr. James Gascon and **ME Ministry members**: Tita Josie Llamas, Ramie & Mimi Santos, and Edwin & Jecelyn Gumila

Serving United in (the Lord!)

Cecile Gacias, ME Class 124



The Marriage Encounter Weekend (MEW) for ME Class 126 was held on November 24-27, 2017 at

BLD Covenant House, Dasmariñas, Cavite. The sponsors of this latest ME Class are ME Class 124 couples Roel and Neneng Claros, Winston and Mae Cruz, Jun and Cecile Gacias, and Mon and Nina Vinluan, plus our class shepherds Ricky and Trixie SUN, and assistant shepherds Zaro and Levy Pingol.

The Road to Serving in the MEW

For years, we had been dodging invitations from well-meaning friends to attend a Marriage Encounter. When I learned that I had to attend one to fulfill a requirement in my CEFAM course, I committed Jun to attend with me. We were flattered when one of the presenting couples, the Gumila couple, sat with us during the last lunch of our ME Class 124, to invite us to be one of the coordinators for our class. We readily said YES, not really fully aware what it would entail until months after.

Our own class reunions started out quite awkward for us as we were literally strangers except for Nina who was a CEFAM classmate. Nevertheless, we left each reunion more inspired as we learned more about each other's personal history, inner strengths and how each couple works on their marriage day-to-day. One husband confessed how he looked forward to the reunions as these were his opportunities to have his "airtime" with the rest of us standing in as witnesses.

The Weekend

Then came the November 24-27, 2017 Weekend for ME Class 126, where we were assigned to serve. Roel and

Neneng arrived way ahead of everyone else. Neneng sent out a message asking "What can we do? We are here already." That set the tone for the entire weekend. Once an assigned task is done, the question "What can we do?" would pop up next – an offer of help.

Upon arriving at BLD at 3 PM when call time was supposed to be 2:30, we were welcomed by Ricky – all sweaty but all smiles rushing in the Secretariat room one minute, then hurrying out again to complete a task while Trixie was deep in conversation with Neneng as they laid out room assignments. Mon and Nina were busy setting up the laptop and printer and the secretariat paraphernalia. That entire scene set us moving.

Not lose sight of why you are doing what you are doing. The entire weekend was all about service. The Secretariat room became a complain-free zone. Kaya palang mag-serve without complaints and blaming! I would have been stressed if I were doing the tasks on my own. But seeing how others willingly pinched in without second thoughts, how tasks were done with a smile and easy banter, how everyone would just heed to what needed to be done (except the hotly debated task of who will do the opening remarks) – serving the Lord can be fun and light.

Only the best for our service. Hindi puwede ang puwede na. As such, we had: the outdoor garden Saturday romantic dinner and table-to-table serenading, the famous Pampanga leche flan and quality San Miguel food donations to ensure no one gets hungry, the re-printing of the garbled directory after it had been bound, the timely bell ringing and prompt follow ups (complete with kalampagan) to ensure candidates

are on time for the talks, the scouring of streets early Sunday morning for cakes for the celebrants! No compromise until we've given our best for the candidates.

Follow the Leader. We were deeply encouraged by how Ricky and Trixie showed us what and how to serve. Their care, concern and compassion for the class were consistent the entire time. Ricky was persistent in addressing Jun's discomfort in doing vigil duty on his own eventually encouraging Jun to muster the courage to complete his duty solo. Nobody bossed around. The tone has been "Can you help?" from putting up posters to signing up for vigil duties, to proofreading the directory, to carrying out the tables, chairs, flowers for the romantic dinner. There is always somebody helping out, someone always had my back the entire time.

We had wisdom all around us. We had load of questions on how to do things and complete our tasks. We're so blessed to have easy access to Tita Josie and Tita Mimi with their gentle prodding in their non-demanding ways.

We have been called and we responded. This is probably why despite the physical demands in serving at the MEW, the laughter, easy banter and teasing remained with us even beyond the weekend. Looking back, it's such a delight to have experienced offering genuine service with people who were giving the same thing. I'm so thankful and blessed to be part of this class.

The Lord definitely shone down on us that weekend and showered us with His graces and light; and we followed that light – Sun, Sun, Sun, here we come...

God intervenes

Rey Mella, Cana BCGG

“Talk about divine intervention. I can’t even tell you how blessed I feel.”
– Khandi Alexander

In the treatment of cancer, there are invasive procedures and non-invasive procedures. Invasive procedures are surgery, chemotherapy and radiation. Maybe there are more that I don’t know about.

Non-invasive procedures are treatments that are non-toxic in approach and work in ways that do not harm normal, healthy cells of the body. Some of these procedures are eating a healthy diet of fruits and vegetables, heavy dosage of nutraceuticals, intravenous Vitamin C, coffee enema, exercise, sunlight, sleep, and a lot, lot more. This is anchored on allowing the body to fight cancer on its own and to heal itself.

Then, there is, of course, divine intervention.

I am sure invasive procedures and western medicine also work and do work for some people. But I personally believe in taking care of God’s creation and not further damaging the body and induce further suffering to a patient. I believe in God’s divine power to heal us.

I am sure God will intervene.

Three preachers sat discussing the best positions for prayer while a telephone repairman worked nearby.

“Kneeling is definitely best,” claimed one.

“No,” another contended. “I get the best results standing with my hands outstretched to Heaven.”

“You’re both wrong,” the third insisted.

“The most effective prayer position is lying prostrate, face down on the floor.”

The repairman could contain himself no longer. “Hey, fellas,” he interrupted, “the best prayin’ I ever did was hangin’ upside down from a telephone pole.”

– jokes.christianunite.com

The 1991 Toyota Corolla I Never Got

One day, I was driving my 2010 Honda City, the car we bought second-hand four years ago, to replace a much older car, a 2002 Honda Civic.

Right in front of me was a red dilapidated, paint-deprived Toyota Corolla, model 1990-1992. The bumper and rear portion were badly scratched and the car just looked ready to be brought to a junk shop.

I was immediately reminded by one point in my life, when I really wanted that car, the exact same brand and model, way back in 1991 up to 1992.

I had just joined my new employer after being hired by and with the compensation package directly done and offered by the president of the company, who was two levels above me.

Within a few months after starting my new job, I became very unhappy and disappointed with the president who had hired me. The offer sheet for my hiring package included a brand new Toyota Corolla 1.6L, 16-valve, 4-door sedan.

And, the president could not bring himself to give it to me because of a compensation equity situation he found himself in but something that wasn’t my concern. He was very indecisive and slow to act on the politics between me and my direct boss, affecting his commitment to me.

For 2 years, we went back and forth in various one-on-one meetings, me following up on his commitment, and he explaining why he couldn’t decide.

It was a very awkward situation for me even as I worked very hard and gave everything I had on the job.

In the end, I moved to another company and bade goodbye to him. On the morning I saw him in his office, he was pensive and quiet and obviously disappointed about my resignation.

He inquired why I was leaving, and asked, “Is it the car?” I simply said, yes, shook his hand and left.

Looking back, I felt a sense of relief that I made a big deal about it, but I never “quarreled” with the president about it. I listened and gave him the benefit of the doubt. I am so proud of myself today as I reminisced the experience and knowing I never became unprofessional in spite of what he did. The car affected my work and my contributions to the company. We simply continued talking and negotiating for two full years.

When I reflect on that episode today, I realize I could not have acted the way I did – professionally and ethically, under the circumstances without God’s intervention. At 34, a department manager, with my career flying high, I was one very aggressive, assertive, strong-minded and even abrasive individual. I was not a nice person. Almost always, I got what I wanted and whatever I targeted to accomplish.

Having behaved very respectfully and never burning bridges, maintaining my relationship and friendship with the president, long after I left the company... I could not have acted alone.

The president died a few years after that at a very young age of 46.

Within a few months (yes, in less than 3 months) after I left the company and joined another, I got a much better car, a much later model: a 1993 Toyota Corolla, with the latest body design. It was my dream come true.

But, what the heck, it was just a car. Even driving a brand new car did not make any difference at all in the quality of work life I had in my new company. I actually had no life as I spent my first 8 months on the job being terrorized by a bad boss and working 7 days a week in a pressure-packed, highly demanding, and very toxic work environment.



Over the years, I have learned that the job is never really about the pay nor the perks, but more about what one loves to do, the amount of contribution one makes to the organization, and the relationships one builds within the company. The compensation package and the perks do matter, but in the end, what really counted and mattered more were the quality of work life and the relationships.

Looking back to 1991 to 1992 and in my interaction with that president, God did intervene in my behavior, without me even knowing about it.

“Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.”

– Mark 11:24

One day, Joe, Bob and Dave were hiking in a wilderness area when they came upon a large, raging, violent river. They needed to get to the other side, but had no idea how to do so.

Joe prayed to God, saying, “Please God, give me the strength to cross this river.”

“Poof! God gave him big arms and strong legs, and he was able to swim across the river in about two hours, although he almost drowned a couple of times.”

Seeing this, Dave prayed to God, saying, “Please God, give me the strength and the tools to cross this river.”

“Poof! God gave him a rowboat and he was able to row across the river in about an hour, after almost capsizing the boat a couple of times.”

Bob had seen how this worked out for the other two, so he also prayed to God saying, “Please God, give me the strength and the tools, and the intelligence, to cross this river.”

“Poof! God turned him into a woman. She looked at the map, hiked upstream a couple of hundred yards, then walked across the bridge.”

– jokes.christianunite.com

“Whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.”

– Eckhart Tolle

Movie Review: Love Actually, 2003

Zarah Gagatiga, Emmanuel / Mt Olivet BCGG
Richard Curtis, Director and Writer



What is not to love in a movie that has everything and everyone? Colin Firth. Hugh Grant. Emma Thompson. Alan Rickman. Liam Neeson. Martin Freeman.

With cameos by Rowan Atkinson and Claudia Schiffer.

Directing this ensemble cast, is impressive. Love is in the air at Christmas and even long after the season. Love is all around, including heartbreak, the joy (yes) and the pain that come with loving.

In the span of eleven years, Nico and Zoe have grown up. My favorite pairs:

Harry and Karen (Alan Rickman and Emma Thompson): Theirs is a test of fidelity where Harry flunked big time. Emma Thompson's Karen is the ideal wife and this makes the cheating husband the absolute villain in the relationship. Her control and composure in keeping things together for the children is a situation that many couples can relate to. That they shared a meaningful look at the end of the movie, in Heathrow Airport, says a lot about forgiveness, moving forward and acceptance.

Jaime and Aurelia (Colin Firth and Lucia Moniz): Love conquers all, including barriers in language and geography. Jaime had to take lessons to speak Portuguese so he could run after Aurelia to propose. One of the funniest moments in the movie is when the whole town went with Jaime to seek Aurelia. The coming together of two people in a marriage

is a witnessing ceremony, from proposal to the send off to honeymoon.

Karl and Sarah (Rodrigo Santoro and Laura Linney): Love, no matter how intense, does not always work out the way you want it. This makes you think of the "one who got away."

The British Prime Minister and the President of the United States (Hugh Grant and Billy Bob Thornton): The British PM stood up against the US President's bullying, all for his love of country. Didn't he become bolder at pursuing Natalie after that episode with the press? Love can make us fearless!

Sam and Daniel (Liam Neeson and Thomas Brodie-Sangster): Amazing how a father can show his own brand of loving to his stepson: watch *Titanic* together! Sam supported Daniel all the way to pursue the love of his life, a girl in school who happens to be the star singer. Every romcom has the "chase" and in this movie, it's a 13-year-old boy running after the love of his life.

In between are the cute story lines on friendship, on moving on, and finding love in places you least expect. It's Christmas and love is all around!

Photo source: <http://www.filmequals.com/2012/12/11/love-actually-one-subplot-to-rule-them-all/>

Service of Music: Decision to be Happy

Leslie B. Gatchalian, Psalm 98 BCGG



Life is what you make it! Happiness is a decision and outlook one makes in life.

Being with the Magis Deo Chorale, one finds unexpected sources for keeping up the spirit. As we do every now and then, we visited the Servants of Charity Guanella Center, a home for the abandoned handicapped. We went to give but surprisingly left with more than what we gave. Personally, I unexpectedly found indescribable joy mingling with these innocent ones, listening to their songs and loosening up with their dance steps.

Although called to serve through music, the Magis Deo Chorale has a very varied set of activities. Maybe happy hormones abound with vocal harmony that perks up waning interest.

This 2017 we visited abandoned elderly, sympathized with the bereaved in the community, welcomed new members in all the Haranas, joined the monthly ComCel, cheered for each other's natal day, shed tears for some, and still found and apportioned time for special community occasions. Indeed, these services kept our hearts and brains working. In addition, we recently are beginning to enjoy routine dance exercises that challenge our body, mind and spirit.

Last Thanksgiving, we all gave thanks for both the ups and downs we have encountered, and for all that was given to us.

And in welcoming this Newborn Savior, we sing to all, "The Lord bless you and keep you! The Lord lift His countenance upon you and give you peace!"

Merry Christmas to all! May God continue to bless and guide us always.

December

December Wedding Anniversaries

| | | |
|----|----------------------------|------------------------|
| 3 | Boy & Elvira Lubguban | Exodus |
| 3 | Jono & Mico Masinloc | ME Class 125 |
| 5 | Monet & Tes Silerio | ME Class 124 |
| 7 | Seiko & Bambi Yaneza | Thessalonians |
| 8 | Jaear & Larnz Briones | Francis |
| 8 | Raymon & Rache Ebardo | ME Class 103 |
| 8 | Ren & Jaja Ramento | ME Class 124 |
| 11 | Ed & Sol Macalalad | Emmanuel/Mt. Olivet |
| 12 | Alex & Malou Caramat | Francis |
| 17 | Ricky & Nikkie Perez | Tala |
| 18 | Jon & Kleng Cobico | Thessalonians |
| 18 | Gene & Leony Escosia | Sirach |
| 18 | Joey+ & Nina Yuson | ME Class 125 |
| 18 | Reuben & Anne Santiago | Magnificat |
| 19 | Mon & Glo Umali | Prodigal 102 |
| 20 | Jojo & Rhea Gaddi | Mustard Seed |
| 20 | Philip & Malu Panlilio | Song of Ruth |
| 21 | Randy & Cecil Rivera | Easter |
| 22 | Bert & Remy Castro | Cana |
| 22 | Rey & Lucy Mella | Easter |
| 22 | Tony & Bambi Narciso | Corinthians |
| 22 | Carlos & Ruby Pizarro | Cana |
| 23 | Josephus & Emma Jimenez | Psalmaritans |
| 26 | Rey+ & Nitz Eslava | Easter |
| 26 | Paul & Nette Puthenpurekal | ME Class 121 |
| 27 | Patrick & Janice De Guzman | James, Brother of John |
| 28 | John & Malou Ronquillo | Archangel Gabriel |
| 28 | Noel & Yayette Ventigan | ME Class 124 |
| 30 | Mon & Nina Vinluan | Archangel Gabriel |
| 30 | Bobby+ & Marcia Balderas | Song of Ruth |
| 31 | Rufo & Louren Dacanay | |

December Birthday Celebrents

| | | |
|----|------------------|-------------------|
| 1 | Lilit Tumbocon | John |
| 1 | Flor Pison | John |
| 3 | Anne Alfonso | Easter |
| 6 | Ricky Valencia | Tala |
| 7 | Jhune Vinas | Cana |
| 9 | Emma Jimenez | Cana |
| 10 | Miles San Pedro | ME Class 125 |
| 10 | Buen Ocampo | John |
| 11 | Abby Tumbocon | Transfiguration |
| 11 | Roxanne Espiritu | Transfiguration |
| 11 | Jay-R Leccio | Francis |
| 11 | Eli Prieto | ME Class 113 |
| 13 | Andrea Santos | Corinthians |
| 13 | Leo Soliman | Mustard Seed |
| 14 | Ricky Consulta | Matthew |
| 14 | Easley Lariosa | Agnus Dei |
| 16 | Fred De Guzman | Matthew |
| 17 | Zaro Pingol | ME Class 124 |
| 17 | Rex Nicdao | Transfiguration |
| 20 | Levy Espiritu | Psalm 98 |
| 20 | Rei Monterona | Archangel Gabriel |
| 21 | Ted Concepcion | Magnificat |
| 23 | Vicky Babaran | Corinthians |
| 24 | Daisy De Guzman | Sirach |
| 24 | Nina Yuson | ME Class 125 |
| 24 | David Ackerman | Tala |
| 25 | Ian Vinas | Archangel Gabriel |
| 28 | Noel Ventigan | ME Class 113 |
| 29 | Carlo Santos | Prodigal 102 |
| 31 | Bem Cadayona | |

January

Birthday Celebants and Wedding Anniversaries

January Birthday Celebants

| | |
|----|----------------------|
| 1 | Den Lipana |
| 2 | Kit Dela Pena |
| 2 | Yas Punzalan |
| 3 | TJ Pestano |
| 3 | Jojo De Guzman |
| 3 | Mae Cruz |
| 4 | Charm Ang |
| 4 | Kleng Cobico |
| 5 | Dennis Plaza |
| 5 | Conching Punongbayan |
| 9 | Djarn Pestaño |
| 9 | Mila Sison |
| 11 | Neneng Claros |
| 11 | Jun Mendoza |
| 12 | Azel Nacional |
| 12 | Jemima Pasayon |
| 13 | Cesar Sangalang |
| 13 | Rommel Antonio |
| 13 | Leny Dionisio |
| 14 | JV Esteban |
| 15 | Seiko Yaneza |
| 16 | Manny Martin |
| 16 | Goody Vargas |
| 16 | Raul Dimayuga |
| 17 | Og Cadayona |
| 18 | Ruby Pizarro |
| 19 | Djo Santos |
| 22 | Eric Martinez |
| 23 | Sol Macalalad |
| 24 | JC San Juan |
| 24 | Tony Vistan |
| 25 | Marlene Monterona |
| 25 | Art Vargas |
| 25 | Ram Nacional |
| 25 | Nina Vinluan |
| 26 | Rostum Parayno |
| 27 | Bert Castro |
| 28 | Winston Cruz |
| 29 | Elaine Lariosa |
| 29 | Gemma Vargas |
| 30 | Tess Del Rosario |
| 31 | Mon Umali |

January Wedding Anniversaries

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| 1 | Charley & Jay Ng Sy |
| 1 | ME Class 125 |
| 2 | Exodus |
| 2 | Easter |
| 3 | ME Class 118 |
| 3 | ME Class 123 |
| 3 | ME Class 124 |
| 4 | Tala |
| 4 | Thessalonians |
| 5 | Easter |
| 5 | St. Peter |
| 6 | Sirach |
| 6 | Corinthians |
| 7 | ME Class 124 |
| 7 | ME Class 124 |
| 8 | ME Class 125 |
| 8 | Psalmarians |
| 9 | ME Class 124 |
| 9 | ME Class 124 |
| 10 | Thessalonians |
| 10 | Easter |
| 11 | Sirach |
| 11 | Corinthians |
| 12 | ME Class 124 |
| 12 | ME Class 124 |
| 13 | ME Class 124 |
| 13 | ME Class 124 |
| 14 | Psalmarians |
| 14 | ME Class 124 |
| 14 | ME Class 124 |
| 15 | Thessalonians |
| 15 | Easter |
| 16 | Agnes Dei |
| 16 | ME Class 125 |
| 17 | Prodigal 102 |
| 17 | ME Class 124 |
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MAGIS GOLF TOURNAMENT

