

Magis

Formation for Mission

Stewardship

Simplicity

Sharing

Service

Official Publication of the Magis Deo Community

June 2019 Issue



The Filipino youth

Beloved, gifted, and empowered

The bible

The salvific truth will set us free

Ocean of voices

New waves, same healing

Mga hiram na ngiti

Stories from the Bilibid recollection

Praying over my sinfulness

A better correspondence to God's given graces

About the Cover



In line with the year of the youth, Levenspeil R. Sangalang from Magis Youth illustrates an image that shows just how big the world is, and how heavy it feels especially when a young person molds and grows along with the fast changing times. And as stewards of God's creation, the youth tries to measure the scope of their role and responsibility on different aspects of life.

Our government? An absurd laughing matter — each brutal and ugly truth thinly veiled through 'jokes', and concocted distractions. Our society? Stepping backwards. Each week a violation towards groups of minorities. Our Earth? Ignored, no matter how many facts that scream that it is slowly dying. All of these may sound scary, but luckily we are all still young and able to turn things to a 180 degree.

Ultimately, illustrator Levenspeil paints the weight of a wounded world that we all must carry, and God's light as a reminder that we are strong enough to carry our mission towards progressive greatness. In film and literature, there's always a chosen one destined to save a dystopian world. I'd like to believe that we are *all* chosen ones. Solution? Education, innovation, and most of all action. Now.

Editorial Board

<div><div>Magis</div><div>Official Publication of the Magis Deo Community 2/F RMT CeFam Bldg., ADMU Campus, Q.C.</div></div>		
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Calendar of Activities: June - August 2019

June		August	
1	Couples Night	2-4	Annual Ignatian Retreat (AIR)
12	South Sector Meeting	11	Community Celebration
July			
7	Community Celebration		
20-21	Magis Youth Recollection		
26-28	Marriage Encounter Weekend		

The Filipino Youth in Mission: Beloved, Gifted, And Empowered



In the CBCP Pastoral Letter for the 2019 Year of the Youth, dated December 2, 2018, Archbishop Romulo G. Valles, D.D., CBCP president, expressed the Catholic church response to the “Open Letter of the Filipino Youth to the Catholic Church” by affirming that the Filipino youth are Beloved, Gifted, and Empowered. Below are excerpts from the said letter:

You are BELOVED. Just like John the beloved disciple, who in his youth was called by the Lord to follow Him, the Church loves you with special affection, and we share with you the same call from the Lord. You are loved by the Father [cf. Dt 1:31; Is 40:11; 41:10; 46:4] as Jesus declared to His disciples, “As the Father loves me, so I also love you” [Jn 15:9], and He then invites you to remain in His love by following His commandments [cf. Jn 14:15]. Only then will you experience the joy that is complete [cf. Jn 15:9-11].

You are GIFTED. The Sacrament of Baptism you received initiated you into the life of God and with God. Through the Sacrament of Confirmation, you were gifted with the Holy Spirit who inflames you with faith, passion, and courage. Like the young lay missionary catechist St. Pedro Calungsod and Richie Fernando, the young Jesuit who died shielding his students from a grenade explosion, your fresh and energetic youthfulness is also a gift, enabling you to commit yourselves in service of others, as well as renewing the Church and the world.

You are EMPOWERED. In the face of so many problems and difficulties today affecting our Christian life, families, social relationships and communities, as well as various personal and socio-cultural concerns you raised in your letter (mental health, substance abuse, HIV-AIDS, access to education, environmental problems, human trafficking, politics, dialogue

with cultures, digital community, etc.), you are able to exhibit the humility to seek the support that will lead you to discover your strengths and capabilities to live meaningful lives. Like Mary, you are humble enough to proclaim “How can this be...?” [Lk 1:34] and still give your assent in faith. This pleases not only the Lord but also your elders, because you are making us an important part of your development into mature individuals, fully aware of being persons called by God, capable of discerning decisions that positively impact your lives and those of others.

You are IN MISSION. We look at you, our young people, so full of dynamism, as disciples sent on a mission to make disciples for Jesus. We pray that your discernment, choices and actions will lead you to a purposeful life – whether in the ordained ministry, consecrated life, marriage and family, or the single state – with the Spirit of the Risen Christ directing your steps in making and leaving a marked difference in the world and society [cf. Mt 28:19-20].

The Magis youth likewise is in mission with its renewed enthusiasm and commitment to contribute and share their gifts towards uplifting the values and culture of the Filipino people, upholding justice, freedom, and peace, preserving the environment, and defending the church from its enemies. The willingness and dedication of the youth ministry leaders are highly commendable as they continue to educate and encourage the youth to actively participate in its various programs and activities.

Like the two disciples who were met by Jesus on the road to Emmaus [cf. Lk 24:13-35], our youth is invited to open their eyes and ears, their minds and hearts: listen with a disposition of faith in Him, so they may turn their steps from a world of fear and despair towards that of God’s Kingdom.

More for ME Weekend *Regie & Daisy De Guzman, Corinthians BCGG / MEW Ministry Overseer*

As always, the Marriage Encounter Weekend (MEW) is the community’s flagship program every year. For 2019, the MEW schedules are:

Date	Venue
March 8-10, 2019	St. James D’Apostle Community Center, Tagaytay City
July 26-28, 2019	BLD Covenant House, Dasmariñas City
November 22-24, 2019	BLD Covenant House, Dasmariñas City

Some years ago, the BCGGs played a vital role in this program. Each BCGG was enjoined to actively recruit and/or sponsor couple-candidates for every MEW, and then shepherd the formed ME Class at the follow-up meetings and reunions, until the members proceed to the next growth program, the Spiritual Deepening Retreat (SDR) or Life in the Spirit Seminar (LSS).

In this year’s “Way of Life” of Magis Deo, each BCGG is enjoined to recruit/sponsor at least one couple-candidate at each of the three scheduled MEWs

The March 8-10, 2019 MEW again proved that the BCGGs are the backbone and strength of our community. Of the 24 BCGGs, nine (Chronicles, Francis, Genesis, Corinthians, Agnus Dei, Transfiguration, Thessalonians, Sirach and Exodus) recruited/sponsored ten couple participants to this Weekend which was attended by 22 couples and 28 religious/lay singles. Indeed our system of recruitment for ME Weekends is becoming a “Way of Life” for Magis Deo members! Special thanks also go to the sponsoring Class – ME Class 128 – and their Shepherds Kit and Nancy Palmario of Psalm 98 (South Sector). Cesar and Marivic Pareja of Prodigal BCGG (North Sector) are shepherding this new batch of graduates, ME Class 130.

The MEW Ministry recognizes that our community has many couples/members with shepherding capabilities. With this purview, the Deepening the Enrichment Experience Process (DEEP) workshop, facilitated by Ms. Rebecca “Bicbic” Medez, was held on March 23, 24, 31 and April 6 at the DATEM Conference Room in Mandaluyong City. Seven-and-a-half couples completed this workshop to enhance the participants’ leadership and communications skills. These skills are very important in facilitating and shepherding a group – be it an ME Class or BCGG. Thanks to Chronicles, Matthew, Genesis, Psalm 98, Song of Ruth, Samaritans and Emmanuel BCGGs for the participation of their members at the workshop. The other activities of the ME Ministry for this year are:

1. Creation of the Marriage Encounter Weekend Philippines Facebook account: <https://www.facebook.com/MarriageEncounterWeekendPH/>
For the 1st quarter, this Facebook account reached 6,523 people.
2. Updated the ME Weekend Pack to include an introductory Primer of the ME Program for graduates;
3. Creation of new MEW posters for social media distribution; and
4. Continuing support to the ME Class sponsors for the July and November MEWs.

The Marriage Encounter Weekend greatly enhances and enriches a couple’s relationship. This is enough reason for each of us to continue recruiting and/or sponsoring our relatives, friends, office mates, neighbors, etc. in the next ME Weekends.

May God continue to bless us and keep our families together.

Praying Over my Sinfulness

Trixie Luna-Sun, Matthew BCGG

During the April Magis Deo Community Celebration, the Lenten Recollection was led by Fr. Silvino “Junjun” Borres, SJ, who gave a talk entitled “Praying Over My Sinfulness.” Below is a gist of the enlightening points of his talk.

Redemption is the starting point in all Christian Spirituality, given as a free gift in Christ and requires, first and foremost, the acknowledgment of sin.

The root of the problem of sin is that we do not want to acknowledge the fact that we are creatures prone to commit sin. We are reluctant to accept this truth because it makes us feel insecure and inadequate, and these feelings may be intolerable and anxiety-provoking. Hence, we try to cover up this insecurity by looking for supplements that may be improper such as possessing material things, dominating other people or showing off.

Sin is not only an act but an attitude enhanced by our environment. “Not only do I sin, but that I am sin, and live in the midst of sin. I do not do the good that I want but the evil that I do not want.” We have to struggle not only against our acts, failures or blunders, but against our tendency to resist acknowledging what we really are – creatures prone to sin.

We all desire to be true Apostles in our daily lives, and yet react to petty things, lack generosity, and immerse in injustice and superficiality.

The sins in the Old Testament include:

1) Idolatry

Reflection: What is your image of God? A god fashioned by the hand of man? A god inherited from others but not yet assumed by you? A god not yet alive in your personal history?

Whom do you adore? Which are your small sins of idolatry? Prestige? Comfort? Other persons?

2) Infidelity – lack of faith, perseverance in commitment and promise

Reflection: How are your commitments to God? Rusted? Dusty?

How is your faith? Do you have a theoretical faith that does not transform you?

Do you proceed in life with human criteria of reward, punishment, pleasure, annoyance?

How is your fidelity to God?

3) Injustice – in concrete life translates to how you treat others? Have we isolated others who do not interest us?

4) Hypocrisy – not loving and showing compassion as we should as Christians. Do our rituals and celebrations alienate the poor?

Sin in the New Testament has two essential characteristics: accentuation of freedom, and the correspondence between what a person has been given and what is required of him.

In the Gospel, there is an affectionate invitation to love. “If you want to,” “If anyone wants to.” Love is free, yet despite the invitation to love, we corrupt it and waste the opportunity.

Sin therefore, in the New Testament is not infraction of the law but a lack of love, a failure in our personal and affective relationship with Jesus.

The other curious thing about sin is how Jesus continuously establishes the relationship between the graces and benefits that have been given to the sinner and what is required of him. “To whom much has been given, much will be required.” We not only reflect on the evil we have done but also on all the good that we have failed to do.

The Saints considered themselves sinners despite no recorded objective acts of sin not because of false humility but because they had realized all the graces Christ gave them, and felt that they showed poor correspondence to these graces. “And in that light, they really felt, sincerely, and authentically, sinful. And the more alive the affective relationship with the Lord, the more that lack of correspondence is felt.”

PERSONAL PRAYERS:

Before Jesus on the Cross, ponder your sins today but you have to remember two things:

- the impressive capability that you have given to do good, to share happiness around you, to love
- the impressive quantity of opportunities, benefits, possibilities that you have been given, that have almost overwhelmed you, of gifts, grace, love.

Then answer the following questions:

- What have you done with these?
- What have you not done with these?

The Bible: The Source of Salvific Truth

Mark Maulit, Prodigal 102 BCGG / Youth Ministry

As Christians, we grow up believing that everything written in the Bible is true. However, once we read it carefully, we encounter strange statements and even contradictions which may leave us with more questions than answers, and maybe disappointed with the book we revere as containing the Word of God. Non-believers use this experience to debunk the Bible, arguing that it contains archaic myths and outdated superstitions. The result: Fewer and fewer people read and live by the Bible.

During the Magis Deo Community Celebration last 5 May 2019, we were blessed to learn the right approach to reading the Bible from Fr. Francis Alvarez, SJ, who is currently Assistant Professor of Biblical Theology and Religious Education at the Ateneo de Manila University. The goal of his very animated talk was to help us overcome the challenges of interpreting the Bible and to discover its absolute relevance in our daily lives.

Fr. Francis’ main point is: God’s purpose for the Bible is to reveal to us salvific truth, not literal truth. In other words, God wants us to not simply accept the literal meaning of Bible text but, more importantly, to understand its deeper meaning conveyed through symbolic language which teaches us about ourselves, God, and His plan to save us.

Fr. Francis used a few examples to demonstrate this approach. His first example comes from Genesis Chapter 3, the story of the Temptation. He asked the question, “Did the Adam and Eve described in the story actually exist?” The group was almost evenly divided on this question, but Fr. Francis said the Church’s answer is that Adam and Eve did not exist as actual historical persons but were characters devised by the people inspired by the Holy Spirit to tell the story. Fr. Francis then posed another question, “Why did the serpent tempt Eve and not Adam?” His answer, based on interpretations of the early Church fathers as well as representations in art, was that the serpent felt jealous towards Eve for being the one deemed by Adam as his most fitting companion, so the serpent set about getting Eve expelled from Paradise. The serpent wanted to take Eve’s place beside Adam instead of accepting God’s plan. He did not expect though that Adam would also take a bite of the fruit and thereby be exiled as well. Neither did the serpent anticipate that his manipulation would be exposed and result in his being cursed. The salvific truth that the story reveals is that we are all in the position of receiving God’s grace and we risk losing that grace if we opt to be takers rather than receivers.

The second example Fr. Francis used is the story of Jesus’ baptism in the first chapter of Mark’s Gospel. He noted how strange it was that God would choose to be baptized at all. The deeper meaning here is that God through Jesus identifies with sinners – in other words, with all of us; and that the kingdom includes everyone. Furthermore, Fr. Francis noted that the moment Jesus was baptized, a voice in heaven declared that He is the Son of God in whom God is well-pleased and then immediately the Holy Spirit drove Him into the desert to undergo temptation for forty days while accompanied by wild beasts and angels. Taking into consideration the Jewish significance of the number forty and the desert (forty days of flood in Noah’s time and Moses’ leading the Israelites out of Egypt into the desert for forty years, etc.), this unexpected sequence of events reveals another salvific truth: Following God always entails trials and sacrifice; however, grace also abounds.

Unfortunately, the time was not enough for Fr. Francis to present more examples but he did accomplish his goal. We left his talk with greater appreciation for the Bible and a firmer commitment to not just read it but to study its symbolisms to derive the deeper messages, the salvific truths of God’s relentless love for us.

07 April 2019 Community Celebration



Managing My
Moods & Emotions
with Fr. James Gascon, SJ

07 May 2019 Community Celebration

2019 COMMUNITY CELEBRATION ATTENDANCE									
	NORTH SECTOR	Total Reg Members	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	Ave No. of Attendees	Hit Rate
1	Agnus Dei	12	6	4	4	3	7	5	42%
2	Archangel Gabriel	14	4	5	9	8	5	6	43%
3	Chronicles	14	12	6	6	7	6	7	50%
4	Exodus	12	4	4	4	6	4	4	33%
5	Magnificat	10	6	4	6	6	5	5	50%
6	Mustard Seed	14	7	10	13	8	3	8	57%
7	Prodigal 102	14	11	9	9	13	8	10	71%
8	Song of Ruth	12	4	8	9	2	7	6	50%
9	St Peter	8	2	0	0	0	1	1	13%
TOTAL NORTH		110	56	50	60	53	46	51	46%
CENTRAL SECTOR									
1	Corinthians	15	6	8	4	3	2	5	33%
2	Easter	21	14	11	6	2	7	8	38%
3	Matthew	19	4	8	10	8	4	7	37%
4	Samaritans	14	7	10	9	9	4	8	57%
5	Sirach	13	6	6	8	8	5	7	54%
6	Thessalonians	8	2	0	3	0	2	1	13%
7	Transfiguration	12	6	12	12	8	7	9	75%
TOTAL CENTRAL		102	45	55	52	38	31	45	45%
SOUTH SECTOR									
1	Cana	10	4	5	0	2	0	2	20%
2	Emmanuel	6	0	5	4	0	0	2	33%
3	Francis	13	4	10	6	5	8	7	54%
4	Genesis	4	1	1	3	2	1	2	50%
5	James	19	17	12	8	6	7	10	53%
6	John	13	4	5	1	4	6	4	31%
7	Psalms 98	7	4	4	4	4	3	4	57%
8	Tala	12	2	9	8	9	10	8	67%
TOTAL SOUTH		84	36	51	34	32	35	38	46%
Grand Total		296	137	156	146	123	112	134	45%

Let's begin...
Find out how -
Together Everyone Attains More

Moods and Emotions

Ysabela Tyne E. Tabilog, Magis Youth

At the Youth Ministry activity during the April Community Celebration, Fr. James Gascon tackled a very informative and helpful topic – “Managing my moods and emotions.”

I find most interesting Fr. James’ statement: “Emotions are neither right nor wrong. They are a-moral; we judge what we do with our emotions.” I sometimes think that having a particular emotion isn’t right; that having negative emotions such as anxiousness, frustration, anger and sadness is wrong. But this is not so.

For example, it is June. School gates open early and students bustle in, hoping to get to their classrooms early. In a corner outside the first graders’ classroom, a little boy is sobbing, begging his mother not to leave him. Classes start soon yet the mother can barely get an inch away from her son. “Why are you still crying? I told you earlier I can’t stay with you in the classroom, right? It’ll just be for a few hours then I’ll fetch you here,” the mother said. With tears streaming down his cheeks, the boy answered, “I know... but mama, I’m scared.” Hearing this, the mother started getting irritated. “Why are you scared? Teacher’s right there, you’ll be fine. You don’t have to be scared.”

Emotions are neither right nor wrong. We cannot say that feeling elated is right while feeling exasperated isn’t. What I do with what I feel is what matters most. What I should judge myself on is how I act because of these emotions, and how I manage them. Each emotion that I feel has a message. There are reasons for what I feel; it has its purpose, and a lesson to teach. What I have to do is to understand what the emotion is trying to tell/show me, for it is one of God’s ways of communicating with me, with all of us. And that is what Fr. James taught me.

This topic is very helpful especially for us millennials. Today, coping with the constantly changing society is difficult. Kids nowadays need to be emotionally strong to face life’s challenges. The increasing number of the depressed and suicidal is evident proof. Hence knowing how to interpret our emotions is advantageous.

We should assess our emotions more seriously and deeply. When feel sad, do we ever ask ourselves – “Why am I feeling this way?” Let’s focus on the reason. Ask yourself: “What is the purpose of this?” “What is God trying to tell me this time?” We sometimes just have to look a little closer to see what we truly need. And maybe this will make us better persons, not just for the people around us and for God, but also for our own well-being.

Mother’s Day Seeds Activity

Karen Patricia R. Madrid, John BCGG

The Mother’s Day weekend activity was awesome!

We started with viewing some Mother’s Day themed TV ads like the tear jerking Jollibee commercials, and of course we won’t miss the one by McDonald’s too! The short films showed the importance of moms and the sacrifices they make for their children.

Aunts and yayas can also be mother figures. It was really heartwarming when the kids tried their best to make paper roses. They kept saying how difficult it was to make them, but they kept making more! In fact, some kids made roses not just for their parents but also for their yayas.

Peace in our hands

Ysabela Tyne E. Tabilog, Magis Youth



Bombs exploding. Wounds on the skin. Alarms blaring. You look around and see nothing but pure chaos, wrath and devastation. What is love? Where is hope? Is this the future we all dreamt of? Is this the future we want to weave for the next generation?

Everyone has his/her opinions, uniqueness, insights, character and personality. And this diversity at times bring up uncertainty, lack of understanding, close-mindedness, intolerance, and at times bring about arguments. Simple disagreements deteriorate into fights, and in some cases, wars.

War leads to bloodshed and destruction. But on the 24th of October 1945, an intergovernmental organization was established – the United Nations (UN) –whose main purpose is to maintain peace and unity between all countries. Since then the UN has given its best to meet its goals and responsibilities. But can a single organization keep order in the world? It could, but not all countries are part of the UN. What can a 13-year old, a teenager like me, do to contribute to the wellness and improvement of our beloved world?

The UN is a great help for everyone, but I believe that bringing peace starts with us. How? The answer is simple: listen and obey our parents. Being a good citizen starts at home. If a child listens to his parents, he will surely have a bright path to walk on. But if we neglect to obey our parents and ignore their advices what good would will this bring us? Do you think this will help you become a responsible person?

We should instead strive hard to improve ourselves. We should be stewards of peace and spread love around the world. Being young isn’t a hindrance. “Ang kabataan ang pag-asa ng bayan,” Dr. Jose Rizal said. The future is in our hands and we should take good care of it.

A tree started with a little seed. Who would have known a small seedling would grow into a sturdy tree, standing tall amidst storms. We all should hold hands and stay together. We all should take part in bringing peace and building a strong foundation for a better world. We should not rely on a single organization; we should do our in establishing a world filled with love and peace.

April Seeds Activity

Ronald Ong, Prodigal 102 BCGG

At the March 2019 Community Celebration the Magis Deo kids were treated to an Easter egg painting activity and an Easter egg hunt in time for the celebration of Easter.

Before the activity, they watched a film and a slide show on how Easter and the tradition of Easter eggs came about. A brief open forum with the kids on Easter followed.



MAGIS YOUTH

Saving Goals

Saving money is a wise financial practice at any age.

We have been taught the value of money so every time we get cash whether it's an allowance, birthday or Christmas money, we always allocate a percentage of it in our bank account for emergency or future needs. However, if there is something that we want to have or pay or a short-term goal, it has been our practice to save using our coin banks. We really enjoyed last year's Magis Summer Youth Camp so we started saving up for the next one. From loose changes and small bills, we are able to fund this year's Youth Camp at Mt. Purro Nature Reserve. Next goal? Overnight retreat for Magis Deo Youth 14 years and up on July 20-21, 2019 at the Sacred Heart Novitiate. Better start saving now.

Gita & Gian Manuel

Bask in God's Love & Ignite your Spirit!

An overnight recollection for all Magis Deo Youth 14 years and up

Rates (Limited Slots):
 PhP 1,000.00 (Magis Youth)
 PhP 1,200.00 (Non-Magis Youth)


Bank Details:
 PS Bank #089-332-00060-4
 Metrobank #093-3-09351539-1

Spiritual Director:
 Fr. Ro Atilano, Jr., SJ

20-21 July 2019
 Sacred Heart Novitiate

Deadline:
 15 June 2019.

Send scanned deposit slip to
 Cathy – 09453746761
 Gin – 09218821212
 secretariat@magisdeo.org
 2019magisyouth@gmail.com

 **Magis Deo Youth Ministry**

Reflections on our Bilibid Experience

Event:

May 11, 2019 Magis Deo Easter Recollection
for 270+ male inmates of the Medium Security Prison, National Penitentiary (Bilibid)

Backstory:

Yoling Sevilla has been sharing her reflections on the gospel readings in two Advent and three Easter Recollections for male inmates in Bilibid and has formed friendships with some of what she calls her “Bilibid Boys.”

Lessons learned and insights gained:

- **Reformation and rehabilitation are real possibilities.** Two of the inmates in my small sharing group started out being sentenced to death row (“bitay ang sentencia”) but had their sentences changed to life imprisonment (“reclusion perpetua”) in the maximum security prison when the law banning the death penalty went into effect, have recently been transferred to the medium security prison and are now awaiting release.
“NO!” to the death penalty.
- **“Mas mabuting nasa Muntinlupa kaysa sa ilalim ng lupa.”** (A play of words) While none of the inmates were happy about being imprisoned, they're happy to be alive and looking forward to a second chance rather than be dead and buried like the rest of their gang mates who were either killed or overdosed on drugs.
“YES!” to second chances and new beginnings.
- **“Kulungang may rehas at kulungang walang rehas.”** We're all prisoners – of old dysfunctional ways, of disordered attachments, of worldly gods and idols.
“YES!” to detaching, simplifying, holy indifference, poverty of spirit.
- **“Dito ako nagkaroon ng tunay na mga kaibigan.”** Developing true friendships and learning to trust and be trustworthy. Learning to accept others as they are, to love unconditionally.
- **“Di ko akalaing makakapag-aral ako, at magtatapos sa kolehiyo.”** Undreamt of opportunities. An impossible dream-come-true.
- **“Nagpapasalamat ako sa Diyos na ako'y nabilanggo sa Bilibid.”** “Dito ako nagbago. Di ko akalaing magbabago pa ako. Akala ko wala na akong pag-asa.” Redemption. Hope. Nothing is impossible with God.

What made the difference?

- **The Jesuit Prison Ministry** and its active engagement with the inmates not just in religious activities but also in the school as teachers and coaches.
- **Prisoners'** active engagement and involvement in religious activities (music ministry, lay ministry, bible study).
- **The opportunity** to continue their education and learn new skills in preparation for living a productive life after Bilibid (Perpetual Help University Dalta).
- **Living in community** with other inmates and learning unconditional acceptance of self and others.
- **Community development** and self-management in brigadas with its own set of elected leaders.
- **Learning new ways** of being and doing.

Mga Hiram na Ngiti

Mga Kwento sa Bilibid Rekoleksyon

Mayo 11, 2019

Noel & Neri Gascon, James Brother of John BCGG



Tot-totoot... tot-totoot... “It’s 4 a.m.!” aniya ng aking cellphone noong May 11. Hudyat para bumangon at maghanda para sumama sa outreach ng Magis Deo sa ating mga kapatid sa Medium Security Prison ng Bilibid. Kahit pangatlong beses na namin ito, nandoon pa rin ang kaba at pananabik na makita ang mga naging kakilala’t kaibigan sa loob.

Pagdating doon, may security check siyempre. Hiwalay ang mga lalake sa babae. Mahalagang tandaan ng mga bisitang lalaking magpalagay ng “marka” o palantandaan sa kanang braso para makalabas muli. Kundi’y ikaw ay isa sa mga dadalawin na sa loob.

Sinalubong kami ng mga bilanggong nabibilang sa Perpetual Help Delta Extension School at PSG (Pastoral Security Group). Nagkumustahan kami. Sa init ng panahon ramdam mo rin ang init ng kanilang pananabik. Mahigit sa 270 ang kabilang sa recollection. Nakakalungkot na may kasamang kasiyahan na maraming bagong mukha ang bumungad sa amin. Yong ibang mga naging kaibigan namin ay di na namin nakita. “Asan na si ganito?” ang tanong ko. “Ay si... ay nakalaya na po kuya,” ang sagot na may halong lungkot at saya. May lungkot kasi di na namin sila nakita, subalit tagos sa puso naman ang pagpapasalamat sa Diyos sa paglaya nila.

Sa di inaasahang pagkakataon, isa sa member ng guild ay kababayan ko! Nang malaman niya ang aking pangalan kulang na lang na yapusin ako dahil kilala niya ang mga kamag-anak ko. Ibinahagi niya kung gaano siya kapalad na nakasali siya sa college guild. Dito siya nagsimulang maliwanagan at maranasan si Hesus. Nakapagtapos siya ng high school, at noong May 9 sa taong ito ay ginanap ang kanilang graduation.

Isa sa pinakamasayang tagpo sa araw na yon ay ang makapiling niya ang kanyang ina na galing pa sa probinsiya. “Kuya dae ko lamang ngani maisip na makagradwar ako ki high school digdi sa laog [Kuya di ko maisip na makapagtapos ako ng high school dito sa loob],” ang masayang kuwento sa akin.

Pagkatapos ng Banal na Misa, pagninilay-nilay tungkol sa ebanghelyo at mga sharing nina Yoling Sevilla at Noel Resurreccion, bumuo ng maliliit na grupo para sa sharing ng mga bilanggo. Ganoon pa rin at iisa ang tema ng mga salaysay: kung paano nila natagpuan ang Diyos sa loob ng bilangguan, na hindi nila akalaing magbabago pa sila!

Na-assign kami kasama ng ilang mga bilanggo sa paghahanda ng 300 na lunch boxes na naglalaman ng roast chicken, pancit at kanin. Pagkatapos ipamigay sa mga bilanggo at facilitators ang kanilang mga pagkain, siyam na lunchboxes na lang ang natira, labinglima kaming lahat! Paano ipagkakasya ito? Nag-boodle fight kami! Napakasaya!!!

Kumusta naman ang pagsasalu-salo ng mga nag-share? Napakasaya din! Bukod sa lunch box ay may Cloud 9 pa na panghimagas. At may soft drinks pa! Taon-taon daw nilang inaabangan ito. Minsan lang daw sila nakakatikim ng ganoon kasarap at kasaganang tanghalian. Itinabi ng ilan sa kanila ang kalahati para sa hapunan.

Dumating ang oras ng pagpapaalam. Sabi nila sa mga taga-Magis Deo: “Maraming salamat na kahit sa panandaliang panahon ay nagkaroon kami ng ngiti sa aming mga mukha at saya sa aming mga puso.”





When was the last time you said
Thank You
to your spouse,
and you meant it?

REKINDLE THE LOVE YOU PROMISED EACH OTHER WHEN YOU STARTED THIS JOURNEY, AND LEARN HOW TO MAKE IT BLOSSOM WITH GOD'S GRACE.

Marriage Encounter Weekend
July 26-28, 2019 (from Friday 5pm to Sunday)
BLD Covenant House, Dasmarinas, Cavite
Fee: P4,500 per couple



Contact:
Pinky 0917 563 7784
Magis Deo Office: 02 426 7191

MUSICAL NOTES

Ocean of Voices

Leslie Gatchalian, Psalm 98 BCGG

When people rejoin a chorale and say, “I miss the old choir,” I cannot concretely grasp this statement. Are they looking for another choir for the community? In some choirs a returning member might say this to the members, unknowingly creating hurt or disharmony; this person is looking for, is expecting a choir of decades ago!

In our library called the brain, we hang on to ingrained memories which perhaps are not updated with the latest data. We probably are enjoying so much those scribbles in our brain that we don't want to override them with new information. Psychiatrists have a name for that.

How true what Fr. Manoling said during the chorale's retreat some years back: the choir is never constant; it is a continuous egress and ingress of members. We should have taken better note of that! At that time, it was just plain fact for me. But to really feel what he wanted to impart did not really stick. He was preparing us for reality.

No one holds the future except God. The day came when we faced the unexpected. We were forewarned but we didn't see it happening to us, a seemingly stable, highly organized and smooth sailing group. Soon after this retreat that in/out flow of members happened for various reasons. But the chorale members was a good number, thus it was easy to manage.

Jerry Olaguer, the only choir director I had the opportunity to work with, would say, “No one is indispensable.” This always echoed in my mind, and he would repeat it whenever a member had other priorities and had to say goodbye to the choir, briefly or for good.

Years passed and a big wave took the heart of us, yet by God's grace the chorale withstood what He Himself proclaimed. Our leader, Doc Manny, was taken. We were in shock, but not at a loss as to what to do. The chorale quietly continued the way it has always prepped itself for the service. God made the leader leave a map to guide us.

Map in hand, despite his hectic schedule, a lovable leader, Sec. Fortunato (Boy) dela Peña took the helm. He was assisted by the other choir officers – Ramon Go, Remedios Castro, Malou Apo, Nancy Palmario and Fortunato Apo. The other chorale members – Ferdie Cruz, Bert Castro, Carmelita Peralta, Nitz Eslava-Oakes, Alice Go, Frank Reyes, Kit Palmario and I, followed in stride.

With Manny's passing and my becoming too weak to continue, I left the group for a while to heal and recover. I had to have some “me” time with just the family. I helped myself with healing music, cried a few times during meaningful songs at voice lessons with Kenneth Cataylo, and listened as well to the performances of Manny's Flashbacks Band. All these made me realize things can never be the same again. I just have to find myself, to be at the present because there is where I am.

God didn't take me. It means He still wanted me to live! There is that duty to have the zest for life.

At those difficult times, loving choir members took several moments to visit me. They excitedly informed me that the chorale's empty seats were filling up again with returning and new members, and asked if I would be interested in coming back as well.

Heartstrings tugged, I finally planned to rejoin. I readied and psyched myself. I can't be looking for the same idiosyncrasies; I should not expect to hear the same sounds, but look forward to a different harmony with its unique beauty and tone.

I reminded myself of the words I mime when irked by remarks of returning members. Then again, we can always go back to that choir, the old choir we knew. But we cannot look for the old choir here. This is not the old choir. It is not even the new choir. It is the present choir. Disharmony will ensue if this expectation continues in your heart, that the present choir be like the one in your mind. This is like being tied to a chain.

Instead, go ahead, indulge and be part of this wonderful group that shares liturgical music. Be quiet and listen to what this present choir has to offer. Enjoy and be productive in the character and capacity of the present choir.

So I auditioned back! Guess what? I love this present Magis Deo Chorale and how they try to give their best, struggling and working to present their best tones and voices.

The chorale is like the ocean, the same awesome and sometimes ravaging engulfing beauty, but never the same set of waves that you see or greet you.



Ronald Ybona Bello, Our Balik-Magis Choir Director

Ronald Y. “Rannie” Bello is not a new face to Magis Deo. In 1994, he was recruited by Dada and Donding Labao, of ME Class MU 6 (1988), the Magis couple who initially organized the Magis Deo choir into four voices. Imbued with the desire to combine our voices into even better harmony, Dada got Rannie to be the Musical Director of the choir.

They could not have made a better choice in Rannie, a musical composer and arranger – a man whose passion and love for his craft and music are as deep as his love for his family. He is married to Lalaine de Leon and they are blessed with four children. Daughter Ronallaine is a pediatrician; their three sons are also all professionals in their chosen fields: Neil Randall is an architect and John Ronald and Ronn Michael are both IT Specialists.

In 1997, through the combined leadership of Rene and Chary Calvento (both deceased), and Dada and Donding Labao, Rannie helped conceptualize and organize a concert in celebration of Magis Deo’s 10th Anniversary (November 7, 1988). We had a year to prepare and practice for this ambitious production. Although the choir was then composed of volunteers with no professional training and some were already in their senior years, we accepted the challenge to work for a once-in-a-lifetime performance of song and dance, entitled “A Concert of Love,” and Rannie was there every step of the way. A CD soundtrack of the program was produced, a testimony to the group’s work. The outcome was something the community can be proud of, and it was surely a worthy “magis” offering of love and celebration to Him, our musician God.

Rannie studied at the Philippine Normal College and majored in music composition at Sta. Isabel College of Music. He took voice lessons under Prof. Gamaliel Viray, a baritone singer and voice teacher. Rannie took further studies at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, majoring in music composition. Under Jai Sabas Aracama, well known contralto and teacher at the U.P. Conservatory of Music, he honed his craft even more.

A highlight of his career is becoming a member of the internationally acclaimed Philippine Madrigal Singers from 1991 to 1996 (he sings Bass 2) and had numerous concert stints here and around the world. Now a Madz alumnus, he is a member of



Koro Madrigal along with other Madz alumni. His biggest break in music came when prominent musician and composer Ryan Cayabyab hired him in 1991 as one of his personal assistants. Rannie worked with him until 1995.

Throughout his career, Rannie won many music competitions in the country. Currently, Rannie acts as the Musical Director of the choirs of various corporate and government groups (Pilipinas Shell, National Police Commission, and the Office of the President Chorale Malacañang, to name a few), and several church and community choirs (ACTS Catholic Prayer Community that sings for the Sunday 9am TV Mass aired at Channel 11, and choirs from Greenbelt Chapel Makati, Para Sa Iyo, Spirit of Love, the Assumption College Voices, etc.). And as if he weren’t busy enough, he also handles the seminars at San Carlos Major Seminary.

With Rannie at the helm, we members of the Magis Deo Chorale continue to be inspired and aspire for greater musical heights, as we lift up in harmony our unique, different voices, our offering of Magis love to the Master Musician, without Whom we have nothing to sing about.

One of the most valuable lessons he taught us back then was to always give glory and honor to the great music composer and orchestrator of all, our Almighty God.

It’s great to have you back, Rannie!

Flor A. Pison

Magis Deo Chorale

Thankfulness

Alice Go, Psalm 98 BCGG

I have so much to thank God for in spite of what we have been through right now...,the hardship of being away from my family in the Philippines. I have so much to be thankful for because I have with me my eldest son and his family, even if just for a while.

While I am here and separated my other family in Manila, God never ceases to love us. Every day, every hour, every moment of our lives, He is always with us. With God-given strength I am able to endure the hardships, all that are happening in our lives right now. And through these I learned a lot. Thank You, Lord for all the blessings, the lessons, the endurance to cope with everything. And for that I will continue, or may I say, unendingly praise You, our God.

Lord, through Your love please continue to guide me and my family. With our faith in You, keep us more loving, never lose hope; be stronger. Bring us closer to You, Lord. Amen and amen.

God is telling us, “Come to me, all of you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens and I will give you rest.” Yes, Lord, I know You are always there with me because You are a faithful and a compassionate God. You have control of everything. We love you, oh Lord. Amen!

**DO YOU REMEMBER
WHAT YOU SAID I DO TO?
OR HAS LIFE GOTTEN IN THE WAY?**

**REDISCOVER THE MEANING OF WHY YOU DECIDED TO BE A COUPLE,
AND HOW YOU CAN LEAD YOUR MARRIED LIFE WITH LOVE AND WITH GOD.**

Marriage Encounter Weekend
July 26-28, 2019 (from Friday 5pm to Sunday)
BLD Covenant House, Dasmarinas, Cavite
Fee: P4,500 per couple

Contact:
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Insights on Deepening the Enrichment Experience Process (DEEP)

March 23, 24, 31, April 6, 2019

Kit: Enhances our spiritual formation, and improves our dialogue as a couple – mutual empathy and listening through “I” message.

Nancy: DEEP is exactly what it is – a deepening process that involves emotions, empathy, expression, energy, and all the “E’s” one can think of. The workshop made me realize and admit to myself that no matter how long we have been together, I really do not know my spouse that much. Was I surprised during the dialogues!



Kit & Nancy Palmario, Psalm 98 BCGG



Ney & Pinky Rosas, Chronicles BCGG

Lilian: Marital communication that is open, sincere, honest and truthful leads to better understanding which creates a more intimate, loving and lasting relationship. Though the brain analyzes the things that are discussed, it is the heart that loves which is most needed to be able to listen attentively, patiently and with compassion, and also to be able to express one’s feelings and thoughts with kindness, humility, sincerity, and truthfulness.

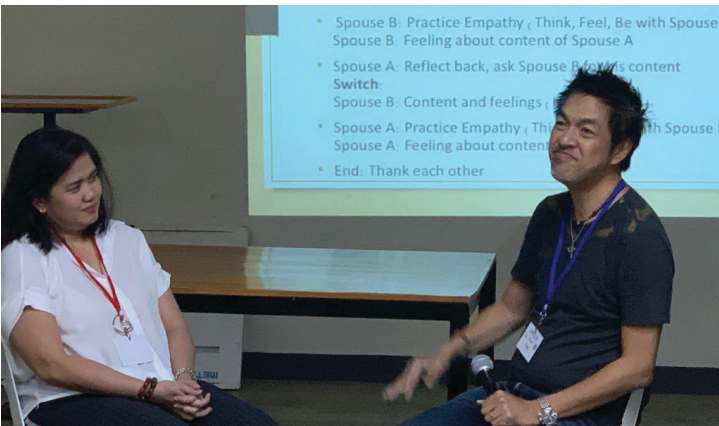


Danny & Lilian Collado, Song of Ruth BCGG

Jay-R & Leila: The DEEP Workshop really inspired both of us to be more understanding, supportive and caring. We learned that God provided each one of us with a Divine Recipe in life, and for us, humility and forgiveness strengthen the love we have for each other. Details of the dialogue taught us to be a good listener, not only to our spouse but also to what the Lord says to us through our prayers and reflections in life.



Jay-R & Leila Leccio, Transfigurations BCGG



Winston & Mae Cruz, Matthew BCGG

Winston & Mae: The DEEP workshop felt like a Masters Practicum of the Marriage Encounter Weekend teachings, challenging us to put these valuable principles to action in our marriage. As a class, we took on this challenge – and it was a fulfilling and enlightening experience to participate and witness how these principles help and transform people and relationships.

Delsa: My greatest learning is about the ABCs of handling emotions. My feelings about any situation are a product of my interpretation of the situation. If I want to change my feelings, I need to change my interpretation instead of waiting for the situation to change. For me, that learning will help me to be more emotionally resilient.

Our relationship as a couple has a long way to go and we have more things to learn each day to reach Cesar and I’s “unbreakable” goal. Before the “We” part though, this workshop has reinforced that everything would have to start with the “I.”



Cesar & Delsa Sangalang, Samaritans BCGG

Rolling in the Deep

Kaye Angeles, ME 126

Have you experienced accepting an invitation to attend a workshop without asking what it is all about and just trust it will be worth your while? Well, my husband and I did, and we found ourselves DEEP into it.

We only came to know about DEEP (Deepening the Enrichment Experience Process) on the first day of a 4-day couple workshop held March 23, 24, 31 and April 6 of this year. Participating in the DEEP was truly a grace-filled opportunity for us. The experience taught us the value of mutual empathy through REALLY LISTENING, deep communication by owning and expressing feelings, maturing process through living and embracing the fullness of life, and setting our community involvement through peer counseling. We were privileged to know and share our DEEP journey with the other 7 couple participants.

The DEEP came at a time when Keith and I needed inspiration for our continuing commitment as husband and wife who are centered on and aligned with God’s will. He let us roll in the DEEP to take us to a DEEPer understanding about our person and the beauty of loving each other, and the realization that you don’t marry someone you can live with... you marry someone you cannot live without.



Keith & Kaye Angeles, ME 126

Insights from the Annual Ignatian Retreat (AIR)

May 17-19, 2019



In no particular order: Fr. Manoling Francisco, Philip & Malu Panlilio, Ricky & Trixie Sun, Tony & Aida del Rosario, Ray & Ging de Guzman, Flor Pison, Mark & Karen Madrid, Leony & Mia Parada, Noel & Neri Gascon, Noel & Gigi Resurreccion, Pam Narciso, J-Gab Gabriel, Benji & Fely Santiago, Zaro & Levy Pingol, Levy & Roxanne Espiritu, Kit & Nancy Palmario, Atoy & Malou Apo, Manolet & Sunni Rodriguez, Roel & Neneng Claros

Kit Palmario:

Father, thank you for allowing me and giving me time to be in Your holy presence. I have been searching for the path toward the betterment of my spiritual life. I find that throughout my journey, You have been and are always with me. And as in the poem Footprints in the Sand, You have even carried me in all my struggles. May Your loving grace fill us and guide us in everything we do.

Nancy Palmario:

The Father's love is unconditional, all His creatures bask in it. It is freely given. It is a gift. It is a grace. God's love has no ifs, no buts, no maybes. Forgiveness is a one-way process; it is a decision that transcends lingering hurts or memories. To forgive is a human act that turns into grace, and when that grace is in us, we are in love.

Ging de Guzman:

The AIR was very practical and useful. I liked Fr. Manoling’s process-structure. He used the psycho-spiritual approach, where concepts of “God is Love”, Mercy, forgiveness, anger, etc., were explained from the spiritual/theological perspective – then translated to the human experience through vivid examples, and later applied to the participants’ life through workshop. This approach ensured a lot of practical take-home value for the participants.

Neneng Claros:

AIR is an amazing blessing to us. I am so glad we were able to attend because I had so many unasked questions that were finally answered by Fr. Manoling's discussions. I felt that most of his life stories were so relevant to mine.

Fely Santiago:

I love as a response to having been loved unconditionally by the Lord. When we offer the little that we have, the Lord turns it into abundance. The true mark of a Christian community is not the absence of conflict but the capacity to forgive one another. This is the sign of authentic Christian community.

Annual Ignatian Retreat (AIR)

Spiritual Director : FR. MON BAUTISTA, SJ
Date & Time : 02 to 04 AUGUST 2019
Venue : SACRED HEART RETREAT HOUSE & SEMINAR CENTER

Now Accepting Reservations

For Inquiries & Submission of Payment Documents
Ricky Sun : 0939-9133017 or ricktsun@yahoo.com
Trixie Sun : 0908-8831456
Ria San Jose – Magis Deo Secretariat : 0927-7471468 or secretariat@magisdeo.org

RATES (Limited Slots)	
Includes Meals	
	MD Member
A/C – Twin Sharing	6,600.00
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Non-A/C Single Occ.	1,900.00

- For Non-Magis Deo Members please add Php 300.00 / Head
- Non-A/C Rooms are provided with COMMON CRs only
- Non-A/C Rooms might not be provided with towels / soap

Bank Details
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Holy Week 2019

Chacho Angeles, Thessalonians BCGG

Christians call this week Holy Week, and that has been so for the longest of time. As I reflect on the significance of this week, it fosters a somber and serious countenance on my part. And yet it also fosters in me an anticipation of great, glorious and joyful things to come. It is like a week of preparation, a week of transition, from darkness to light, from suffering to healing, from sin to union with God, from death to life, a week of irony and paradox.

It starts with a triumphal procession, a human and worldly affair, fraught with a deceptive understanding of Jesus’ messiahship and kingship. It coincides with a week of celebration of deliverance from slavery when the Israelites were spared by the angel of death because of the sprinkled blood of a sacrifice on their door posts, that they may flee to freedom. From this passing over, Jesus is now preparing to be the lamb of the sacrifice whose innocent and pure blood will free us from sin and death.

From a glorious entry into Jerusalem follows a betrayal by a disciple for 30 pieces of silver, and deliverance into unjust persecution of an innocent and pure lamb to be sacrificed at the altar of jealousy, greed and the blindness called sin. Yet what follows is a demonstration of love and service when the teacher washes the feet of His disciples. In a supper that commemorates the passing over from slavery to freedom, the bread and wine is miraculously turned into the body and blood of the Christ, the divine savior longed for yet rejected by the very people He is to save and lead to a glorious unity with the divine. This lamb is led to the slaughter, jeered at by the very people who sang hosannas a few days earlier, to a very painful death by crucifixion. And when He dies, is buried and anointed by a few loyal women, He descends into the darkness of death...

Father,
How can You still love us?
Just look at what we are doing to You,
To ourselves, to others, to the rest of creation.
Despite demonstrations of Your faithfulness,
We continue to forget and turn our backs on
You, desiring things of this world with immediate
Pleasurable results. We cannot wait, we do not
Persevere, and we no longer want to know you,
Through the scriptures, through service to our
Fellowmen, through prayer and the sacraments.
You have become so mysterious and distant,
Making You as irrelevant as myths and legends.

We pray that the commemoration of this holy Week remind us that Your love for us has Remained, constant, consistent and faithful, Yet knowable and palpable as the heat of the Summer months, more fragrant than blooming Flowers, grander than the great mountains and Deeper than the deepest oceans; that Your love Is more tender than a mother’s to her child, more Protective and provident than a father’s to his Family, and deeper than the love of the groom And the bride. I pray for guidance from the Holy Spirit, in the name of the compassionate Heart of Your human and divine son, Jesus, one With us from the beginning of time till eternity. Amen.

Easter 2019

...To rise again to life on the third day. Easter is the climax of the salvation that Jesus brought to the world. He experienced betrayal, suffering and death after a three-year ministry of teaching and healing. During all these, He shows me the way to a kind of life that will bring me closer to the Father.

I often wondered how Jesus saves me, us, by dying on the cross. Was it like the scapegoats of the Old Testament when the Jews transferred all their sins on a goat, and the religious authorities drive out this goat? Or was He the substitute victim who takes on the sins of the world, and was punished by God accordingly, with the worst punishment ever, what theologians call “penal substitutionary atonement.” Or, when He died and descended into the dead, and rose again on the third day, He left all our sins there.

Maybe the salvation story is not really that esoteric and magical, though nothing is impossible with our loving and merciful God. God would not lightly, and likely, take away accountability and responsibility for our sins. How can I return God’s love, or respond to it, if I do not learn how to live accordingly, changing myself that I may not repeat my mistakes, that I may not sin again and again. I think He would want me to transform my mind and my heart that I may sin no more and stray far away from Him. I recall the parable of the prodigal son, who suffered for being prodigal in his worldliness. His subsequent difficult life changed him even if it meant being treated like a lowly servant after asking for his father’s forgiveness. His attitude, his heart changed, he repented.

How do I change my way of life? The beatitudes in Jesus’ sermon on the mount points me to the radical direction that I think is the way I can be a follower of Jesus. The beatitudes call me to a life of poverty, mourning or grieving and accepting loss, meekness, desire for righteousness (decent, just, ethical, following God’s will), mercifulness, purity of heart, peacemaking, and being persecuted for the sake of righteousness. I consider this list as an addendum to Jesus’ summary of the ten commandments – that of loving God with all my heart and soul and strength, and loving others as I love myself.

I know that this is a very tall order because this is the opposite of what my worldly life presents and calls me to, and there will certainly be a significant struggle to live according to these precepts and prescriptions. This struggle I think is my Calvary, the cross I am to bear. I know that I can transcend this natural tendency to live as the world calls me to do, for many have done so already, and Jesus Himself showed me how I can overcome this struggle. He was unjustly persecuted, tortured and killed in the most painful manner by crucifixion, and what better model can I have. When Jesus died, the heavy curtain in the inner sanctum of the temple in Jerusalem that keeps God separate from the people was torn in two, symbolizing that God is now open and accessible to everyone, not only to the high priests.

Holy Week and Easter have layer upon layer of meaning and significance to religious and lay, to theologians and ordinary Christians. For me, the beauty of Holy Week and Easter is in the fact that I live them every day in small and significant matters: I die every time I sin against God, myself and others, and I rise every time I choose to let go of modes of thinking, inclinations, desires and habits that take me away from God. But whenever I realize that I am sinning, I decide to let go of these and return to God (repent) and ask for His forgiveness, then I am reborn and I rise from the dead to a new life with my God... until my sky gets darker and darker and when the darkness is complete, I am finally united with my Father for all eternity.

Redemption

Loving Father,
You sent Your son to live with us and experience life
The way we, Your children, experience it, with all
That comes with it – the joys and the triumphs, the
Hurts, the pains, the suffering of Your poor benighted
Sons and daughters. He showed us the way to know and
Recognize the truth in His teachings, and to live them
In our lives. He taught us that redemption comes when
We do not allow our weaknesses and hurts to bring us to
Sin by hurting others and ourselves through violence on

The body and the spirit. He walked with our humanity
And took all the evil that was heaped upon Him by
Jealousy, anger, ignorance and hardness of heart,
Of the religious authorities of His time, refusing to
See His love in His actions and words. Father I pray
For myself, for my family, for my friends, for others.
Grant us the grace to open our hearts to the heart of
Your Son, our brother in this world and in heaven.
Amen.

Thirsting No More

Jesus You are God yet You became like me
A sacrifice at the altar of jealousy and fear.
Though I can never be like You, pure and
Blameless, You showed me how to come
Near You, be with You, and be like You
In my thoughts, my words and my deeds.
You taught me that by being united with You,
I will hunger and thirst no more, for You
Are sufficient for my needs. You are my
Livelihood, my medicine, my therapist,
And my spiritual teacher. You are my mind,
My heart and my hands. Grant me the clarity,
The wisdom and the strength to see through
My flesh and blood, the traditions, the rose
Colored lenses I sometimes see through, the
Other people I have become comfortable being
With, the familiar surroundings, the plains, the
Mountains, the beaches and the seas that give
Familiarity and joy, cocoons from which my
True self can never emerge as a beautiful
Butterfly, and allow me to glimpse the core
Of my being, Your spirit, Your loving and
Compassionate heart. Amen.

June Anniversaries & Birthdays

Day	Name	BCGG/Class	Day	Name	BCGG/Class
1	Domeng & Zarah Gagatiga	Emmanuel	1	Delsa Sangalang	Samaritans
2	Kit & Nancy Palmario	Psalm 98	2	Marlyn Angeles	Thessalonians
4	Bobbit+ & Precy Cruz	Thessalonians	2	Deo Baccay	ME Class 116
4	Chito & Arlene Tanchico	ME Class 118	2	Bryan Santiago	ME Class 122
7	Ali & Wheng Reyes	Francis	2	Nessa Santos	Prodigal 102
8	Rodel & Eden Acosta	Song of Ruth	2	Rhea Vistan	ME Class 127
12	Raymark & Corazon Alcanar	ME Class 128	2	Jenny Wycoco	ME Class 120
12	Anchit & Sally Chua Chiaco	John	3	Chito Babaran	Magnificat
12	Ike+ & Josie Llamas	Genesis of David	3	Cora Buenaventura	Sirach
12	Cesar & Delsa Sangalang	Samaritans	4	Cora De Guzman	Agnus Dei
13	Lito & Jet Quimel	Exodus	6	Jhunn Coronel	Magnificat
14	Mon & Ting Yupangco	Transfiguration	6	Ana Pestano	ME Class 118
17	Ted & Susan Concepcion	Archangel Gabriel	9	Agnes Claudio	ME Class 129
17	Ronnie & Malou Tabuzo	Song of Ruth	9	Arad Guevarra	ME Class 128
18	TJ & Ana Pestano	ME Class 118	9	Ramon Lozano	ME Class 130
20	Emelito & Tes Adia	ME Class 128	9	Petrik Punzalan	Easter
20	Boy & Jovy De Leon	James, Brother of John	10	Mimi Parayno	Psalm 98
21	Clyde & Pachot Abapo	Francis	11	Man-Man Dela Cruz	ME Class 122
24	Jhunn & Ellen Coronel	Magnificat	11	Mitz Sumalinog	ME Class 129
25	Jun & Cora Ona	Archangel Gabriel	11	MJ Vistan	ME Class 127
26	Eugene & Ethel Araullo	Transfiguration	12	Sally Bergonia	ME Class 122
26	Menandro & Fely Redual	Francis	12	Lille Collado	Song of Ruth
27	Tony & Aida Del Rosario	James, Brother of John	13	Dino De Veyra	ME Class 121
28	Ariel & Maan Masungsong	Francis	13	Manette Yap	Corinthians
30	Elmer & Meg Fajardo	James, Brother of John	14	Judy De Castro	ME Class 128
			14	Paul Puthenpurekal	Easter
			15	Nini Bugayong	ME Class 128
			15	Boy De Leon	James, Brother of John
			15	Jenny Palencia	Tala
			16	Dong Galang	Chronicles
			18	Boy Lubguban	Exodus
			19	Ton Biong	ME Class 119
			19	Jang Estrada	Mt. Olivet
			19	Rady Flores	ME Class 129
			20	Raymark Alcanar	ME Class 128
			20	Sally Chua Chiaco	John
			22	Elyn Aracid	Easter
			22	June Tentativa	ME Class 129
			23	Issa Comcom	ME Class 122
			23	Charley Ng Sy	Agnus Dei
			23	Jon Sta. Maria	Transfiguration
			25	Malou Tabuzo	Song of Ruth
			26	Kaye Angeles	ME Class 126
			26	Willie Cuenco	ME Class 127
			26	Dexter Serafin	ME Class 120
			27	Junar Dela Paz	ME Class 119
			27	Jojo Gaddi	Prodigal 102
			29	Paula Barretto	ME Class 129
			29	Badeth Concina	ME Class 122
			29	Leony Parada	Psalm 46-Samaritans
			30	Joey Suarez	Tala

July Anniversaries & Birthdays

Day	Name	BCGG/Class	Day	Name	BCGG/Class
4	Jojo & Jane Aldeguer	Mustard Seed	1	Vivian Flores	ME Class 129
8	Mino & Susan Exconde	ME Class 116	2	Khel Cerrero	ME Class 130
10	John & Glo Boren	Agnus Dei	2	Levy Domingo	Song of Ruth
10	Denis & Joy Rago	Agnus Dei	2	Roi Palencia	Tala
10	Ricky & Trixie Sun	Matthew	5	Au Articulo	ME Class 120
11	Chito & Vicky Babaran	Magnificat	7	Tony Narciso	Easter
11	Vincent & Kat Barretto	ME Class 128	7	Joy Rago	Agnus Dei
11	Bert & Nini Bugayong	ME Class 128	7	Grace Santos	Thessalonians
11	Dewey & Chona Chua	Jeremiah-Philippians	8	Celia Echivaria	Exodus
11	Terence & Jo-Ann Palabay	ME Class 122	10	Rhea Gaddi	Prodigal 102
11	Claro & Linda Santos	Agnus Dei	10	Rose Viduya	ME Class 117
12	Khel & Rica Cerrero	ME Class 130	11	Peping Echivaria	Exodus
14	Mark & Sinta Rivas	ME Class 128	11	James Fabronero	ME Class 129
17	Rico & Freda Berwite	ME Class 116	12	John Cambas	James, Brother of John
18	Ed & Tatic Castillo	Cana	12	Jojo Concina	ME Class 122
18	Ariel & Jane Fernandez	ME Class 104	12	Josie Serrano	ME Class 129
19	Jason & Leni Sanchez	Tala	13	Anne Tamayo	ME Class 130
21	Bing & Vikki Brillantes	Cana	14	Mark Rivas	ME Class 128
22	Ferdie & Lyn Cruz	Psalm 98	15	Enzo Cuevas	ME Class 130
22	Ranie & Mona Salenga	ME Class 128	15	Marge De Mesa	ME Class 130
22	Tony & Benny Vistan	Samaritans	15	Jet Quimel	Exodus
23	Arad & Bing Guevarra	ME Class 128	15	Yayette Ventigan	John
24	Nan & Ai Palete	Prodigal 10	16	Edwin Gumila	Easter
25	Jek & Ching Punzalan	ME Class 128	16	Rico Lim	Easter
25	Goody & Beth Vargas	Agnus Dei	17	Kit Palmario	Psalm 98
31	Doy & Becky Dizon	Archangel Gabriel	18	Arnel Isip	Corinthians
31	Eric & Steph Martinez	Song of Ruth	19	Dolly Llamas	Prodigal 102
31	Dodo & Jon Sta. Maria	Transfiguration	21	Noel Gascon	James, Brother of John
			22	Benny Vistan	Samaritans
			23	Grace Catangay	Tala
			23	Rudy De Guzman	Archangel Gabriel
			23	Ed Macalalad	Emmanuel
			24	Jaja Ebardo	ME Class 122
			25	Doy Dizon	Archangel Gabriel
			25	Rissa Serafin	ME Class 120
			26	Carlos Pizarro	Corinthians
			26	JC Sales	ME Class 127
			28	Ging Manuel	ME Class 121
			29	Bernie Isip	Corinthians
			29	Anne Naldo	Samaritans
			30	Jum Bautista	ME Class 121
			31	Yella Castillo	Archangel Gabriel

Magis Mini-Golf Tournament

Leo Soliman, Corinthians BCGG

May 10, 2019 was a red letter day for Magis golfers. Answering the call of the greens, Rex Aguila, Cesar Sangalang (hands down best dressed), Eli Prieto, Miguel Barretto, Mike Magpayo, Manolet Rodriguez, Philip Panlilio, balik-Magis Rolly Poco and yours truly all arrived early for the fund raising mini tournament. We were joined by the Soliman golfers, Alex, Rody, Christopher and Miko.

Butch Vargas and John Boren missed the bus but donated their playing budget to the fund. Dong Galang also sent his regrets. All had fun playing, as we practically owned the Navy Golf course. A shout of cheers from perfect long drives to sunken long putts echoed throughout the day. The laughs from every flight give the impression that the course was full. As the dust settled, Eli Prieto emerged as the overall champion, beating heavy favorite yours truly by a heart-breaking stroke.

Everybody went home with a prize courtesy of Miguel Barretto, Hytec Power, Inc. of Mr. Eric Jude Soliman, and Soliman Management Services (Canada) of Mr. Jerome Soliman.

Rolly Poco, who promised to join our regular fellowship games, flashed the biggest smile as he won the grand prize: a Callaway Big Bertha driver courtesy of SMS (Canada).

But the biggest winner is Magis' Community Services Ministry (CSM), which raised a total of P36, 000. Thank you to all who donated and to all who participated.

Till our next whacking day on Friday, June 14; call time 7:00 am at the Navy Golf Club!

Donors:

Tony Narciso	5,000.00
Leony Parada	5,000.00
C/o Leony P.	5,000.00
Cesar Sangalang	5,000.00
SMS (Canada)	5,000.00
From Mulligans	5,000.00
Butch Vargas	2,500.00
John Boren	2,500.00
Miguel Barretto	1,000.00

Official scores:

Eli Prieto	86-24-62 (W)
Leo Soliman	81-18-63
Rolly Poco	93-27-66
Mike Magpayo	87-20-67
Miguel Barretto	88-20-68
Philip Panlilio	93-24-69
Rex Aguila	89-18-71
Manolet Rodriguez	99-25-74
Cesar Sangalang	101-21-80

