

Magis

Formation for Mission

Stewardship

Simplicity

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Service

Official Publication of the Magis Deo Community

October 2019 Issue

Universal apostolic preferences

Learn about the four areas vital to the world

On forgiveness

Forgiving yourself, others, and God

My God, my hope

A courageous leap of surrender and acceptance

A blessed wellness

The fun-filled event for a healthy mind, body, and soul

Suyuan

A Sunday of many miracles



About the Cover



We may not be unaware that environmental issues abound. Today, climate strike has been magnified in media more than ever, with the Amazon rainforest recently set ablaze; the Iceland’s glacier, Okjökull, has just died, and; melting Arctic ice cores have been found to contain microplastics. Capitalism exploits nature and humans...do we just stay passive and watch as God’s creation withers?

We are in a slow-moving train to an apocalypse, but there’s still time. We must help revive mother nature, even in small steps. We need to pressure governments to stop the exploitation. We are stewards of God’s creation, and we won’t be able to fulfill this role if there’s nothing left to care for.

“I want you to act as if the house is on fire, because it is.”
—Greta Thunberg

Editorial Board

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Calendar of Activities: October - December 2019

October		November		December	
6	Community Celebration & Election of Magis Pastoral Council	17	Advent Recollection	1	Family Day & Christmas Party
		22-24	Marriage Encounter Weekend		
27	Youth Outreach	30	2020 Ministry Budget & Programs		

Shining Our Light In Challenging Times



“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and puts it under a bushel, but on a lamp stand, where it gives light for everyone in the house. In the same way, your light must shine before people...” So goes our concluding prayer at the end of every BCGG prayer meeting. We are called to let the light of Christ in each of us continue to shine in our lives. But where should we as a community shine our light on?

We live in challenging times where much change is happening, and we are caught in a very much secularized and polarized world, characterized by indifference and narcissism. Technology made it possible for people to come closer together more easily and yet this very medium led to the isolation of individuals and communities. The challenges we face may in essence be no different from those faced centuries ago, yet we experience and see that keeping Christ's light burning for others will need our stronger, more active and creative participation in this mission.

The four areas of the Universal Apostolic Preferences of the Society of Jesus clearly tells us where to shine our lights on. As a community formed and nurtured following the Ignatian Spirituality, we are invited to join and spend our energies and resources on the following:

A. Showing the way to God through the spiritual exercises and discernment by helping and accompanying people find Him and live His way, discerning complex choices in the social, economic, cultural and political spheres, and promoting in depth study of the Spiritual Exercises, offering a deeper alternative to secularism.

B. Walking with the excluded, the poor, abused, the outcasts in the spirit of reconciliation and justice by first desiring a conversion in our own hearts that makes us alive and sensitive to the suffering Christ in our midst, by desiring to be more hospitable and open, and by learning how to live more deeply in the Spirit of Jesus, a Spirit that welcomes.

C. Journeying with the youth in the creation of a hope filled future by developing and deepening their faith, encouraging creativity, promoting a healthy and safe environment for children and young people so that they can develop their full potential as human beings and helping them to know Jesus Christ and to feel themselves loved, saved and forgiven.

D. Collaborating, with gospel depth, for the protection and renewal of God's creation by helping change hearts and minds, studying root causes, collaborating with others who share our concerns, making new generations aware that this issue is integrated with.

As Magis Deo, we sought to contribute our energies in these areas. The question we now ask ourselves, individually and as a community, is: What more can we do for the greater glory of God? How much more deeply or more actively can we work and contribute in these areas?

Lights Minus Shadows

Boy & Kit de la Peña, Exodus BCGG



This is more of a report, qualitative in nature, about observed improvements in our Magis Deo Community based on the writers' involvement in the Council since the start of the year, but perhaps covering the past two years also when there has been more consultation and participation in managing the different objectives and concerns of the Community.

Views were solicited also and are being shared here to provide more inspiration than anything else.

First: In the Community Celebrations or ComCel a significant increase in attendance has been observed and recorded.

Second: On the Formation side there has also been an increase in the average number of MEW participants. Prayer Deepening Sessions have also been held at the BCGG level and Shepherding Workshops conducted by Fr. James Gascon have benefited many couple members, most specially new and young shepherds.

Third: On the Outreach side, particularly Suyuan, a younger generation of dedicated Suyuan Facilitators has been added to the pool. This pool now is dedicated not just to Magis Deo but to the craft as well, which they strive to continually hone. Almost all BCGGs have been able to serve at Suyuans and the Suyuan reunions. The traditional partners of the Community in conducting Suyuan have continued to be very active and dedicated. In addition, the number of needy

college students being supported by the financial assistance program (scholarship) of Magis Deo has increased from four to six.

Fourth: Youth participation in the ComCels has significantly improved, both in numbers and in the nature of activities. Credit goes to the very dedicated and creative couples handling the youth and of course to the parents who bring them to the ComCel.

Fifth: The three special events during the year have attracted large participation and have offered more quality activities that have been well-participated by Magis Deo members: the Couples' Night, the Sports Family Day and the year-end annual Family Gathering.

Sixth: On the management of financial resources – procedures and guidelines were developed and implemented for proper and accurate accounting of funds. Deadlines were set for the submission of requests for cash advance and the liquidation if the same. Updating of past years' monthly dues have been done more religiously with the help of concerned BCGG heads and treasurers. The percentage of uncollected past years' dues has remarkably gone down.

Lastly: In general, it can be said that based on the 1-1-1-2-2-3 statistics per BCGG, members are more aware of their roles in the Community. We thank God for this blessing.

Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam.

Why I am not for Divorce Law

Fr. James Wenceslao U. Gascon, SJ
Magis Deo Spiritual Director



My objection to divorce comes from an experience of helping couples reconcile. As a Marriage and Family therapist, I trained in helping couples figure out the best option to their predicament. I journey with them to find a way. At the onset, I never take an automatic stand against separation. When a couple approaches me for help, I explain to them that I do not have a knowledge of how it will be in end of our work. All I am aware of is that they have to make a decision. My role is to help them arrive at the best decision for everyone concerned. Because in my 18 years of practice as helper, I have realized that there are indeed marriages not made in heaven that needed to be dissolved. When I am in situations like this, I do not hesitate to recommend that a couple go through the annulment process. The usual reaction is: isn't it costly? And it takes a long time.

Well, both can be advantageous for the family. That it is costly does not encourage couples to easily resort to annulment as the first resort. Considering other options first like discerning and praying about it, seeking professional help, discourages couples from rushing into undiscerned decisions. It is my opinion that we Filipinos always take the shortest cut. As a culture, we are not patient enough. We want quick solutions. But life is not about quick solutions but best ones. Best decisions come after pondering about the situation long and deeply. We call this discernment. We need not hurry; we listen to ourselves, to

others and to God. Since annulment requires time, it gives the couple and the family a valuable space — to think, to consider options, to rethink and to heal. Perhaps, there is another way other than dissolving the marriage ASAP.

And this brings me to the argument of many pro-divorce but anti-annulment. Come to think of it, the results are the same. The spouses are freed from the bond of marriage. Their argument is always to point out that annulment is such a long and costly process. Then, why don't our legislators update or improve annulment laws in order to make it accessible to those who really need it, and employing safety nets to ensure that family values are protected? Rather than proposing a new quick fix for the same result, why not fix what is not working? Methinks what is needed is not a divorce law, but an updating of annulment procedures since the only strong arguments against annulment are cost and time. The argument that the couple becomes a victim of enterprising lawyers does not justify the divorce law either, since the cause is a product of procedural deficit.

Ultimately, my argument is, why create a new law which can bring the same effect that an existing law provides? A common adage says: why fix it when it ain't broke? Why replace when it still serves well? I call for the rejection of divorce law and the revision of annulment laws and procedures. The negative effects of divorce on children is far more abhorrent and unacceptable than any other ways of breaking the family ties.

Jesuit Missions Today: The Universal Apostolic Preferences (UAP)

Fr. James Wenceslao U. Gascon, SJ
Magis Deo Spiritual Director

Although Magis Deo is not an official apostolate of the Society of Jesus, the fact that we endeavor to live the Spirituality of Ignatius in our day to day life makes us sharers in the mission of the Jesuits, the Companions of Jesus, as Lay Partners in the Mission. In a recent document issued by the Superior General of the Jesuits, Fr. Arturo Sossa, SJ calls on all Jesuits and mission partners to share in the Universal Apostolic Preferences.

What are the Universal Apostolic Preferences (UAP)?

The UAP are the fruit of a process of discernment that lasted for almost two years. All Jesuits, together with the mission partners are called to share in these preferences. With the confirmation of Pope Francis, the preferences give horizon, a point of reference for all those who labor to live the Ignatian spirit. They capture imaginations and awaken desires uniting everyone in common missions. The new UAP are four areas vital to the world in the next ten years and all are welcome to learn and take action to make a Gospel difference.

The Four Universal Apostolic Preferences:

1. Showing the way to God: Our primary mission is to show the way to God to our spouse and to our family, as well as others. Through sharing the Spiritual Exercises and Discernment, we help others discover their true selves in Christ. Getting in touch with our deepest self where God speaks to us is not only necessary but a potent instrument in our struggle to follow the Lord better day by day and hour by hour.

We will help others find Him and live His way by accompanying them discern complex choices in social, economic, cultural and political spheres. Concretely, we create prayerful environments that favor free personal processes. We will promote deeper study and understanding of the spiritual exercises which promotes social inclusion so that people will know they are part of one family in solidarity with one another and with the Creator. Offering a deeper and meaningful alternative to secularism, our society will allow for better exercise of religious freedom as well as recognize the complex dimension of human freedom.

2. Walking with the excluded: The poor need not only our help. We need to walk and journey with them to empower the outcasts of the world and those whose dignity have been violated. Our present culture promotes division between the rich and the poor. Marginalized people, even those who seek home through migration, are vulnerable to abuse with weekly reports of hundreds perishing just to reach a new home. In solidarity, we need to journey with them, in the same way that we are spiritually migrants in this world.

We need to educate each other and make each one aware of the burning need for reconciliation with care for those estranged, vulnerable and alienated. With a new culture based on Gospel values, we create healthy and safe environment for all. Ultimately, our journeying with the excluded brings hope to our world, imagining new roads and walking those roads to the end.

3. Journeying with the Youth: Youth does not only remind us of the future but a time for fundamental decisions and the beginning of fulfilling dreams. However, youth today face enormous challenges. Uncertainty of relationships in a digital era, diminishing opportunities for work, growing political violence, discrimination, and environmental degradation are some of the challenges they needed to hurdle otherwise it becomes difficult for them to find the road where they can build supportive relations based on solid spiritual and cultural foundations.

We need to meet Jesus through young people. By being open to youthful creativity in spaces where encounter with God of life revealed in Jesus is an encounter that needs to be promoted. Ensuring a safe and healthy environment for the children and young people helps them develop their full potential as human beings. They need to know Jesus Christ and to feel for themselves that He loves, saves, and forgives them. Adapting the spiritual exercises to their capacities so that they can personally know Jesus in ever deeper ways, ultimately choosing to follow Him more closely.

4. Caring for our common home: Creation cries out as never before, laboring to be set free (Romans 8). The crisis of environment impacts in a particular way to all, most particularly the poor and vulnerable. We need Christian action as well as by all people of good will towards nations' and peoples' ecological conversion. We can only change the course of history through a change of heart for the environment. We must campaign for honest stewardship of this wonderful planet we commonly inhabit.

Our faith is one that desires creation to be cherished and renewed. A whole new way of living is a consequence of a personal and passionate relationship with Jesus. As Laudato si reminds us, "we get new strength to care for others and for creation... as a grace to transcend ourselves (208, 217)." We need to collaborate, with Gospel depth, for the protection and renewal of God's Creation.

These are not just concepts but actual spiritual values we need to imbibe. We need to live them in our day to day ordinary life as part of our commitment to Ignatian spirituality of responding to the needs of the times. We must continually ask ourselves, "What have I done for Christ, what am I doing for Christ, what need I to do for Christ?" The UAP is a communally discerned response.

Through the Shadows and into the Light

Zarah C. Gagatiga, Emmanuel BCGG



Many years ago, when Domeng and I were relatively new members of Magis Deo, we attended various formation activities organized and designed by the Magis Deo elders. The prayer deepening talks and workshops of Eva Galvey and Monchito Mossesgeld made memorable impressions most especially. I learned a lot from their inputs, the sharing of experiences and their facilitation of skills in building an awareness of feelings. This was before attending a number of Annual Ignatian Retreats.

These prayer workshops were all beneficial to my growth in Ignatian Spirituality. It helped me focus on my emotions as a way to inform my actions and behavior. I developed a better understanding of myself. This is one of the many benefits when praying the Examen and it leads to more wonderful discoveries.

The “me” that I often find in the Examen is both beautiful and strange. Creative and destructive. This “me” is capable of generosity and can be downright selfish too. Praying the Examen makes me see my shadow and my light.

While there in the shadows lurk my demons, there is always the light to turn towards to. Praying the Examen helps me see this play of darkness and light. It gives me the power to choose and to make decisions. This in itself is God’s gift. God’s grace. God protects and nourishes. And He too, empowers! Praying the Examen amplifies God’s magnificence in my life and in the wholeness of creation.

I bring myself into this reflections on prayer workshops, the Examen and Ignatian Spirituality because, recently, I have done something I am not proud of. I know I hurt many people. I realize I acted on behalf of myself without thinking through my actions. Then again, I did not regret doing it either. I am now ambivalent about the entire experience. However, I do find myself praying on this ambivalence.

Perhaps God is just waiting for me to realize something more about the complexities of human nature. I appreciate that He is there, allowing me to figure things out on my own. All the more reason that I continue praying the Examen and to be sensitive to God’s movement in my life.

11 August 2019 Community Celebration



The Family as a Domestic Church

Reflection on the Talk of Fr. James Gascon, SJ at the August 11, 2019 Community Celebration

Kaye Angeles, Genesis BCGG

In my younger years I simply thought that for a family to be called a DOMESTIC CHURCH, one must have an altar in their home where the family gathers for common prayers in the evening or at special times like Christmas, New Year’s Eve, situations of need or misfortune, pasiyam, first year death anniversary, etc. I did not think there was more to it until I got involved in the Church and its teachings in my later years.

Fr. James zeroed in on WHAT MAKES A FAMILY, what makes it a DOMESTIC CHURCH, with emphasis on the four C’s in the FAMILY VALUES and CONNECTIONS. And these are in the MORE part where we get to understand once again and be prompted of:

- What does family stand for? – Father And Mother I Love You! From the love of a man and a woman united in marriage, they pledge themselves to each other’s well-being and for the procreation and education of their children. And this marriage gives birth to the family as a DOMESTIC CHURCH.
- What makes family – Related by blood or by affinity, bound by love and concern for one another, tied by common values and interests and bonded by willingness to offer oneself and take risks on each other.
- The Four C’s in our family – Care, contribution, communion and caring for each other towards the future.

Our families are meant to be “little churches” where we practice our faith, we pray together, we forgive, we love and celebrate together. But in the reality of our family life with all its troubles, heartaches and mistakes, this talk, along with the pastoral aspects of the Magis Deo Community, help us look on our marriages and families in a different light. We are reminded that God does not call us to be perfect spouses or siblings, perfect parents or perfect children. We are called to live out our FAITH, that is to serve HIM, to love HIM and to share His promise with others, amidst the harsh realities of our life. And through all this, God doesn’t give us the task of being a domestic church, and not give us any help. The gift of community, along with His gift of GRACE, enable us to transform our lives, our families, our homes and be best messengers of the gospel of the family.

A Blessed Wellness and Sports Day

Ricky & Trixie Sun, Matthew BCGG

September 1 started very early especially for the organizers who had to arrange and put everything in order to prepare the San Jose Gym for the much anticipated Wellness and Sports Day.

Registration went smoothly as the participants began to arrive. Some went walking around the campus before the event started. The program including the menu for breakfast and lunch were meticulously planned out by the South Sector under the leadership and supervision of Leony and Mia Parada, head of the Community Service Ministry, and Rudy and Lyn Ebardo, South Sector heads. We had coffee, chocolate drinks, pan de sal, various sandwich spreads including Almond Butter donated by Laurence Espiritu, taho, hard boiled eggs and bananas. There was more than enough food to ensure that everyone had the energy to participate in the planned activities and still be able to replenish the calories after. It was easy to identify the sector of each member as there were assigned colors to distinguish the three sectors - green for the North Sector, red for the Central Sector, blue for the South Sector, white for the ME Classes and gray for the Youth. One could hear the cheerful chatter and laughter reverberating in the venue despite it being in an open area.

Our Eucharistic Celebration was co-celebrated by Fr. Ro Atillano, SJ and our very own birthday celebrant, Fr. James Gascon. Fr. Ro talked about how our desire to serve stemmed from our gratitude for God’s generosity and love for us. He intimated with the group his experience in Bilibid. The Mass was ended with our traditional birthday and anniversary greetings and blessings. Our Spiritual Director joined the other celebrants to receive the blessing of Fr. Ro and the community. Fr. James was surprised with a birthday cake served and he gamely swayed and blew the candles as everyone sang him “Happy Birthday.”

After a quick rearrangement of the chairs, the Eucharistic celebration was followed by the Zumba dance. More than half the court was filled with members raring to get into the Zumba groove for a dose of some “happy hormones,” to burn off some calories and have fun. Once the music started, everyone was oblivious to what was happening in the periphery as each one

concentrated on imitating the moves of the very energetic Zumba instructor. The winners for the Best Zumba Dancers were Rhea Gaddi from the North Sector, Trixie Sun from the Central Sector and Nette Gascon from the South Sector. Winners for the Best Zumba Outfit were Marivic Pareja from the North Sector, Lany Sia from the Central Sector and Leslie Gatchalian from the South Sector. Congratulations to all the winners!

The Three-Point Shoot-Out further intensified the activities of the day. This was participated in by several teams composed of both male and female players. The Magis Deo members demonstrated their athletic skills in shooting baskets. Watching the “not-so-young” participants shoot the ball made one imagine how good they could have been during their “physical heyday.” Again, congratulations to the winners and all participants for their spirit of competitiveness and enthusiasm during this event, thus, contributing to the festive and friendly atmosphere that was palpable all throughout.

In the midst of all the action and excitement, we were graced with a surprise visit from Fr. Ruben Tanseco, SJ, our Founder and First Spiritual Director of Magis Deo. It was good to see Fr. Ruben smiling and doing relatively well. He gave a short message and reminded all those present of his love for our community and its members which naturally elicited a thunderous applause and shouts of joy from all those present.

This memorable Wellness and Sports Day came to an end with one of everyone’s favorite indulgences-eating. Lunch was served after which cheerful goodbyes were exchanged. Another activity to fondly reminisce had just been concluded.

We would like to thank all those who attended and participated. Much appreciation to those who shared their time, effort and resources that culminated in the success of this event: Community Service Ministry, South Sector, specially Rudy and Lyn Ebardo, Joey and Maricel Suarez, Benz and Vina Dimanalata, Levy and Roxanne Espiritu, Laurence Espiritu, Jojo and Jane Aldeguer, Leony and Mia Parada and Vietura through Agnes Tumaneng. Fr. James Gascon and Fr. Ruben Tanseco for gracing this event. Magis Deo is truly blessed to have you in our community!



PROSE AND POETRY

Annual Ignatian Retreat – On Forgiveness

*Father James Gascon, SJ, Spiritual Director
Mirador Jesuit Villa Retreat House, Baguio City, August 29 - 31, 2019
By Chacho and Marlyn Angeles, Thessalonians BCGG*

DAY 1: August 29 - upon arrival

Marlyn and I reached Baguio City about lunchtime. We had to leave Manila before 7:00 am because our vehicle was off the road that day due to the number coding scheme. It was a leisurely drive, stopping for breakfast at a gas station along NLEX, and at another gas station in Rosario, La Union to load up on gas. Kennon Road was still closed to traffic and we went through Marcos Highway (now called Agoo-Baguio Road).

At the outskirts of Baguio, I lowered the window and felt the cold Baguio weather, but I missed the scent of pine. Instead, I smelled diesel fumes. I rolled up the windows again. There were sporadic showers and some areas were starting to fog up. We stopped by a Chinese restaurant for lunch, and had coffee and dessert by the ruins. There were few yellow sunflower blooms, must not be the season yet, but the trees were swaying with the wind to greet us, friendly waves of welcome.

Fr. James was there to greet us at Mirador Hill Retreat House, and led us up to our room. I then explored the retreat house, trying to recall things about the place during my stay there when I was in college. Now, there is a labyrinth at the front with a fountain and a pool with Koi. The rooms too were newly renovated. There may be other changes there like the enclosed veranda at the back, the open garden with tables at the Jesuit wing, which I do not really recall. When the others arrived, Fr. James showed us our dining room, meditation room and chapel, all at the Jesuit wing of the facility.

To officially start the retreat after dinner, Fr. James told us to read the gospel passages on the healing of a blind man and Jesus' answer to the question of John's disciples on where He lives, and reflect on our personal response to the passages and talk to God about our response:

Jesus: "What do you want me to do for you?" Blind man: "Master, let me see again."

Disciples: "Where are you staying?" Jesus: "Come and see."

He also advised us that for the duration of the AIR, to sleep a lot, eat a lot and pray a little! I took this to mean to forget for the moment my family, work and other concerns, to do a lot more of listening to God and to see, feel and get to know Him more during the retreat.

Day 2: August 30

In the morning of Friday after mass and breakfast, Fr. James gave a short introduction by making a distinction between the Ignatian Spiritual Deepening Retreat (SDR) and the AIR. The SDR has four movements (or four themes) which reflect Ignatius' own experience with God:

1st movement: God's love and human sinfulness: we feel the depth of God's love, our shame for our sinfulness and confusion in the face of this deep love.

2nd movement: Know Christ interiorly: Know Jesus more deeply through His life, from birth to His public ministry.

3rd movement: The Passion and Death of Jesus.

4th movement: The Resurrection of Jesus.

Attaining God's love and finding God in everything is the end, the main objective of the SDR. This is the Jesuits' thirty day retreat.

The AIR is like an annual vacation or time off from work, and is usually taken up in eight days by Jesuits. For the Magis Deo community, the AIR is usually a three-day Ignatian retreat.

A retreat is Ignatian when:

- There is silence and we allow God to talk to us, and us to listen to God.
- It is spiritually directed, with the spiritual director (SD) acting as a guide who points the directee towards God. The Holy Spirit directs the retreat.
- It is adapted to a person's situation, time, resources and commitment. Ideally, there should be less distraction to allow retreatants to enjoy the presence of God, and to answer the question: What does GOD want you to see?

The theme for this AIR is FORGIVENESS. This is essentially the main message of Jesus – "...thus we become like our merciful Father."

There are three levels of forgiveness: forgiving others, forgiving ourselves and forgiving God.

1st SESSION: FORGIVENESS OF OTHERS

With forgiveness, we become like our merciful Father. It is the hardest grace to give. God’s love is unconditional, and it is when we have remorse and contrition that we realize the need to ask for the forgiveness of God. Forgiveness makes us realize the depth of our sinfulness and how this affects us and others. It is difficult to understand and raises many questions, but it is an act of mercy. Forgiveness best describes our religion. Fr. James recalls the Pilipino word UNAWA – Una ang awa. This is a necessary step towards forgiveness.

Forgiveness comes from Greek word aphiemí which means to revisit, to leave something, to allow, to send away, divorce (let go). It presupposes an offending experience, a hurt that causes multiple negative emotions in us. The depth of the pain depends on our relationship with the person who causes the hurt. The closer the person is to us, the deeper the pain or hurt. Forgiveness means letting go of the hurt and not holding on to it. It does not mean condoning the wrongdoing, nor forgetting the hurt. It means eliminating the negativity that results from the hurt and letting go of emotional baggage. It is always done by the forgiver, the one who has been hurt. It is not equal to, and does not automatically result in, reconciliation. Reconciliation is an agreement on how you will live with the other in the future. It is never advisable to reconcile with someone whose values are totally different from yours.

Forgiveness benefits us more than the one who hurt us because holding on to anger caused by hurts harms us more. It allows us to move on without the negative emotions of anger, vengeance and resentment, and will naturally dissipate over time thus protecting our health and well-being. It is a decision – a choice to liberate ourselves from hurts – that allows us to live in the present and helps us regain our personal power. Whether it is deserved or not, it can lead to feelings of understanding and empathy. Not forgiving only imprisons us in the past and chains us to the persons who caused the hurts. Forgiveness is a calling that moves us towards growth and happiness. It gives us inner freedom and peace.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS AND ACTIVITY:

1. Who do I need to forgive? What happened?
2. What makes it difficult to let go? In what ways am I suffering the hurt? (Ano ang pinagluluksa mo?)
3. Colloquy with Jesus: Tell Him what happened. What is His response? Beg for the grace of understanding.

READINGS FOR REFLECTIONS:

MT 18:21-25 (Do not count the number of times we forgave but rather see the quality of forgiveness.)

JN 8:11 (Neither do I condemn you. I take your burden. Sin no more.)

LK 15:11-31 The Parable of the Prodigal Son (where the offender does not deserve the love of the one offended.)

2nd SESSION: SELF- FORGIVENESS

After lunch of Friday, Fr. James provided inputs on forgiving the self. This is usually more difficult to do because it runs deep, is more painful, or is hidden from consciousness. There is the unconscious tendency to hurt the self because of guilt and shame. If we are unable to forgive ourselves, we become very critical and judgmental of, and very strict with ourselves and others. If God forgives me, who am I not to forgive myself?

There are twelve steps to self-forgiveness:

1. FOCUS ON EMOTIONS. Articulate our hurts and acknowledge and process the emotions. Identify and recognize the emotions that are triggered in us. Knowing the emotions leads to awareness of the hurts.

2. ACKNOWLEDGE THE MISTAKE OUT LOUD. This gives a voice to the thoughts and emotions within our hearts and frees us of the burden.

3. THINK OF THE MISTAKES AS A LEARNING EXPERIENCE. This helps in letting go and enables us to move forward. Emphasize the learning, and not the mistake. Remind ourselves that we did the best we could with the tools and knowledge we had at that time.

4. GIVE YOURSELF PERMISSION TO PUT THIS PROCESS ON HOLD. Visualize our thoughts on the mistake and put these in a bottle. Tell ourselves that we are putting them aside for now and will return to them when we are ready.

5. HAVE A CONVERSATION WITH THE INNER CRITIC. Through journaling, dialogue with our inner critic. This dialogue will help identify thought patterns that sabotage our abilities to forgive ourselves. In the journal, also list skills and the good qualities we have, and how these have helped us. This will boost self-confidence.

6. NOTICE WHEN WE GET CRITICAL: Notice when we are our worst critic and write down what happened and what it says about ourselves. It may be when we are stressed, or when criticized harshly by others.

7. QUIET THE NEGATIVE MESSAGE OF THE INNER CRITIC. As a helpful exercise, get a piece of paper, make two columns and write down the following:

What the inner critic says about us	What is our compassionate and rational response to each critical statement
-------------------------------------	--

8. CLARIFY WHAT WE WANT. What is the best course of action for the situation, e. g., consider making amends, reconciling, apologizing or fixing the mistake.

9. TAKE OWN ADVICE. What would we tell our best friends if he or she commits the same mistake? Role play this conversation with the friend. Let the friend play the role of the one with the issue while we give the advice. Consider and take the advice we offer.

10. QUIT REPLAYING THE TAPE. Stop going over and over the mistake in our minds. Take a walk. Do things to reduce the stress. Focus instead on the positive action step we can take.

11. SHOW KINDNESS AND COMPASSION TO THE SELF. Remind ourselves that we are worthy of forgiveness. Take time and exercise patience.

12. TALK TO SOMEONE. Talk to someone who is good at listening, who can challenge you and identify the hurt. For example, talk to counselors, coaches, etc.

Forgiveness is important for healing because it helps let go of the hurts and the pain. Identify the feelings. Talk to the inner child and unburden our pains and hurts. And listen. Remember that deciding to let go of pain is not condoning the mistake.

ACTIVITY:

1. Write a letter to ourselves about what mistakes need to be forgiven?
- 2.What is the story, what happened, and what makes us keep the hurt?
3. What needs to be forgiven with the self?
4. Allow God to empower us towards self-forgiveness and beg for His grace.

In the evening after dinner and private time, we came together in the chapel to share our thoughts, feelings and experiences with God.

3rd SESSION: FORGIVING GOD

On Saturday morning, Fr. James provided inputs on why we sometimes blame God for our hurts and why there is a need to forgive God.

1. WHO IS GOD FOR US? This is usually based on our own human experience of God. There are things we hold true about who God is. We see God differently because we experience Him in a way which is unique to each one of us. Thus we have Christ of our faith, and Christ of our own experience.

a. *God does not commit mistakes:* as the lawgiver, we believe GOD defines what is right and wrong. Sin is a violation of God’s law and He does not need forgiveness.

b. *Man cannot always understand all of God’s ways.* While we understand what He demands of us, we cannot fully understand WHY.

c. *Our misunderstanding of God may cause us to accuse Him of wrong doing.* When we cannot make sense of what happens we tend to blame God. We project our feelings to God.

2. HOW WE RESPOND TO SITUATIONS:

a. *Harbor resentment towards God:* We hang on to our anger with God and become bitter. Sometimes we wallow in it, we tend to treat God with disdain, and give up on prayer. However, this does not change our accountability towards God. Besides, resentment demands greater energy from us and it does not resolve anything.

b. *Try to avoid God:* Because of our anger or “tampo,” we avoid God even when we think the Gospels and the scriptures are right about God.

c. *Choose to trust God:* There is confidence even if we don’t understand. We assure ourselves that His commands are always good for us. We choose to believe that all things will work out well in the end and that our painful experience has its purpose. (“I TRUST HIM” is a choice even when things are going well). Job never charged God with wrong doing at the height of his suffering and in the face of condemnation of God by his friends. This however does not mean that we need to always smile amidst our pain.

d. *Choose to forgive God* and choose to release, to let go, to send away our resentment and our negative feelings towards God. We choose to bear our own difficulty in understanding things about GOD that may trouble us, do not understand or are uncertain about. Forgiving is an act of the forgiver. It is that person’s choice to let go.

Fr. James told us that there is a 5th week in the Ignatian retreat that covers the period, or the year, between AIRs. During this period, it is important that we do the Examen and live a life of forgiveness. We continue to work on Letting GO and Letting GOD (where the “D” refers to Discernment). We live in the present with the gift of Gratitude.

ACTIVITY: Write 10 sentences beginning with: LORD I forgive you ...

Marlyn and I went down Baguio right after the mass, choosing to have lunch on the road, leaving behind two wonderfully peaceful days in cold and rainy Baguio with the Lord. We had another meeting at 6:00 pm that day, and the Magis Deo Wellness / Sports Day the following day. We wish though, that at least one AIR in a year be held in Baguio. We miss Mirador Hill. (Talking about living in the present!)

continued on page 16

Reaching the Center

Mark & Cathy Maulit, Prodigal 102 BCGG

I t has been over 19 years since our last Ignatian retreat.

It was our first one as a couple and since then we longed to go through another one. We let opportunities offered by Magis Deo pass because of conflicting schedules but we were finally able to attend one in the last couple of days of August this year at the Mirador Jesuit Villa in Baguio City. It was facilitated by our own Fr. James Gascon, SJ, who invited us to reflect on the themes of forgiveness and healing.

It went the way we knew Ignatian retreats always go: coming together a few times for the facilitator to briefly offer some points for reflection followed by long periods of silence and solitude interrupted only by (optional) individual consultation with the facilitator, shared meals and the Eucharist. It was a vacation with the Lord true to the Ignatian rule of thumb: “Eat well, sleep well and pray a little.” We strove to be mindful of the Holy Spirit and allow it to lead us to the truth of forgiveness and healing in our relationships with others, God and ourselves.

There is a mini-labyrinth in the front yard of the villa that we both tried separately. The experience of going through it is very much like the Ignatian retreat experience itself. We entered with the intention of reaching the center (God), and as we proceeded we tried to fix our gaze on that end. At times we found ourselves drawing closer to the center; at times we strayed from it instead. This tended to be confusing but we had to acknowledge we are not the ones who created the journey towards forgiveness and healing nor are we the ones who created ourselves who journey. All we could do was trust the creator and keep going, keep responding to the creator’s initiative, God’s call. We just persevered in navigating the maze and finally reached the center. Similarly, if we persevere in prayer, God, in His own time, will meet us and reveal Himself totally to us and we will finally be whole.

Annual Ignatian Retreat - On Forgiveness, continued from page 15

*Up in Mirador Hill,
I embrace the cold of the fog and the rain,
Of anxiety, fears, difficulties and the stares,
The cost of being a disciple of one who was, is,
And forever present in this confusing world. But
As this cold is chilling, it is a respite from the
Smothering heat of the lowlands, the smog and
Noise of the city, and the rat race for survival.*

*I embrace the now faint scent of the pine trees,
Unflowering yet fragrant, with gnarled trunks,
Limbs, stretched out here and there, withered
By hurts, pain, suffering, neglect and betrayal,
Yet healed by the purity and beauty of its being.
I embrace the flowers, royal garments, wearing
The colors of the rainbow, the variety and facets
Of a diamond, which describes the beauty of life.*

*I embrace the silence of solitude up on top
Of a hill, mundane sounds fading into the*

*Background, the soft sounds of the wind,
The twitter of birds, the chirping of crickets,
Silencing my mind and my heart, opening
Them to the soft words and caress of grace.*

*I sought Him out up in the mountains and
I find Him waiting and wanting to talk,
I feel His compassionate and merciful heart
In my scarred and wounded heart. He tells me
To be kind to myself, to others and to God,
For I can never fully understand everything;
To trust Him despite mistakes, for I make them
But I am not them; to open my heart to Him
Everyday, in my words, thoughts and actions,
For He is with me even in the midst of the
Chaos of daily toil, relationships and problems;
He tells me to call out His name, and I will
Know Him in His pain, in His joy, in His love
And in His glory.*

My God, My Hope

Uriel Castillo, Archangel Gabriel BCGG

D ear Lord,
Finally confirming that I had a malignant tumor called Multiple Myeloma was of course shocking, but there was some semblance of relief at the same time considering the roller coaster ride I went through to confirm this.

I was more in shock/dumbfounded when I was first confronted with the diagnosis of “TUMOR” as the cause of months-long hip pain and limp, with my Ortho-doctor (a batch mate of Yella and Trixie), hoping for a better diagnosis – like that of a more benign “GCT” or a Giant Cell Tumor.

That afternoon, after the visit to the Ortho, I found myself slowly walking out of the Medical Arts Building of PGH with one purpose (and as advised and insisted by the Ortho) to get myself some crutches ASAP. Save for that purpose to look for crutches, I was walking aimlessly from one drug store to another along Taft Avenue. I didn’t know what to think. I was just floating. I finally got in touch with Yella and we agreed on a plan (a short one just for the rest of the afternoon): to meet her at The Medical City (TMC) for a follow-up consultation with the Ortho again and schedule a CT-Scan-guided tumor biopsy.

I was subsequently confined at TMC for the procedure. Unfortunately, the initial reading immediately showed that it was malignant and NOT what everybody desperately hoped for. A complete bone scan was immediately scheduled and I stayed another day at TMC.

The bone scan required that I be administered this radioactive dye that made me feel soooo SICK (this was the worst feeling I ever felt in my entire life (may scary warning pa – to stay away preggies), and then more tests, more consults, another biopsy – this time of the bone marrow. Finally, it was confirmed that I have Multiple Myeloma.

Even before the confirmation, that first night at TMC, I told Yella that “NOTHING CHANGES,” really. We will all die for one reason or another. My Multiple Myeloma just made the reason a little more specific.

I was actually just being courageous before my loving wife. I didn’t want her to feel sorry for me. I didn’t want her to get angry at the situation, my situation. I didn’t want her to get angry with our Lord.

Of course, I soon realized that this is how it should be. We accept the cards dealt us, and we play the hand. We do not fold. We surrender and accept cards we hold but continue to play – live life like we’ve never lived before, and look forward (be hopeful) where and what the Lord may lead us to next.

Slowly, my Multiple Myeloma, instead of a penalty of sorts, is looking more like a blessing, even a gift – one that provides new opportunities and opens my eyes (and even Yella’s) to different and brighter perspectives. Now, everyday when I awake I celebrate for I am alive. It is a bonus, a gift.

My attending this retreat is an affirmation of that earlier courageous leap of surrender and acceptance.

The doctors have said that my cancer is not curable but it may be treated. My Treatment or Protocol consists of the 1st part, which is 6-Cycle Three-Meds (2-week per cycle on Mondays and Fridays with a 3rd week rest) chemotherapy and a 2nd part, which is a bone marrow transplant where I may choose from my own bone marrow or a family member as donor. The former has an almost 100% sure of acceptance but probably same high level of recurrence. In the latter option, there lies a 30% chance of cure (not just treatment), though an uncertain chance of acceptance (or rejection).

My hope does not come from the medical protocol laid out by my doctors. As they’ve said, they can only treat me. There is no sure cure, only a 30% chance. I am not giving up just yet. I will of course have my treatment but my hope comes not from this but from the Lord. This is the hope that good things will or may still come my way from today until the day I am called. Despite my Multiple Myeloma, there remains hope, and that, accompanied by Yella’s unwavering smile, unwavering love, gives me strength, to wake up to and face a new morning, a new day. Thank you!

Spirit of cold AIR in Baguio

Cecile Gacias, Matthew BCGG
(Photos by Elaine Serranilla, Matthew BCGG)

I’ve been begging Jun for an out-of-town breather from our hectic schedules.

Then it came... “Jun, may AIR on Aug 30-31 in Baguio! Can we go? Our calendars are free!” To my surprise, Jun immediately said yes and that’s how our first ever AIR experience started. What better way to go on a vacay but the Ignatian way.

I got excited when I learned that the topic for the Annual Ignatian Retreat (or AIR) is “Forgiveness.” This would be a breeze! I’m at the point in my life where everything is well – no forgiveness that I need to give nor do I have to ask for.

As we arrived late, our spiritual director Fr. James Gascon gave us a special orientation during which we asked “Father, may mumu ba dito?” To him it was banter, but we were serious. It was a relief when he said “Well, in my entire stay here wala pa akong nakikita.” This set the tone for the entire retreat for us – light-hearted, relaxing, surprising. Jun became even more delighted when Fr. James said, “Eat well, sleep well, pray a little.” I got a little nervous, “mukhang se-seryosohin ni Jun yung guideline.”

Our retreat haven was very charming – the newly renovated Mirador Jesuit Villas atop Mirador Hills. We were luckily assigned a corner room with a great vista of pine trees and nature and at times, a peek of Baguio house rooftops. Our meeting room which was just at the end of the hallway boasted of beautifully crafted wooden furniture ... tables and chairs that we wanted to take home!

Food was great, especially the fresh veggies! Since it was our first AIR, we were pleasantly surprised how loose the schedule was - 30 minutes of session per half day and the rest was up to us how we spent it. After the first session, I had a grand time scouring the lovely and serene place for “the bench.” It’s usually on a bench overlooking nature where I go for my colloquies with Jesus. Some trudged on at the lovely labyrinth



fronting the villas. But I was adamant to find my bench which I found after an hour or so. Unfortunately I was able to use it only once as it rained during the rest of our stay. Not that I minded as there’s something comforting and relaxing that comes with rains. It has a silencing effect on the soul – perfect for reflection and meditation!

I had very little expectations going to the retreat which in hindsight was a blessing. It encouraged openness in me for the graces I was about to receive. The forgiveness I thought I didn’t need was apparently something I’ve stowed way deep in my back burner. Fears surfaced - of relationships I avoided, dismissed and stubbornly refused to confront, the wounded relationships that needed forgiveness to heal. “Something” also impelled me to sign up for a spiritual direction session with Fr. James. Another first for me. It was a very enlightening experience that helped me gain clarity of the awareness and realizations that caught me off-guard during my prayers.



The retreat gave me opportunities to bring up into my dialogues with Jesus my refusal to confront embarrassing feelings of misplaced jealousy, fear, guilt and anger. It was a lot more difficult to comfort and forgive myself in those conversations and I found myself resisting. But there was peace in our last session on forgiving God as I begin to unleash my resentments and negativity during the dark moments of my life and to focus on the UPs after the DOWNS.

On the morning after our final session, the rain stopped for a while and I grabbed the chance to visit “the bench” one last time. After the visit, I found myself moving to the side, making way for someone else to walk beside me. Jesus walked me back to the villa. It was the most tangible encounter with Him I’ve ever had. I felt profound love, happiness and peace – not that for a lover, not of a daughter for her father nor a sister, but something so much more. I will not even attempt to describe it. Memorable were His parting words to me as I entered the villa “Cecile, remember, I’m in the peace and calm.” This is enough reminder to seek Him in those moments as I journey in my 5th week.



Auguries of Aging

Teresita “Tita K” O. Kosca
Mother of Terry Lim of Easter BCGG

I lived in a small neighborhood where everybody knew each other – or at least on the level of nodding acquaintances. Many of our members were elderly, with ash gray hair, walking either beside a caregiver or walking with a cane. Very seldom would we see an elderly walking alone.

Our nearest neighbor was a ninety-year-old lady whom we called Mrs. Bettina. She lived alone in her small but completely furnished house. Her children were busy with their jobs and raising their own children so they didn’t have enough time to see her often except a hello-and-goodbye visit every now and then. One afternoon she was seated in her veranda in her rocking chair, crying softly. The four-year old little boy neighbor saw her. For a while he watched her with curiosity. Then he ran toward her and sat on her lap, crying, too. “Grandma,” he asked, “why are you crying?” “I miss my children and my grandchildren. I haven’t seen them for a long time. I just console myself with the thought that when God gave them to me I should not tie them down but let them go.” The little boy realized that loneliness and fear of being alone are two sad burdens of growing old. At an early age he could empathize. He ran back to his house, got two freshly baked muffins, and gave one to Mrs. Bettina. They ate together. Both of them were telling stories and laughing with gusto. It only takes a muffin to make someone happy. One had empathy and the other one had the humility to accept help.

Lynda was seventy-two. She lost her husband when she was forty and lived with her pain since then. Her unmarried sister, who was also on the way to the seventies, lived with her. Many times the neighbors would hear them shouting at each other over trivial things. Lynda would shout, “Where are my glasses again? There are only two of us but things just keep getting lost.” The sister could read the undertone but coolly, she would say, “Why don’t you look for it on your head? It’s there.” But it was obvious she was keeping herself from blowing her top. Living with an elderly is not easy.

There are two anecdotes I read many years ago but it had such an impact that I can still recall and share the story. There was this family of four: father, mother, son and grandpa. Mealtimes were fun as they shared each other’s experiences during the day.

Soon they noticed that grandpa’s mobility was becoming erratic. He began to drool and started dropping the dinnerware and the food from the table. The following day, he found his



grandpa seated on a small table alone with a wooden bowl. He ate quietly and his face showed the pain that was inside.

The next day, the father found a similar wooden bowl on his place at the table. He didn’t find it funny so he asked in an irritated tone. “What’s this thing doing here?” The boy replied, “Dad, someday you’ll be eating like grandpa and we don’t want you to sit alone without us. I hope you don’t mind.” The father’s face turned red with embarrassment.

There was this elderly couple who lived together their whole life and took it for granted they knew each other very well. One night before going to bed, the husband felt the urge to hold his wife so he started making his fingers crawl towards her breasts. Lovingly, the wife said, “Sorry, darling, they’re not up there anymore.” They found each other laughing and realized that aging changes from sexuality to spirituality.

There was this seventy nine sports enthusiast who would give anything just to play golf on certain days of the week. Unlike other golfers, he has a wife who meticulously reviewed and prepared everything he needed from the tip of his hair (which was receding anyway) to the color of his socks: cellular phone, hearing aid, denture, etc. And he said nary a word of dissent. Once, when it was time for him to tee-off, he was calling and angrily shouting at his caddie to give him his driver. With a polite snicker, the caddie replied, “But Sir, you’re holding on to it.” He and his fellow golfers had a big laugh as he sheepishly admitted he thought what he was holding was his golf umbrella.

*You have taught me ever since I was young
And I still tell of your wonderful acts.
Now that I am old and my hair is gray,
Do not abandon me, O God!
Be with me while I proclaim
Your might to all generations to come
Psalm 71:17-18*

SUYUAN at DATEM, a Sunday of many miracles

Levy and Roxanne Espiritu, Transfiguration BCGG

The Transfiguration BCGG sponsored a Suyuan for 15 couples comprised of DateM’s tenured construction leadmen and foremen.

It was a Sunday of many little miracles, starting with a blessing of good weather and the early arrival of BCGG members led by a Balik-Magis couple.

The venue was ready with a make-shift altar to set the mood of spirituality for the day’s activity.

We started off the Suyuan by taking couple pictures of the participants. We noted that most of them were not comfortable being taken together. Later in the day, we understood why.

For most of them, the suyuan was the first seminar they had with their spouses.

The first session of introducing each other immediately kicked off with interesting openness, specially from the wives.

Suyuan always seems to have a way of striking a sensitive chord among the participants and what was nice was, the participants usually do not mince words when expressing their thoughts and feelings. The sharings given by the couples were downright candid, raw and genuinely honest.

After each session, you will notice that they seemed to have rediscovered each other and rekindled their love for one another. Slowly through the day, we cannot help but notice and get inspired by the apparent change in their emotional state. When taking another couple picture shortly after the last session, it was apparent that this time, they are more affectionate towards each other.

Truly, we can never underestimate the work of the Holy Spirit when the goal of an activity like a Suyuan is to put God in the center of their marriage and family life.

Blessings abound not only for the participants but for us auxiliaries as well.

At the end of the day, we all went home with gladdened hearts and grace-filled souls knowing we have served our God and our community.

Reflection from Jay-R and Leila Leccio:

God calls us to serve Him by reaching out to our brothers and sisters particularly married couples outside our Magis

Deo Community. With God’s Divine intervention, everything took place perfectly for everyone. His Divine Providence was relished from the venue, food, activities and sharing, through the generosity of His faithful servants who unselfishly shared their time, treasure and talent. Couple participants were so grateful they were given the chance to encounter God, inspiring them to express themselves to their spouse both the joys and pains in their marriage. Everyone experienced God’s great love and the blessings of having their spouse and children. Every member of our BCGG, as well as the two team couples were full of gratitude to the Lord for giving us the perfect opportunity to serve Him. That in all things, God may be glorified!

Reflection from Eugene and Ethel Araullo:

This is one special activity that we find very meaningful and inspiring as members of the Magis Deo Community. Suyuan for us is a way by which we are able to put to action the fruits of our spiritual nourishment through our weekly prayers and reflections in the BCGG meetings. It is where spiritual deepening comes alive. We’re very grateful we had this opportunity through our Transfiguration BCGG and assist in our simple ways. Coming here on a Sunday is not very easy for most of us. I never thought we would be able to complete it and spend our whole day with them. But the Holy Spirit moved us. We got inspired seeing how enthusiastic and excited everyone is and we were overwhelmed seeing the happiness in the eyes of our participant couples. Our hearts were touched... at the end of the day, as they wiped off those tears and we heard their reflections, we felt God was really there. Happy to hear from them that through this activity they were able to rediscover each other and become more aware that the Lord is in their midst. Looking back, I got to reflect on our own experiences and realizations when we first attended the ME. Our thanks to our facilitators – Randy & Cecil Rivera and Chacho & Marlyn Angeles. These 2 couples were amazing. They were truly God-sent.

It was a day well-spent being able to serve and offer the day for them and most especially experiencing the Lord through them. Again and again as we journey through our 12th year with our Transfiguration family and Magis Deo, we thank the Lord for His constant abundant blessings!

SUYUAN at DATEM

September 22, 2019

Suyuan Couples: Randy & Cecil Rivera and Chacho & Marlyn Angeles

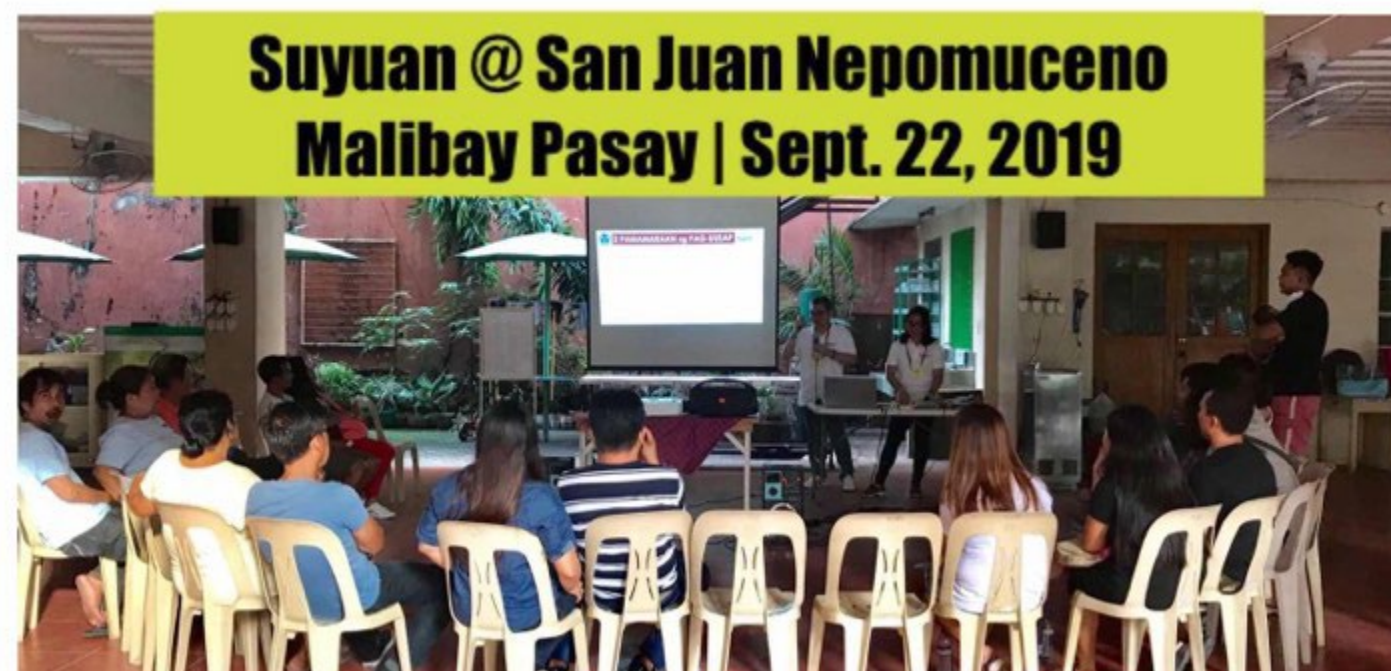


Transfiguration BCGG Jay-R Leccio, Eugene & Ethel Araullo, Dodo & Jon Sta. Maria, Mon & Ting Yupangco, Manolet & Suni Rodriguez and Levy & Roxanne Espiritu





Magis Deo Orientation & Prayer Workshop
 Date and Time : 08 September 2019 (2:00 pm – 6:00 pm)
 Facilitators : Ted & Susan Concepcion
 Venue : Home of Rafo & Cynthia Rodriguez



Suyuan @ San Juan Nepomuceno Malibay Pasay | Sept. 22, 2019



Noel & Neri Gascon



BCGG EXODUS & MAGNIFICAT



MAGIS DEO YOUTH MINISTRY

PRESENTS

YOUTH OUTREACH 2019

DATE:
OCTOBER 27, 2019 (SUNDAY)

TIME:
9:30 AM TO 12 NN

PLACE:
HAVEN FOR CHILDREN,
ALABANG-ZAPOTE RD,
MUNTINLUPA CITY

HAVEN FOR CHILDREN IS A
NATIONAL CENTER FOR
STREET CHILDREN (AGES 7-13
YEARS OLD) MANAGED BY
THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL
WELFARE AND
DEVELOPMENT (DSWD)

WHAT TO EXPECT?
-A MURAL PAINTING
ACTIVITY
-PARLOR GAMES
-GIFT-GIVING
-LUNCH
*ALL ACTIVITIES WILL BE
DONE TOGETHER WITH
SOME CHILDREN-
RESIDENTS OF THE CENTER

WHO CAN VOLUNTEER?
MAGIS DEO YOUTH
MEMBER & NON-MAGIS DEO
YOUTH AGES 7 YEARS OLD
AND ABOVE

IMPORTANT NOTE:
PARENTS ARE REQUESTED
TO BRING THEIR KIDS TO
AND FROM THE VENUE.

FOR PARENTS WHO WOULD
LIKE TO JOIN THEIR KIDS
FOR LUNCH (TOGETHER
WITH THE KIDS FROM THE
SHELTER).
PLEASE PAY A PHP 200
PARTICIPATION FEE AS
WELL.

PARTICIPATION FEE:
PHP 200 PER
CHILD/PARENT/GUARDIAN
(INCLUSIVE OF A PACKED
LUNCH)

PLEASE DEPOSIT FEE TO:
MAGIS DEO INC
METROBANK S/A
093-3-09351539-1
OR
PSBANK S/A
089-332-00060-4
ON/BEFORE OCTOBER 21, 2019

**TO CONFIRM YOUR
REGISTRATION,**
PLEASE SEND YOUR FULL NAME,
CONTACT INFORMATION
(CELLPHONE NUMBER AND
E-MAIL ADDRESS) AND A COPY
OF YOUR DEPOSIT SLIP VIA
VIBER TO
CATHY +639453746761
JOAN +639998894986

OR VIA E-MAIL ADDRESS TO:
2009MAGISYOUTH@GMAIL.COM
SECRETARIAT@MAGISDEO.ORG



HEADS UP!

WE SHALL SEND YOU A
VOLUNTEER'S ORIENTATION AND
A CHILD PROTECTION POLICY
DOCUMENT ONCE WE HAVE
CONFIRMED THAT YOU HAVE
REGISTERED.

WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO
SEE YOU AND YOUR FAMILY AT
THIS YEAR'S OUTREACH ACTIVITY.
THANK YOU!



MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Your LIFE GOALS:

- 1 - Travel the World
- 2 - High Flying Career
- 3 - High Achiever Kids
- 4- Super Dad/Mom
- 5 - Dream Home



Is "Great Marriage" part of your list?

DON'T FORGET THAT YOUR MARRIED LIFE AND FAMILY BEGAN WHEN YOU SAID I DO TO YOUR SPOUSE. MAKE SURE TO KEEP TRUE TO YOUR VOWS AND TACKLE THE JOURNEY OF LIFE TOGETHER WITH THE PERSON THAT MATTERS MOST.

ATTEND THE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND THIS NOVEMBER 22-24, 2019, TO BE FACILITATED BY FR. JAMES GASCON, S.J.

Marriage Encounter Weekend
November 22-24, 2019 (from Friday 5pm to Sunday)
BLD Covenant House, Dasmariñas, Cavite
Fee: P4,500 per couple



Contact Pinky Rosas at:
0917 563 7784
0918 941 1657
pinky.rosas@gmail.com

<https://www.facebook.com/MarriageEncounterWeekendPH>



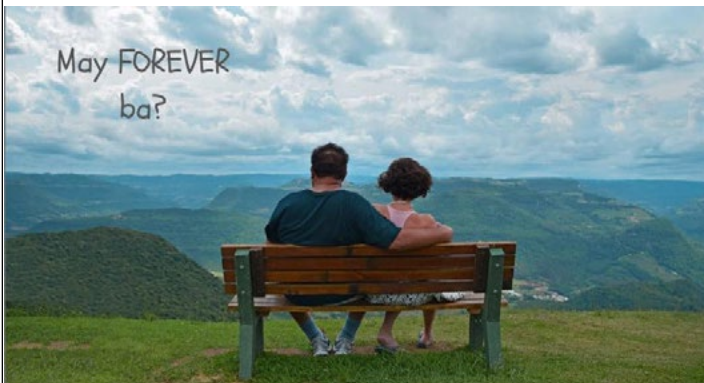
REDISCOVER THE MEANING OF WHY YOU DECIDED TO BE A COUPLE, AND HOW YOU CAN LEAD YOUR MARRIED LIFE WITH LOVE AND WITH GOD.

Marriage Encounter Weekend
November 22-24, 2019 (from Friday 5pm to Sunday)
BLD Covenant House, Dasmariñas, Cavite
Fee: P4,500 per couple



Contact Pinky Rosas at:
0917 563 7784
0918 941 1657
pinky.rosas@gmail.com

<https://www.facebook.com/MarriageEncounterWeekendPH>



A happy marriage doesn't just happen. It takes work and commitment. Learn the techniques and tools to build and sustain a marital relationship filled with love, trust and open communication.

Invest in your marriage. Attend the Marriage Encounter Weekend this November 22-24, to be facilitated by Fr. James Gascon.

Marriage Encounter Weekend
November 22-24, 2019 (from Friday 5pm to Sunday)
BLD Covenant House, Dasmariñas, Cavite
Fee: P4,500 per couple



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pinky.rosas@gmail.com

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Do you remember your Discovery Weekend - before you got married? Why not take another weekend, this time building on your marriage so far - the joys, the pains, the hopes and the unspoken needs and concerns. The Marriage Encounter Weekend is the next step to take, bringing you tools and insights that will elevate your relationship to a higher level. Isn't that the best vacation to take together?

Marriage Encounter Weekend (with Fr. James Gascon, S.J.)
November 22-24, 2019 (from Friday 5pm to Sunday)
BLD Covenant House, Dasmariñas, Cavite
Fee: P4,500 per couple



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