



PARISH BULLETIN

We Care Because We Pray
Sixteenth Week of Ordinary Time
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July 23 2017



"Forming BECs as agents of communion, participation and mission"

Forbes Park, Makati

THE ABC'S OF CATHOLIC DOCTRINE

A GESTURE OF LOVE, A LOOK OF LOVE

By Lianne Tiu

Pope Francis, who was then Fr. Bergoglio, once had a conversation with a man named Alfonso. He asked, "Do you give to the poor?"

The man answered, "Yes." Fr. Bergoglio continued, "When you give money to the poor, do you touch the hand of the person or do you let the money drop from a height?"

"No, it is not right to say that I drop the money from the height," Alfonso explained, "but well, no, I don't touch their hands. I strive to avoid doing so."

The priest continued, "And do you look at them in the face?"

"No," was the reply. Fr Bergoglio had nothing else to say and Alfonso understood. He was a good person who wanted to help; but the absence of touch and sight conveyed a powerful message - a certain lack of care.

Pope Francis, in his recent visit to the Archdiocese of Genoa, said that love means having the ability to hold a dirty hand and the ability to look in the eyes of those who are

in a situation of degradation (the poor, the homeless, the prisoners, the drug users), and say: "For me, you are Jesus." Why must we love these people? In every one of them, who for various reasons were mistreated and trampled, there is an image of God. We cannot ignore their pain and sufferings. This is the folly of Faith. This means that we learn to look with Jesus' eyes, as He looks at these people. Jesus also tells us that He is these people; in fact, He is in every one of us.

St. Mother Teresa said that unless our good deeds are interwoven with love (for neighbors and for God) it is not of much use. God does not need our works. He sees only our love.

A gesture of love, a look of love ... the whole purpose of our lives is to love. And the Saint of Calcutta reminds us, "God has created us for great things: to love and offer love."

(Reference: "Little Flowers of Pope Francis" by Rosario Carello; Pastoral Visit of the Holy Father to the Archdiocese of Genoa - May 27, 2017; "Mother Teresa's Lessons of Love & Secrets of Sanctity" by Susan Conroy)

SSAP Cares for Marawi

Help rebuild and restore lives in Marawi!

Please send in your CASH donations directly to the Parish Office.



Medical Missions



Evacuation Centers



Soup Kitchens & Feeding Programs



Distribution of Hygiene Kits



Rehabilitation of Marawi



(No other individuals or entities have been authorized to solicit/receive donations on behalf of SSAP.)

CARE FOR EACH OTHER: EVERY SISTER AND BROTHER IS A GIFT

LETTER OF APPEAL

The month-long firefight between the government security forces and the ISIS-inspired Maute group in Marawi City has triggered a humanitarian crisis and has left over 200,000 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). Most of them evacuated to Iligan City and to some neighboring towns in the provinces of Lanao del Sur and Lanao del Norte which includes Saguiaran, Pantar and Balo-i.

Few days after the massive exodus of the residents from Marawi City, we, the Franciscans in Balo-i, Lanao del Norte, through the help and support of the other members of the Franciscan family, immediately responded to their needs. From May 28 to June 14, 2017, a series of relief operations were conducted in several evacuation sites in the towns of Balo-i and Saguiaran. The beneficiaries also included home-based evacuees who are hardly reached by the assistance from the government. In collaboration with the Franciscan Healthcare Crossing Borders, Inc., several medical missions were also conducted in the towns of Saguiaran, Pantar and Balo-i. Hygiene and household kits were also given to the evacuees through the help of the Catholic Relief Services (CRS). From June 15 up to the present, we have been conducting feeding programs and have put up soup kitchens for the evacuees in Balo-i. Relief operations and distribution of hygiene kits, especially for home-based evacuees in the interior barangays, are also on-going. There will be another round of medical missions this coming July 26 to 31, 2017.

As of July 7, 2017, we were able to serve a total of 2,874 families in our relief operations, 1,648 patients in our medical missions and 147 families in our feeding and soup kitchen service. We hope to continue and extend these services in the coming days and help as many evacuees as possible. Furthermore, we are already planning how we can be of help in the greater task of rehabilitation and assisting these evacuees in rebuilding their disrupted lives once the war in Marawi ends. In this regard, we continue to ask for financial help and support from anyone who is willing to share in this mission. We also would like to humbly ask for your prayers. Thank you very much and God bless!

Gratefully yours,

(SGD) FR. REU JOSE C. GALOY, OFM
SSAP Parish Priest

(SGD) BR. ELTON L. VIAGEDOR, OFM
Mission Coordinator
San Pedro Bautista Province
Custody of St. Anthony of Padua

NOTE: Please make check donation to SSAP Restricted and send directly to the Parish Office. No other individuals or entities have been authorized to solicit/receive donations on behalf of SSAP.



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SHE (HE) AIN'T HEAVY!

by Letty Jacinto-Lopez

Her blood type is A while I'm the universal O. There is nothing in our ancestry, genetics or family tree to tie us as kindred, but like sisters and brothers are we. In times of need, we count on each other. Send up smoke signals and one is sure to answer the distress call. What compels us to sit up and run to the rescue of one another? The call to serve.

The most common tale of woe is traffic. Sheryl was caught in Balintawak, the same time Rene was delayed in EDSA, aggravated by a flash flood and a pool of outraged motorists. Rachel couldn't get a ride while Eleonore was delayed by road works. That's when the cell connection literally beeps off the wall.

In times, when waiting for the proverbial rainstorm to pass, they've become my rosary chain of prayer warriors who have calmed fears and lifted the spirit to catch the colors of the rainbow. It was like dancing and singing past the rain.

Recently, I pushed the panic button. "Edmuuund! The Gospel Book is in a thick, intricately engraved metal cover that weighs a ton. I'm afraid I might stumble and break my back that is already in an assault-and-destroy mode. Will you carry the book for me?"

Edmund gave me that I'm-processing-the-data-in-my-brain pause but quickly snapped out of it, "Of course! However, to save time, will you go to the front pew and recite the Chaplet with Suzette?"

That was fair exchange. Edmund walked tall holding the Gospel Book. When he joined me at the Server's corner, he muttered, "Ang bigat!"

Thank you, Bro!

St. Paul said, "If the spirit of Christ dwells in you, you will live." We see Jesus in our Brother Lectors and Sister "Comms". The spirit of Christ lives.



CARE FOR EACH OTHER: EVERY SISTER AND BROTHER IS A GIFT

CARE IN THE PPC:

TRANSFORMING MINISTRIES & ORGANIZATIONS

by Suzette Gatmaitan



We started our term as the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) with high expectations from parishioners and the pastoral team. Hence, it was imperative for the PPC officers to get their act together and deliver to the congregation their envisioned Church: a place where parishioners can pray and practice the ways of their Faith in peace and tranquility while growing in maturity of love for God and neighbor.

Our next task then was to create synergies among the different ministries and organizations within the PPC. But how do you do this when you have more than 40 ministries and organizations with each one having its own function and goals? The answer did not come right away. Confusion and struggles were encountered along the way, but in the end, our resolute

hearts found the key – genuine care for others: to give each ministry and organization the appropriate attention it needed, to fortify their physical and moral strength to take away needless anxieties, to persuade them to go the extra mile in the achievement of their goals, and to cherish their hard work and drive them to inspire others.

It has been a very challenging journey. As we approach the end, we can only say one thing: the hard work we put into it was all worth it! Today, the different ministries and organizations find themselves intertwined in the performance of duties, functions and goals. For instance, the celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the Apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary started as a Marian Cenacle activity but is now a parish event with most ministries and

organizations taking part. SSAP Cares for Marawi started as a Relief & Rehab project under the Social Services Ministry but is now a parish activity as the Worship Ministry incorporates petitions in all the Masses. Various talks and seminars are now organized by the collaboration of 4-5 ministries and organizations. And the response of the parishioners is marked with an increase in attendance. It is truly heartwarming.

“Caring for others” has triggered the members of our ministries and organizations to have a profound insight as to the real purpose of service to the Lord. This transformation, in turn, has allowed the PPC to deliver its envisioned goal to everyone. Let us care for others, bearing in mind that every sister and brother is a gift from God!

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS



CWL: A LEAGUE OF SISTERS

by Marie Tycango

Rose Galvez is the head of the Catholic Women's League (CWL). She has been a member since 2010. The past 7 years with the community has brought her genuine joy, love and care for the people she works with and has intensified her relationship with God through action and prayer.

The CWL-SSAP Chapter celebrated its 50th (Golden) Jubilee last year. Through the years, the passion to share its core values of charity, work and loyalty in whatever way possible continues to grow. Each member quietly serves and gives back to their community, their 'sisters' in the league and most especially, to their beloved Parish. As Rose puts it, "Being in CWL makes me feel that I have a strong support group in my sisters as we all joyfully serve God, the community and our Parish."

She describes CWL as a sisterhood of Faith in action, where women of different age groups work together to serve the Parish and the community in a spirit of love, understanding and compassion. It is a group of diverse personalities who unite to share their time, talent and resources to support the Church, teach Christian values to the youth and the poor and safeguard the sanctity of marriage and the family. The younger members look up to the elders, who generously pass on their wisdom and knowledge, thereby empowering these new members to continue the tradition of dedicated service. The younger members on the other hand, bring about a spirit of dynamism and enthusiasm. For Rose, CWL is not just a community, it is a support group that goes beyond church activities, a real sisterhood that provides much warmth, love and comfort.

As quiet servants of the Lord, it may not be known to many that CWL has been actively working hand-in-hand with the Parish and caring for the community and its members. They hold medical clinics twice a month, where they not only provide merienda, free consultations and medicines, but also conduct Bible Study classes for the medical patients. They give Spiritual, Moral and Values Formation classes to CWL high school and college scholars every month. They have a 'sunshine group' who visits sick CWL members. They spearhead the palm sales in the parish and the

neighboring villages during Holy Week, wherein all proceeds are given for the education of our Franciscan seminarians from Our Lady of Angels Seminary (OLAS). They organize an annual medical mission serving 800-1000 patients, through the help of the SSAP Parish, the generosity of civic-minded doctors and supportive donors. During the Fiesta activities, CWL also offers Libreng Binyag, Libreng Kumpil and Libreng Kasal. For 4 Saturdays prior to these events, they conduct seminars to help prepare the heart of the candidates. They also organize the logistics for the 9-day Libreng Almusul during the Feast of St. Anthony.

With so much going on, CWL members embrace the various opportunities to serve with much joy and enthusiasm. No doubt, genuine care and love within CWL is truly alive.



PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALENDAR OF MINISTRIES FOR THE WEEK

SUNDAY, JULY 23

8:00AM - Thrift Shop
4:00PM - CORO Practice

MONDAY, JULY 24

8:00AM - Thrift Shop
8:00AM - Livelihood Assistance Program at St. Francis Friendship Home
1:00PM - OFS Formation

TUESDAY, JULY 25

8:00AM - Thrift Shop
8:00AM - Livelihood Assistance Program at St. Francis Friendship Home
9:00AM - CWL FREE Breakfast and Clinic
9:00AM - JPIC Hospital Ministry PGH Visitation
2:00PM - Health Care Ministry Dancercise "Open to all Parishioners"
4:00PM - Marian Cenacle

WEDNESDAY, JULY 26

8:00AM - Thrift Shop
8:00AM - Livelihood Assistance Program at St. Francis Friendship Home

THURSDAY, JULY 27

8:00AM - Thrift Shop
8:00AM - Livelihood Assistance Program at St. Francis Friendship Home
9:00AM - Health Care Ministry Visitation at Rizal Medical Center, Pasig City
2:00PM - Health Care Ministry Dancercise "Open to All Parishioners"

FRIDAY, JULY 28

8:00AM - Thrift Shop
8:00AM - Livelihood Assistance Program at St. Francis Friendship Home
11:00AM- Adoration Chapel Monthly Mass
2:00PM - SSAP and other Franciscan Communities employees monthly formation
7:00PM - Household Help Charismatic Prayer Meeting
9:00PM - Tig-Awit Choir Practice

SATURDAY, JULY 29

8:00AM - Thrift Shop
4:00PM - VOSA Choir
4:00PM - Luke 18 Prayer Meeting

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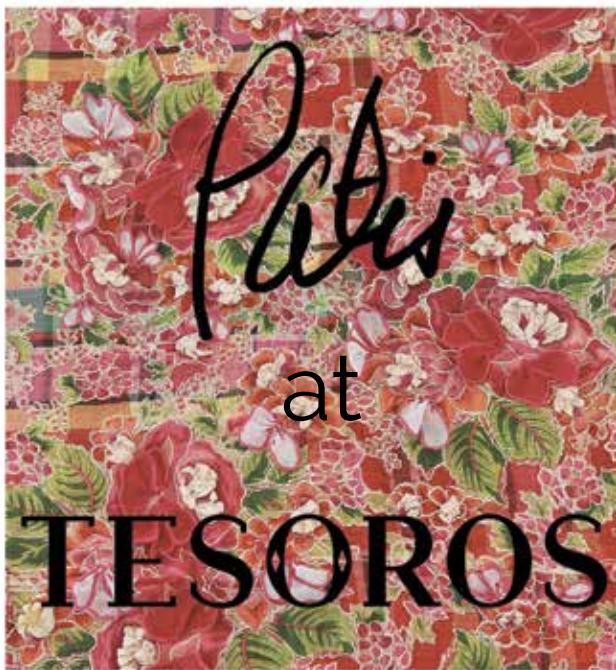
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I have found the paradox
that if I love until it hurts,
then there is no more
hurt, but only more love.

-Mother Teresa



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