



# PARISH BULLETIN

We Care Because We Pray  
Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
July 8, 2018



## Integrity: For Whom Do I Do This?

By Kat Gomez

I presently happen to work both as a physician and a writer. In the few years I have been practicing, I have time and again encountered the temptation to omit seemingly 'small' details or to cut corners -- all for the sake of avoiding a reprimand from my mentors and superiors. Sometimes this even comes with the added burden of 'pakikisama', to save one's team from a scathing dressing down or bad mark. For some practitioners, the need to preserve one's reputation can override the call for truth and excellence in the workplace.

It becomes easy to give in to this temptation during difficult times, or when faced with particularly critical bosses. Giving in is all too easy: a little omission on a report, a delay in relaying news, or simply everyone agreeing to keep silent. To resist is difficult, and may sometimes lead to conflict. Oftentimes I have to remind my colleagues and co-workers of our need to strive for excellence, and the importance of learning from one's training. Yet more importantly during these times, I ask myself: "For whom am I doing this?"

Am I healing and writing to earn people's esteem, or to please God? Am I simply getting the work



done, or am I fulfilling His plan? Without these questions, my work can become a meaningless or utilitarian series of tasks and achievements, eventually becoming removed from its very human and humane foundations. Being mindful of the reason for working helps me strive not only for integrity, but also for excellence, compassion, and hope where they are most needed in the world today.

# St. Thomas More: God's Servant, First and Foremost

By Pisha Banaag



St. Thomas More is the patron saint of statesmen and politicians. Born in London in 1478, More was the son of a successful lawyer and judge. He was educated in London's finest schools, and he eventually became a very prominent lawyer and public servant.

More was a highly devout Catholic who once seriously thought of leaving his legal career to become a monk. When he lived near the Carthusian monastery outside the walls of London, he often joined the monks' spiritual exercises. However, despite admiring their piety, he ultimately decided to stay a layman and nurture his political career.

More gained a good public reputation as an honest and capable public servant. He rose from the ranks and was given posts of increasing responsibility due to King Henry VIII's increased trust in him and favor towards him. Eventually, More became Lord

Chancellor, or the overall head of the courts, in 1529.

During this time, More prosecuted those accused of heresy and tirelessly defended the Catholic Faith. However, More would eventually strain his good relationship with Henry VIII when More refused to sign a letter to the Pope requesting an annulment of the king from his wife Catherine (so he could marry Ann Boleyn). Thereafter, Henry VIII purged many of the clergy who supported the Pope. Eventually, More chose to resign from his post, given his disapproval of Henry VIII's recent disregard of the laws of the Church. He also refused to attend Anne Boleyn's subsequent coronation, and the king did not take to this action very kindly.

What struck the final blow would be More's refusal to swear to the king's Act of Succession and the Oath of Supremacy, which acknowledged the king as the head of the Church of England, and which More felt would disregard the power of the pope. More was eventually convicted of treason and was beheaded in 1535. His final words were: "The king's good servant, but God's first."

While some of his actions may seem extreme in today's society (though can be viewed as reflective of the religious situation at that time), More is an excellent model of a strong moral compass. This is admirable considering that his profession is one wherein someone is often placed in compromising situations. Nowadays, we often find ourselves at war with ourselves

when considering doing what is needed for work and what is right, given our faith. We often justify some actions -- done in the exercise of our profession -- as a necessary evil, in order to survive.

St. Thomas More is a reminder to us, that as Catholics, we have to continuously challenge ourselves to find how we can elevate the practice of our faith in an environment that may seemingly value success over the responsibility to do what is right. Because we are, first and foremost, God's servants above everything else.

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# A Tribute To Susan

By Carina Lebron

We, the SSAP parishioners, lovingly remember the late JESUSA "SUSAN" PUYAT CONCEPCION (January 9, 1942 - June 24, 2018) as a devoted Catholic and dedicated officer of the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC), from its inception until her untimely demise. It was under her leadership that many projects and programs were initiated, sustained, and underwent evolution through the years. Most visibly appreciated is the construction of the Parish Center, courageously started with fund limitations. She volunteered the services of companies, which she managed. In record time, it was finished and became the center both of important parish events and of community and social services. Record numbers of volunteers were trained there by NAMFREL (National Movement for Free Elections) for several national and local elections because the spacious rooms and halls afforded them.

Activities -- that were vital to the sustenance of commitment to services in church -- started to be held in the center. To this date, these services continue. Communities outside the parish have had comfortable facilities to make the training more meaningful and inspiring.

Even children, teenagers, young adults and professionals, household service workers, and senior citizens are thoughtfully included. The Parish Center has given them a "home" for their growth and continuing education. "Graduates" of these programs have gone back to their parishes to realize the inspirations from training and continue the work.

In addition to the Parish Center, Susan also took charge of many construction projects vital to the operation of various services in the Parish. Among them was the re-design of several parking areas to serve more efficiently churchgoers and visitors. She also spearheaded the construction of the SSAP mortuary and crypt.

We can go on and on, but Susan served quietly and preferred not to be noticed and lauded.



Understandably, all was for the service of the Lord, as she had successfully put together her management and professional insights in the organization of parish projects.

More importantly, and surely closest to her heart, were her roles as wife to her late husband, Rene, and mother to her children, and doting grandmother to her grandchildren. She also remained close to her brothers, sisters and in-laws.

Susan is fondly remembered for being a loyal and caring friend. She took time from her demanding work schedule to visit and cheer up her sick friends.

We miss you, Susan. We love you. We shall forever include you in our prayers for eternal life in the Lord.

# Data Privacy Act of 2012: How it Affects You and Me

By Dondi Mapa

I don't really care about data privacy. I have nothing to hide... so why should I worry?

Perhaps it's time to start worrying... a search on the CIAs (Confidentiality, Integrity, Availability) of personal data might bring up the following stories:

- a senior citizen applies for Philhealth benefits only to find out that someone else had already used his benefits,
- a pensioner applies for Social Security benefits only to be told that his payment records could no longer be found,
- a teenager applies for his first credit card only to find out that he had already been blacklisted for a bad payment record,
- a visa application is denied because passport details have been found in a cyber terrorist database, or
- a patient checks-in to the hospital with a migraine, only to be subjected to an unnecessary five-hour brain surgery in a case of mixed identity!

And that's probably why the Economist magazine, in its May 2017 cover story, concluded that "**data is the world's most valuable resource**". After all, data can be used by scientists to tackle society's biggest problems, but data could also be used by software algorithms to manipulate your behavior when you are at your most vulnerable, or by cybercriminals who are up to no good!

**If our data really is so valuable, then we should protect our data and stand up for our data privacy rights, right?**

Unfortunately, sometimes the Adam and Eve story gets in the way. God asks Adam, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" And from this story, the lesson we have subconsciously imbibed is, "I've done nothing wrong – therefore, I should have no reason to hide anything". Or, we tell ourselves that privacy is a Western concept whose roots began with Aristotle's distinction between public life and private life. We argue that as Asians, we place a higher value on the community's welfare and security, rather than on an individual's rights.



Dondi Mapa (right) with Former Senator Edgardo J. Angara (principal sponsor of the Data Privacy Act)

**What we should realize however, is that in today's data-driven society, there is a clear and present danger that our information may fall into the hands of "bad actors" – persons whose motives are malicious and/or criminal!**

For example, there was a public-school teacher who was so proud of passing the PRC examinations that he posted his PRC ID on his Facebook page. Alas, his details were used by an identity thief to fraudulently open several bank loans, and up to this day, that public-school teacher is still paying for those loans through monthly salary deductions!

What can we do to combat these bad actors?

1. Protect your own personal information! Once it's gone, it's like toothpaste – there's no getting it back in the tube. Be extra vigilant when handing over your data to someone else. Be aware of your rights as a data subject. And if you go online, learn how to use modern techniques such as two-factor authentication to protect your banking and social media accounts.

2. Protect other people's data. In our daily work, we often collect information about our customers, or employees. **As parish workers, we might even process information about the medical conditions of those to whom we bring Holy Communion.** This medical information can potentially be used to harm or embarrass someone. As the (paraphrased) golden rule says: "Protect others' data as we want our own data to be protected". We need to be vigilant in protecting other people's data too!

3. Be extra cautious when someone is pressuring you to share information. Even when using encrypted messaging apps such as WhatsApp and the like, you must verify (a) the identity of the person on the other end of the line, and (b) their legitimate purpose for requesting the information. Most importantly, you should insist on a written request for data sharing, so that you have an audit trail in case there is an investigation later.

Finally, if the confidentiality, integrity, or availability of your own personal data is breached (or you become aware of a breach happening to someone else's data), report it to the authorities right away. Under Republic Act 10173, the Data Privacy Act of 2012, bad actors can go to jail for up to 7 years for mishandling your data!

You can report privacy violations and/or data breaches to the National Privacy Commission through their website at <https://privacy.gov.ph/complaints-main/> or their email at [complaints@privacy.gov.ph](mailto:complaints@privacy.gov.ph).

*The author, Dondi Mapa, has served in our Parish for over 40 years, beginning in the 70's as an altar server and currently as an Extraordinary Minister for Holy Communion. In 2016, he helped set up the National Privacy Commission as a Presidential Appointee of President Benigno S. Aquino III.*

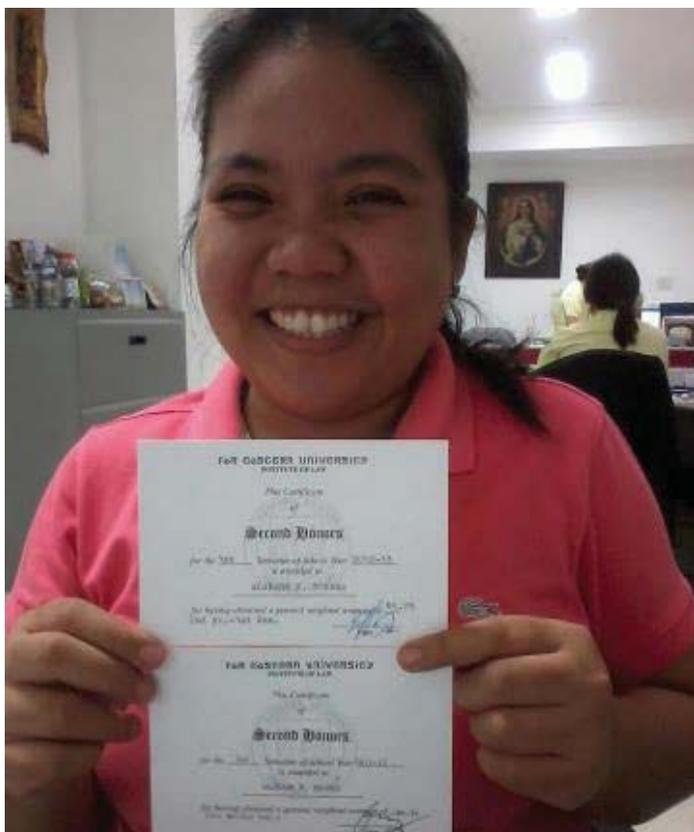
# Integrity Above All!

By Aljeane Torres

Integrity is commonly understood as an individual's quality of being honest and truthful under all circumstances. This means that before a person can be said to be with integrity, his or her honesty and truthfulness should be practiced with consistency. Therefore, one cannot say that he or she is with integrity if he or she has only been honest or truthful once or only when he or she sees fit. It is a trait that is difficult to acquire but is unmistakably and immediately perceived in a person who constantly practices the virtue of Integrity.

In my profession as public attorney in the Public Attorney's Office, integrity is a trait that is required in every single one of PAO's employees, staff and lawyers alike. In our line of work, integrity is mostly practiced and demonstrated by being consistently reliable and truthful in all of our dealings with all of our clients. For example, we need to be truthful and candid with them regarding the real merits of their case, making sure that they are well informed of the status of their respective cases, and discussing with them the next course of action that the Office will take regarding said cases.

In fact, I make sure to set their expectations properly and never give them false hopes. Aside from the fact that the same would be unethical, it also means a betrayal of my oath as a lawyer.



In fact, even in our personal lives, we are likewise expected by our profession to carry out and observe the same degree of integrity in our everyday life. Not only that, we must likewise be consistent in practicing such values even with our own family and relatives.

Thus, it is good to learn and acquire the virtue of integrity as it is not something that solely pertains to the legal profession. It is likewise a quality which is a must in every profession, regardless of rank or position. This is so because integrity is the very essence for us to have a peaceable interaction with one another.

*Aljeane Torres graduated as a Santuario de San Antonio scholar at Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP) in 2011 with a degree in Public Administration and Governance. Her dream, however, was to become a lawyer and work in the Public Attorney's Office (PAO) where she could give free legal advice to the poor because she saw how her father suffered when he was wrongly accused and could not afford to pay for a lawyer. The SSAP Scholarship Program, through the sponsorship of a kind and generous parishioner, made her dream come true. Determined and highly motivated, Aljeane worked hard to obtain a lawyer's degree, oftentimes studying at her parents' stall in Central Market (they were tuyo vendors) instead of going home to Novaliches.*

*In 2015, Aljeane graduated at the Far Eastern University (FEU) with a degree in Bachelor of Laws and a Civil Law awardee. She passed the Bar at first try!*

*Atty. Aljeane Torres now works at the Public Attorney's Office.*

# Integrity in the Workplace

By Sandi Suplido

Integrity is familiar to us, but very often goes unnoticed. C.S. Lewis says that, "Integrity is doing right, even if no one's watching." It is also honesty, and having wholeness of character without duplicity or internal conflict of interests.

In my career I've gone from volunteering, to working in government, then as a businesswoman -- and I've now made my nest as an assistant in a humanitarian NGO.

What did they all have in common? Perhaps I can say that it's my integrity that is tested no matter where I am employed.

I think it's the internal struggle we go through everyday, when we know the difference between right and wrong and still choosing what is (sometimes painfully) right.

At work, so much of a team's success is based on trust in one another's ability as well as

honesty and integrity. I admit -- having integrity isn't easy. Sometimes it is knowing when to say sorry, when to sacrifice, or even being honest when we make mistakes instead of trying to hide them.

Now whenever faced with a choice to do wrong or right, I just try to remember: Why did God offer me this job, and why did I say Yes? My 'why', my purpose -- whether it be: to follow His plan, to help those in need, to be an instrument of His love -- guides me in always choosing integrity.

Reflecting on previous wrongs and failures, all were caused when I forgot my "Yes" to God. And instead I had entertained my fears, selfishness, and even laziness, by avoiding my commitment to serve Him. I feel that when tempted to do wrong, it also takes humility to pray for God's guidance that we may have integrity. May we help each other 'live life, with integrity' (Joshua 9:15).



# Fr. Latorre on Humanae Vitae

By Apple Cannon



50 years later, Pope Francis, in “Amoris Laetitia” (Latin: The Joy of Love), reinforces that marital relations is a good in itself, ordained to conjugal love. Marriage is for the good of the spouses and the children that will come. It is the same doctrine, but this time evolved in relevance to the contemporary context of the faithful.

Sometimes described as prophetic, we see happening today what Pope Paul VI forewarned about consequences of dissenting from the teachings of the Church about contraception and marital love, including infidelity and moral decline, objectification of women, abuse of state power, and man thinking that he has unlimited dominion over his own body.

Often tagged as a rebel pontiff, Pope Francis continues to defend the family, recognizing the difficulties imposed on every family today. He calls on us to dig deep and make sure that pastoral care takes into account real life situations and that we persist in compassionate love.

The entire Church is on tenterhooks as we await the canonization of Pope Paul VI. Many requested a sequel to the talk, which we hope to arrange in the very near future.

On 25th July 1968 – 50 years ago – one of the Church’s most controversial documents of modern times was issued. In his Papal Encyclical, *Humanae Vitae* (Latin: Of Human Life), Pope Paul VI affirmed the view of the Catholic Church on marriage and conjugal love.

The SSAP Family and Life Ministry celebrates this milestone through participation in talks that provide context to *Humanae Vitae*, given our current reality.

SSAP hosted a very well-attended talk entitled “From Paul to Francis: Celebrating 50 Years of *Humanae Vitae*” on June 23. Enthralled parishoners and guests from other parishes listened to Fr. Robert Latorre trace its relevance from 1968 to today.

Homogenous evolution applies not just to science but also to Church dogma. Church doctrine develops but does not change. This is no different from the way an infant grows up and evolves in his features, but keeps his identity; or how our modern day Popes – from Pius XII and John XXIII -- through their teachings, set the stage for Paul VI’s *Humanae Vitae*, upon which Popes John Paul I to Francis continued the doctrinal message.

50 years ago, Pope Paul VI reminded the faithful of the procreative and uniting nature of marital relations.



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Now, at the end of my visit to the Philippines, I commend you to Him, to Jesus who came among us as a child. May He enable all the beloved people of this country to work together, protecting one another, beginning with your families and communities, in building a world of justice, integrity and peace.

-- Pope Francis

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