



PARISH BULLETIN

CHOOSE TO BE
BRAVE
YEAR OF
THE
LAITY
2014

October 5, 2014

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Forbes Park, Makati

www.santuariodesanantonio.wordpress.com



Celebrating the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi

by Cristina Teehankee

In celebration of the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the Secular Franciscans of our Parish invited as their guests of honor their brothers and sisters in Christ . . . the blind . . . the deaf . . . and the disabled . . . gathering them together last Sunday, September 28, 2014 in celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

During this time of the year, the Secular Franciscans look forward to share their time and service and rekindle their friendship with their little friends through the kindness and mission of the family of Bro. Ernie ChuaChiaco, OFS. The gathering in prayer that Sunday, celebrated the Feast of St. Lorenzo Ruiz who like St. Francis of Assisi was proud to be a Catholic, being

centered on Christ in doing God's will. The homily of Fr. Baltazar Obico, OFM, OFS Spiritual Assistant was timely and appropriate, sharing the message of the Gospel to humbly regard others more important than ourselves, looking out for the interests of others.

That day, the Secular Franciscans prayed to our Almighty Jesus to continue to fill the hearts and minds of their little friends with love, peace and joy. That day, the Secular Franciscans were on active duty, opening their arms, joining their friends in Christ for brunch with warmth, hospitality and love at the Convento Garden. That day the Secular Franciscans were moved to action, doing their best . . . serving their disadvantaged brothers and sisters in Christ with love. That day we thanked our Almighty God for His blessings . . .



Inside this issue is a pledge form for donations to the different ministries of Santuario de San Antonio Parish (SSAP). As the old saying reminds us, "It is in giving that we receive." Please be generous and give, and you can be certain with the knowledge that the Lord will never be outdone in generosity. If you want more pledge forms, you can download it from our website www.santuariodesanantonio.wordpress.com



SUNDAY GOSPEL REFLECTION

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time
By Fr. Jesus Galindo, OFM

He will lease his vineyard to other tenants

A married couple with five children adopted a young boy who had been allowed to go out on parole from a rehabilitation center. First, they took him on probation under their custody. He was a model boy, so they decided to adopt him. They treated him exactly like one of their own children and asked him to follow the same house rules. One house rule was that he be home by 11 in the evening. One night he did not come home on time; he showed up at one in the morning. The adoptive parents gently told him that they had been worrying about him and asked him to come home on time. The boy said nothing and went straight to bed. The next morning, when the father had gone to work and the children to school, the mother went down to the basement to do the laundry. The adopted son followed her, sneaked from behind, and with an iron bar, struck her in the head and beat her to death. Then he left.

This true story resembles Isaiah's Song of the Vineyard (today's first reading) and the parable of the vineyard, in the gospel. The goodness, care and attention showered by the owner on his vineyard failed to produce the expected results. We can feel the owner's pain and disappointment.

The parable of the vineyard is the second of three so-called "rejection parables" addressed by Jesus to the priests and the elders of the Jewish people in order to berate them for refusing to believe in him. Last Sunday's parable of the two sons

was the first, and next Sunday's parable of the wedding banquet is the third.

The parable is addressed to us too. Like the people of Israel, we too have been blessed, cherished and cared for by God in many ways. As a nation, God has chosen this country from among all other countries in Asia to be the recipient of the Christian faith. God has blessed it also with rich and abundant natural resources.

On the personal level, we have been endowed with manifold gifts and blessings: our life, our health, a sound mind, our family and friends, our livelihood and, above all, our Christian faith. After counting our blessings, we must ask ourselves: What kind of fruits are we yielding? I don't think I need to describe the situation our country is in: rampant kidnapping, carnappings, hold-ups, criminality, corruption, drug pushing, etc. In short, lots of wild grapes.

What is it that led the tenants to deny the owner his share of the produce and to kill his men and his own son? Nothing but greed: "Come, let us kill him and acquire his inheritance." Nothing new, really. Even today, greed is the spark that kindles wars around the world – even those euphemistically called "anti-terrorist wars." Greed is emptying our nation's coffers. Greed is behind poor roads and substandard infrastructures. Greed is another name for corruption. Greed is behind kidnappings and acts of violence.

The parable of the vineyard reminds us that we are tenants and administrators, not owners, of God's goods. We have to administer God's goods and gifts wisely and responsibly, because one day we will be asked to render an account of our administration. We are also expected to share God's blessings. God's share of the produce of his vineyard is that which we give to others.

The word of God being proclaimed in our midst today is like one of the servants, or like one of the prophet of old, sent by the divine Owner of the vineyard to remind us to be responsible administrators. May we heed it and act on it!

Fr. Jesus Galindo, OFM



Meet Kyra
by Sabrina Soriano
Hospital Ministry

This is Kyra Pantinople, a 12-year old child with rheumatic heart disease. She did not have anyone with her as her parents are separated and her grandmother only gets to visit her when she has free time from her other responsibilities. The Hospital Ministry gave her antibiotics during one of our regular weekly visits and while we were doing our rounds, she asked the nurses/ doctors for pen and paper so that she could write a thank you note for us. If you would like to know how to help her or other patients like her, please feel free to contact our social worker, Nimfa Dumago, at 8438830 to 31 loc 142.

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 Deadline for submission is every Tuesday of the week.
 The Parish Bulletin reserves the right to edit articles for clarity and space.

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Holy Mass & Confession Schedule

SSAP Sunday	6:30AM	7:45AM	9:00AM	10:30AM	12:00NN	4:30PM	6:00PM
Monday – Friday	6:15AM	7:30AM	12:15PM	12:15PM	6:00PM	6:00PM	6:00PM
Saturday	6:15AM	7:30AM	12:15PM	4:30PM	6:00PM		
FPA Pavilion			Sunday	11:00AM			
Dasmarinas Village			Saturday	6:00PM			
Urdaneta Village			Sunday	7:00PM			
Confession SSAP	Monday-Wednesday-Friday	7:30AM	7:30AM	6:00PM			

To submit articles/pictures to the Parish Bulletin/Website
 Please submit photos with your articles, if at all possible.
 Submit them by email (not in paper form) with photos in .jpg format and a minimum photo file size of at least 80 KB (800 x 530 pixels).
Articles submitted should be a minimum of 150 words and not more than 300 words.
 Email to: ssappb@yahoo.com



is neither looking down upon himself nor even demeaning himself for he knows he has been chosen by God to be simple and unlearned. Rather he is admitting that God is God and he, Francis, is not; so his prayer is for the Most High to take the initiative with him. In time this perspective will affect everything he will do and become.

This deep and earnest prayer of Francis is addressed to the "Most High," a term that we find him using over and over again the rest of his life.

When he wrote the Rule for the Franciscan order he founded, he ended it saying: "All powerful, most holy, **most high** and supreme God...Let all of us...magnify and give thanks to the most high and supreme eternal God...**glorious**, exalted on high, sublime, most high..."

An excerpt from his famous "Canticle of the Sun," the great poem of his life that he sings in ecstasy and gratitude when he was nearing death says: Most High, all powerful Good Lord, Yours are the praises, the **glory**, the honor, and all blessing **illumine the darkness of my heart**.

Francis loved to pray for the light which would shine through the darkness of his heart which would cleanse it and the rest would follow. Thus he was constantly asking God for enlightenment over the darkness and ignorance that causes him not see aright.

In a great moment of enlightenment Francis could put on the mind of Christ and finally see the world as God sees it: That poverty will ultimately bring him the greatest and sweetest joy and content.

Give me a right faith, a certain hope

When Francis dictated the memories of his youth to Brother Leo in the Porziuncula he said:

"And he the Lord gave me such faith in churches that I would simply pray and say: We adore thee O Lord Jesus Christ, here and in all the world. . . after that the Lord gave me and He gives me so much faith in priests . . . I am unwilling to see sin in them because in them I see the Son of God and they are my lords."

a perfect charity

The priest translated the first passage that Francis had opened at random in the book of the Gospels: "If thou hast an eye to be perfect, go then and sell all that belongs to

[turn to page 4]



The ABC's of Catholic Doctrine

by Lianne Tiu

Do we have guardian angels?

The Church believes that God assigns everyone a guardian angel at birth. According to St. Thomas, God appoints an angel regardless of whether the child will be baptized or not because each person is at least potentially a child of God.

The main focus of our guardian angels is to get us to heaven safely. But they also care for us on a natural and material level. Often times, we are not aware that they are protecting, enlightening and guiding us. We can actually increase or lessen the power of our angels over us depending on our prayers or lack of prayers to them. When we are in mortal sin, they want to help us, but are powerless. When we do not respect our Lord, we send his servants packing.

We may ask, what are the guardian angels of the evil people doing? Angels cannot interfere with man's free actions; but as St. Thomas explained: the angels control the evil people from doing even greater evil. And they keep the evil committed by bad people in check so that the evil does not affect others so badly.

How should we treat our guarding angels? They do not know our secret thoughts unless we willingly reveal them. St. Josemaria tells us to learn to speak to them (not necessarily with our lips, but with our minds). He also advised us: "Treat him (our guardian angel) as a lifelong friend... and he will render you a thousand services in ordinary affairs each day." Do we need a parking space? Let us ask our angel to find us one. Do we need a perfect gift for a friend

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RANDOM THOUGHTS

Voices from yesterday and today. . .

by Peachy Maramba

ST. FRANCIS of ASSISI: His Prayer

1181 – 1225

October 4

St. Francis is one of the most widely loved saints in the world and founder of the largest religious order. It is interesting to note that his first words we have on record is a prayer that he is said to have said over and over again, and dates from 1205-6 when he was already twenty-three years old.

Prayer of St. Francis: Most High, glorious God, illumine the darkness of my heart, Give me a right faith, a certain hope and a perfect charity and grant me insight and wisdom so I can always observe your holy and true command.

There is no activity that Francis liked better than prayer, which became for him always his first concern. Thus Francis ordered his followers to pray regularly. He told them that when they spoke with God in prayer not only were their inner feelings purified but also they could attain union with the one true and highest God and even actually hear Him.

Francis who remains a knight at heart begins his prayer in this chivalrous courteous address of praise. Because praise and adoration makes up the core of Francis' prayer he is able in this way to unite prayer and love enabling him to put on the mind of Christ.

The words **Most High** recognizes the infinite distance between God and him and in typical Francis' humility acknowledges his nothingness before the **Most High** God.

It is a true humility because Francis

Random Thoughts.....from page 3

thee; give it to the poor and so the treasure that thou hast shall be in heaven, then come back and follow me."

and grant me insight

The mind of Francis was preoccupied with the paradox that in detachment, poverty and penance were perfect joy to be found. True joy derives from seeking first the Kingdom of God.

God gave him also the insight to realize that it is not war that needs to be outlawed but the love of money, the greed of the human heart that is at the root of war.

and wisdom

Untrained, unlettered and with a minimum of knowledge of what a preacher normally should know, Francis prayed unceasingly and continually not trusting in his own strength or wisdom but relying wholly on God; so he was granted the wisdom to grasp that the love of neighbor can only be secured when the Gospel is lived sincerely, when the Word of God moves people to make decisions that radically changes their lives.

Thus Francis instructed all his followers: "Make all of your time a holy leisure in which to inscribe wisdom in your heart."

So I can always observe your holy and true command

All the things that Francis prays for in this prayer - light to the darkness of his heart; faith, hope, charity, insight and wisdom are - so he can observe God's holy and true command.

Francis' only desire was to be obedient to God's will in everything. Thus placing God's will above everything else is a gift of Francis to our world today. So is his simple but eloquent first words.

SOURCES of REFERENCE: Butlers Lives of the Saints - Vol. IV pp 22 - 32; The Illustrated World Encyclopedia of SAINTS - pp 148 - 149; Francis of Assisi and Teresa Kolkata - pp 13 - 15; pp 22 - 25; and others.

ABC's.....from page 3

or relative? We can depend on our angel to point out the right item at the right price. When we have a difficult time with someone or we expect a difficult meeting, we can pray to our angel to put the others in a better frame of mind. Do we have guests who won't go home, or a phone call that won't end? We tell our angel to help us. Are we having a hard time making a decision? Our angel can offer us good advice. We can give him a name, so that we are

on a first-name basis.

We are fortunate to have guardian angels. Let us thank them for their assistance and most especially, to God who gave us these angels.

(Reference: "Question Time" by Fr. John Flader; "The Faith Explained Today" by Joe Babendreier; "You can become a Saint!" by Mary Ann Budnik; "God and the World" by Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger)

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

How do you pray the Rosary?

1. In the name of the Father ...2. Apostles' Creed 3. Our Father4. Three Hail Marys 5. "Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen." 6. Five decades, each with one Our Father, ten Hail Marys, and a Glory Be to the Father.

The complete Rosary consists of Joyful, Luminous, Sorrowful, and Glorious Mysteries.

The Joyful Mysteries (Monday, Saturday) The Annunciation. The Visitation. The Nativity. The Presentation of the Child Jesus in the Temple. The Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple.

The Luminous Mysteries (Thursday) The Baptism in the Jordan. The Wedding Feast at Cana. The Proclamation of the Kingdom of God and Repentance for Sin. The Transfiguration. The Institution of the Holy Eucharist.

The Sorrowful Mysteries (Tuesday, Friday) The Agony in the Garden. The Scourging at the Pillar. The Crowning with Thorns. The Carrying of the Cross. The Crucifixion.

The Glorious Mysteries (Wednesday, Sunday) The Resurrection. The Ascension. The Descent of the Holy Spirit. The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Crowning of the Blessed Virgin Mary as Queen of Heaven.

What role did prayer play among the first Christians?

The first Christians prayed intensively. The early Church was moved by the Holy Spirit, who had come down upon the disciples and to whom they owed all their influence. "They held steadfastly to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers." (Acts 2:42)

CALENDAR OF SAINTS FOR THE WEEK

October 6

Bruno, priest

St. Bruno was born at Cologne about the year 1035. He was educated at Paris and, after ordination to the priesthood, he taught theology. However, he desired a solitary life and to this end he founded the first Carthusian monastery. When called upon by Pope Urban II, he aided the pontiff in meeting the needs of the church. He died at Squillace in Calabria in 1101.

October 7

Our Lady of the Rosary

This commemorative feast was established by St. Pius V on the anniversary of the naval victory won by the Christian fleet at Lepanto. The victory was attributed to the help of the Holy Mother of God whose aid was invoked through praying the rosary. The celebration of this day invites all to meditate upon the mysteries of Christ, following the example of the Blessed Virgin Mary who was as singularly associated with the incarnation, passion and glorious resurrection of the Son of God.

October 9

Denis, bishop and martyr, and companions, martyrs

St. Gregory of Tours relates that St. Denis came to France from Rome in the middle of the third century. He became the first bishop of Paris and suffered martyrdom near that city with two members of his clergy.

On the same day, October 9

John Leonardi, priest

St. John Leonardi was born at Lucca in Tuscany in 1541. He studied pharmacy, but he left this profession to become a priest. He preached and taught, seeking especially to instruct boys in Christian doctrine. In 1574 he founded the Order of Clerics Regular of the Mother of God, an undertaking, which caused him many hardships. He was also associated with the founding of the first society of priests dedicated to working in foreign missions. Under subsequent popes this small order grew into the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, and for this reason John Leonardi is often called the founder of that society. In addition to these efforts, he restored discipline in different religious congregations by his charity and wisdom. He died at Rome in 1609.

Reference: Christian Prayer: The Liturgy of the Hours. Published and distributed by Paulines Publishing House, Daughters of St. Paul, 2650 F.B. Harrison St., 1300 Pasay City, Phil. 13th printing 2010. ISBN 971-590-357-6.

CALENDAR OF MINISTRIES FOR THE WEEK

SUNDAY - SEPTEMBER 28

- * 8:00AM - Thrift Shop
- * 9:15AM - CCD Sunday Religion Class
- * 4:00PM - CORO Practice

MONDAY - SEPTEMBER 29

- * 1:00PM - OFS Formation

TUESDAY - SEPTEMBER 30

- * 8:00AM - Thrift Shop
- * 9:00AM - JPIC Hospital Ministry PGH Visitation
- * 2:00PM - Health Care Ministry Dancersize "Open to all Parishioners"
- * 4:00PM - Marian Cenacle Group Prayer Meeting

WEDNESDAY - OCTOBER 1

- * 8:00AM - Thrift Shop
- * 4:00PM - CCD Religion Class

THURSDAY - OCTOBER 2

- * 8:00AM - Thrift Shop
- * 9:00AM - Health Care Ministry Visitation at Rizal Medical Center, Pasig City

FRIDAY - OCTOBER 3

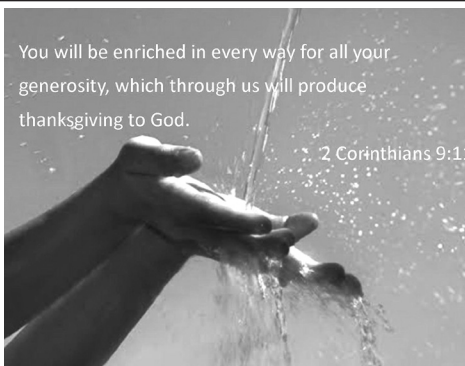
- * 8:00AM - Thrift Shop
- * 2:00PM - Health Care Ministry Dancersize "Open to all Parishioners"
- * 3:00PM - Health Care Ministry Monthly Healing Mass
- * 7:30PM - Household Help Charismatic Prayer Meeting
- * 9:00PM - Tig-Awit Choir Practice

SATURDAY - OCTOBER 4

- * 8:00AM - Thrift Shop
- * 4:00PM - VOSA Choir
- * 4:00PM - LUKERS Prayer meeting
- * 7:00PM - Living Rosary at the Parish Quadrangle



St. Faustina Kowalska celebrates her feast day on Oct. 5. St. Faustina's name is linked to the annual feast of the Divine Mercy (celebrated on the Second Sunday of Easter), the divine mercy chaplet and the divine mercy prayer recited each day at 3 p.m. by many people.



You will be enriched in every way for all your generosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.

2 Corinthians 9:11

What is Tithing?

Tithing is a word that simply means one-tenth. Historically, it has been associated with financial support of the Church and Church-related charities. The tithe looks back to the ancient practice of offering to God a small portion of the harvest or the sacrifice of a young animal to express gratitude on the part of those who enjoy the fruits of the harvest and animal life around them. The sacrifice was also an acknowledgment of the people's dependence on the Creator for what was needed to sustain life.

You don't hear much these days about what used to be taught as the "precepts of the Church." These precepts are disciplinary; they do not contain doctrinal pronouncements. They emerged from time to time in the early history of the Church as a means of guiding the faithful to live good Catholic lives — e.g., hearing Mass on Sundays and holy days, contributing financially to the support of the Church, receiving the Eucharist, confessing one's sins. These precepts have varied in number from country to country and century to century in the life of the Church.

Strictly interpreted, the precept of tithing would mean pledging one-tenth of one's income to the support of the Church. Few Catholics do this today, nor are any obliged to meet the 10 percent standard. There is, of course, a moral obligation to help the poor and provide support at an appropriate level to the Church and Church-related charities. And this obligation does not end at age 65.

To respond to your point about multiple earners in a family, the obligation falls on each. Although 10 percent would be an ideal, it is not a law. It would be wonderful if Catholic families — in the spirit of the tithe — would budget an agreed-upon percentage of family income to be distributed annually to good causes.

It is encouraging to see that young

Catholics these days are notably generous in their commitment to community service. As they grow older, their Church just might resurrect and reconstruct the tithe — 10 percent — and break it down to 5 percent of income and five hours a week of community service. This adds up to an apples-and-oranges total of 10.

If, as the old saying reminds us, "It is in giving that we receive," a revival of the tithe would produce a nice return on that investment to all who give with the certain knowledge that the Lord will never be outdone in generosity.

From catholicdigest.com

Please Pray for the Sick	Felicisimo Alcantara
Meldy Cojuangco	Rosario de Leon
Connie Gomez	Tobias
Marilou Arteficio	David B. Lu
Ma. Pilar Oledan	Gloria Syjuco
Iggy Clavecilla	Raffy Chan
Cecille Reynoso	Edric Co
Maxima 'Amah' Sy	Peter Soo
Emmanuel Gerodias	Chito San Jose
Aurora Gonzalez	Ron Jacobs
Tommy Dy Buncio	Nancy Imperial
Naning Bagabaldo	Johnny Lopez
Remedios Maceda	Lisa Alvendia
Berris	Letty Ligon
Cedric Castro	Norma J. Carlos
Anselmo Trinidad Jr.	Sony Lopez Gonzalez
Pilar del Gallego	Corazon M.
Nena Jalandoni	Samaniego
Rosario Lopez	Shaina Budhrani
Sol Lavadia	Carmen M. Sotaso
Victoriano Chung	Gia Gonzalez
Erlinda Miranda-Oledan	
Zwei Lopez Gadi	<i>If you want a name added or deleted, contact Bernadette at the Parish office tel. nos. 8438830-32.</i>
Shallouh Bancel	
Swinnerton	
Tony Boy Floirendo Jr.	
Francisco Tankiang	
Cynthia Arms	

BIRTHDAYS	10-Oct-14
06-Oct-14	Marge Tambunting
Nano Cacho	Mia Tambunting
Ana Afable	Patricia Bennison
Jose Pio G. Luz III	Manuel Dizon
Jeannie Carlos-Abaya	Pidit Cacho
07-Oct-14	Tomichi Bonoan
Miguel Luis G. Rodriguez	Pierra Calasanz
08-Oct-14	Miguel Jose Velayo Yulo
Reana Hechanova	Andie Padilla
Trajano	12-Oct-14
Manolette Carlos	Fr. Jesus Galindo, OFM
Jill Ignacio	Felix Jaramillo
Mike Locsin	Gus Montilla
Bids Afable	Lily-An Padilla
09-Oct-14	Ma. Linda Lagdameo
Alan Tantoco	
Remedios Lim	<i>For correction and additions to this list, contact Susan at the parish office.</i>
Geda Facundo	
Reese Rodrigo	
Talitha Lopez	

UNDERSTANDING THE CAUSES OF ILLNESS

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McKinley Road, Makati City

Conducted by:
The Carewell Community

Oct 25, 2014
Saturday

8:00 to 12:30 Noon
For Inquiries please call: 0917534994



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WEDDING BANNS

09-Oct-14

Giancarlo Alain O. Diaz & Karen Angeli N. Gabriel, Our Lady of all Nations, Lemery, Batangas

10-Oct-14

Jose Anton Pecson Belena & Maria Michaela Antoinette Barrios Sales

11-Oct-14

Daniel Noel M. Luchangco & Karla Angela P. Cuenca

12-Oct-14

Lawrence Neil Hao Tiu & Gemma Paula Cedro Rarela

17-Oct-14

Christoper Landas Devilles & Christine San Juan Santos

17-Oct-14

Alvin Jan Robert C. Ramos & Kristine Anne O. Del Rosario

19-Oct-14

Luis Miguel E. Angeles & Charmaine O. Tang

25-Oct-14

Robertito Paolo Bautista Sindiong & Monica Kristine Divino Reyes

25-Oct-14

Ricardo Jesus C. Ynares & Jan Christine L. Supan

26-Oct-14

Mckinley Jon T. Sy & Andrea Cara U. Ong

27-Oct-14

Mark Joseph Miranda Pacat & Maica Palleria

04-Nov-14

Lawrence Soriano Samaco & Monica Perdon Toledo

04-Nov-14

Hector Roque & Pauline Thelmaty Roxas-Chua, St. Francis Xavier JP Laurel St. Nasugbu Batangas

08-Nov-14

Mark Christian G. Toledo & Anna Christina Maria Josephine Melchor

14-Nov-14

Rei Paolo Layonb Diaz & Sherry Jane Kristine Capa Vargas

15-Nov-14

Ericson Tiu Bellosa & Deanne Margaret S. Lim

15-Nov-14

John Edward Ng Yu & Krystal Coleen Sy Lao

16-Nov-14

Rainer Francis A. Ricaplaza & Mary Doll Angeliqye Dasig Legaspi

16-Nov-14

Leandro G. Carrera Jr. & Maria Luisa Paula Roldan

18-Nov-14

Bernard Denis Almeda Datoc & Maria Carolina Rivera Cuyco

20-Nov-14

Joseph Romel Biglang-Awa Concepcion & Katrina Camilet Llamas

21-Nov-14

Raymond Charles N. Posadas & Monica C. Zialcita, Shrine of St. Therese, Villamor Airbase Pasay City

22-Nov-14

Joshua Emmanuel P. Montecillo & Rossana V. Fojas

22-Nov-14

Darell Matthew S. Tan & Gretchen T. Alvarez, San Sebastian Plaza del Carmen, Quiapo Manila

28-Nov-14

Michael Gerald Ang Te & Samantha Iris Chua Pua

04-Dec-14

Fitzpatrick H. Puyat & Margarita B. Cacho

04-Dec-14

Johan Wahlem Q. Pangilinan & Rafaela Margarita F. Fajardo

04-Dec-14

Cresencio Santiano Jr & Yvette Christine O. Iglesia

06-Dec-14

Niño Cris U. Ragos & Mary Ann E. Abobo

11-Dec-14

Reinan Tampoc Buenaventura & Niccia Carandang Lumang

12-Dec-14

Jon Mikel C. Antunez & Ma. Zenda Preciosa P. Medina, Parokya ng San Antonio de Padua, Pook Silang, Cavite

15-Dec-14

Leonardo G. Carrera Jr & Maria Luisa Paula Roldan

16-Dec-14

Honey Alumisin & Weilana Niedzileski, St. Francis de Sales, Miami, USA

18-Dec-14

John Antony T. Reolito & Maria Cynthia V. Salvador

20-Dec-14

Marc Joseph Cansino Lucero & Marissa Guerrero Meana

20-Dec-14

Michael de Jesus Dungao & Anicia Teresa Evangelista Sochi

27-Dec-14

Richard Cabezon de Guzman & Anne Mariel Medina Dionisio

27-Dec-14

Raymund Manlangit & Sharon Barnuevo Manallo

27-Dec-14

Niels Ian Castillo Badillo & Mary Francis Roa Yu Macapinlac

29-Dec-14

Edison Agojo Pineda & Rodachelle Cruz Angeles

04-Jan-14

Vincent Edward Uy Tintoc & Jimmy J Luansing Go IV

18-Jan-15

Anthony Lim Chua & Ivenie Uy Yee

18-Jan-15

Alexander Fung Lobos Jr & Ma. Hazel Genieve Cruz Lizaso

22-Jan-15

Aristotle Cupino Canlas & Lady Grace Lucas Dimayuga

24-Jan-15

Ron Andrew R. Pangilinan & Honeylette O. De Gracia

10-Feb-15

Raffy R. Leoncio & Maria Elaine Arboleda

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The Basilica of St. Francis in Assisi



Statue of St. Francis and the sacrificial lamb in bronze



The thorn-less roses in Assisi



Thorn-less roses growing in Assisi



Pink and fuchsia pink thorn-less roses

St. Francis and the Rose without Thorns

By Letty Jacinto-Lopez

When Father Dave Concepcion of Catholic Travel first organized a visit to the Marian apparition sites in Italy, France and Portugal, he threw in more spiritual and religious sites that heightened our interest plus of course filling us with delight.

In Italy, Father Dave included a visit to the region of Umbria and the charming town of Assisi, famous for its association with Saint Francis of Assisi. Our bus had to navigate the narrow streets filled with ancient buildings and alcoves and corners of interest for first-time pilgrims like us.

The center of activities was the Santa Maria degli Angeli, one of the largest Christian sanctuaries in the world. Part of this sanctuary is the original stone chapel, called the Porziuncola, which is where St. Francis lived and

worked after founding the Franciscan Order. It is also where he had his vision in 1216, during which he witnessed the Virgin Mary. Following this vision, the church attracted many pilgrims, and thus the great Baroque church was also built.

Outside the basilica is the Roselo, or Rose Garden. Here, you will find a very special type of rose: one without any thorns. Unbelievable!

The legend said that Saint Francis was being besieged by the devil leaving him feeling inadequate and insecure about his faith and piety. He threw himself naked amongst the thorn bushes thinking that if the thorns will do its job and hurt him and make him suffer, the doubts and temptation will go away. It is then said that on contact with the Saint's body, thorn-less roses began to bloom, and they still do to this day.

After hearing this story, we all tried to get a good view of the rose garden

and snap photos of it. Not easy, for an amateur brownie like me. I decided to rest the lens of my camera on the glass and snapped photos without using the flash. These special flowers can only be found in this particular rose garden, and are named Rosa Canina Assisiensis. On the wall of the courtyard you can see a mural of St. Francis, surrounded by the modest Porziuncola chapel, olive groves and the thorn-less red roses. There is also a bronze statue of St. Francis with his hand resting on a sheep, seemingly talking and soothing its anxiety. I thought it was a gentle image of St. Francis and Christ, the sacrificial lamb.

If you chance to be in Italy, include the Porziuncola in Assisi and don't miss the thorn-less rose garden of Saint Francis of Assisi.

By the way, no one is allowed to throw oneself on it, anymore.