



## PARISH BULLETIN

We Care Because We Pray

3rd Sunday of Advent

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

December 11, 2016

Forbes Park, Makati

## A EUCHARISTIC COMMUNITY OF FAMILIES CELEBRATING THE GIFT OF FRIENDSHIP



### Finding Friendship at SSAP by Dennis Montecillo

C. S. Lewis, in his seminal book *"The Four Loves"* wrote: *"Friendship . . . is born at the moment when one man says to another 'What! You too? I thought that no one but myself' . . ."*

Common purpose. Seeing eye-to-eye. Peas in a pod. Siamese twins. The world has sought to define friendship, no one has found quite the right way to describe it. Perhaps that's because friendship – true friendship – isn't of this world.

In a very real sense, friendship is an analogue to our relationship with God. It is a practice session, if you will, of our relationship with that certain Someone who – if He isn't already – should be your best friend.

It's fitting that Pope Francis is on the cusp of naming the coming Church season as the Year of the Parish. In this



article you will read several powerful stories of friendship, all tying in to our relationship with our parish community. In this sense, *"parish"* is not the organization or the location – it is the people comprising it. I challenge you to read these stories and not be touched by the warmth of the bonds of friendship that our parishioners have developed for each other and of their families!

My family and I spent 17 years in a Hong Kong parish, and it is there that we first discovered what true friendship is – a kinship with each other knotted by a common love for our Best Friend, Jesus Christ. Leaving was extremely difficult for my family, but one thing that comforted us was the prospect of making new friends in my old/new parish of SSAP. It is here where we pray to meet and develop relationships with other lovers of our Best Friend Jesus Christ and His community of believers on this earth.



**FROM THE DESK OF THE PPC PRESIDENT**

*Edmund Lim, KHS*



# The Gift of Friendship

Who can say if I've been  
Changed for the better?  
I do believe I have been  
Changed for the better  
Because I knew you...  
I have been changed for good...



On the week when we celebrate joy in the middle of advent, Guadete Sunday, I enjoin everyone to remember the gift of friendship in our lives. The past year had proved to be fruitful for our parish. I saw how our parish, as a community made up of many smaller and diverse groups in our Parish Pastoral Council, begin to break down barriers and come together united in achieving our common goal. I saw how we as a parish, rallied once more and in the process fostering new and strengthening old friendships, during fiesta and Francisfest to support our beneficiaries.

Through this journey of walking in the path that our Lord has set for us, I am grateful for the friendships developed while we worked towards the common vision of our parish. I am grateful for the opportunity to meet new and active parishioners. While the work can cause one to lose a few strands of hair, the comfort and support from all of you has made our efforts more than worthwhile.

On a personal level, I do believe that my friends in San Antonio have changed me for the better.... I thank God for sending them into my life and take this path with me, teaching, guiding, supporting and always encouraging. (Not to mention, eating, drinking and having a merry time too.)

I continue to pray that our parish deepens our unity in love and peace throughout our faith journey. May we remain faithful in God and committed in serving our community. May we nurture the friendship that had emerged from our continued service to our Lord. It is my true hope that as we prepare for Christmas, we all find joy in each and everyone of us as we serve in our communities for God's greater glory.

Wishing you all an advance Happy Christmas.



SSAP - PPC 2015-2017

# BEST FRIENDS FOREVER

## *A Story of Long Lasting Friendship*

by Tessie Castañeda

Friends may not only be found in school or work places, but also in church, where people come at a certain time to pray.

I was professed as a member of the Secular Franciscan Order (SFO), now Order of Franciscan Seculars (OFS), in 1979. With Fredy Consunji in 1982, Piting Sindiong in 1986, Nena O'Pallick and Pet Lim in 1994, we attended regular meetings every third Tuesday of the month and daily masses at Santuario de San Antonio at 7:30 am. Pet and I served as Lectors, while Piting led the rosary before mass. Every Saturday, my group of friends and I had breakfast at Intetrcon or Dulcinea in Makati after mass. Nena Moreno and Gloria Morada, who were Fredy's neighbors and regular 7:30am mass-goers, usually joined us. We would even wear matching clothes with Fredy, who was always in white. Thus, we called ourselves, "The White Doves." Over the years, we had become very close and would plan lunch or dinners around Metro Manila (once even as a dinner cruise along Manila Bay and another time at Manila Hotel). We joined ballroom dancing classes, and



*The White Doves*

went to Fredy's fishpond in Bataan every summer. We also raised funds for the flooring of San Nicolas de Tolentino chapel.

Another friend of mine, Marrot Moreno, had another plan in mind – to make older people enjoy life, be it taking them to places out of town or merely having lunch together at a nearby restaurant. "The White Doves' became part of "The Silvers," which was the new name for our group. Formed seventeen years ago, my father Amadeo Valenzuela, enjoyed outing organized by "The Silvers" until he passed away in 2002.

Though the White Doves eventually lost Piting and both Nenas, our numbers still grew as more 7:30am mass attendees

and members of The Silvers joined us. Until now, we still go out on Saturdays after mass for breakfast, which we take turns hosting. Marrot also initiated the building of the Grotto in honor of Our Lady of Lourdes. Every 11th of the month, a mass is celebrated at 5:00 pm, which The Silvers attend with a merienda afterwards.

If we do everything with good intentions and pure hearts, nothing can separate us. We may sometimes disagree or have different perspectives, but our friendships remain strong as ever. Forever – no matter what – we will always be friends.



*The Silvers*

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*The Walking Group circa 1980's*

GIFT OF FRIENDSHIP

# The Walking Group

*by Amelita Guevara*

It began when Fr. Hugh started walking by himself at 5 a.m. Ito Velhagen got wind of it and started walking with him. This was in the early 80's. Soon the numbers started growing: Rene and Susan Concepcion, Cards and Amelita Guevara, Ray and Remy Reyes, Cesar and Menchu Bautista, Ben and Offie Adapon, Meding Suntay, Barbara Go, Marilou Tuason, Erlinda Velasco, Christian and Winnie Monsod, Lita Banson, Lita Lilles, Nena Villanueva, Tecman Alonso, and Baby Cruz and Lourdes de Leon. Henrie Santos and Peachy Maramba would meet us at the corner of Acacia and Lumbang. They were the slow walkers. At our best, we were about 15 walkers and we often occupied the width of the streets. And we were pretty rowdy!

We started from church, down Palm Ave, all the way to Amorsolo, Tamarind, Acacia, all the way to Paraiso and back to church.

We kept walking for over 20 years, and from this, other kinships were born. We even joined several rallies. In the 1986 elections, we joined Winnie Monsod as NAMFREL volunteers in different

areas of Makati. From there the women in our group joined the EDSA Revolution.

Father Time eventually caught up with most of us.

First to join our Lord was Rene Concepcion, our "group captain." Then Cesar Bautista, Dante Santos, Fidi Maramba, Cards Guevara. The first lady that left us was Henrie Santos.

Health started to intervene; knees were being replaced one by one. First was Henrie Santos and then others followed.

Eventually, walking was no longer the activity of the day. We started meeting for breakfast every morning after the 6:15 mass.

But while the activity has changed, what has endured is our friendship. We may disagree on many matters – and that makes our conversations every morning very spirited and interesting – but what binds us is our love of God and His Church.



*We have different colors each day to be in tune with the Earth. Blue is for Friday.*



*At Ito and Billy's Golden Anniversary*

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## SSAP CHIRSTMAS CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

**Dec. 16-24, 2016**

**Friday - Saturday: Misa de Gallo**

Main Church - 4:30 am: Stations of the Crib  
- 5:00 am: Mass

Dasmarinas Village Pavillion - 5:00 am

North Forbes Pavillion - 5:00 am

Urdaneta Village Hall - 5:00 am

*NOTE: For duration of Misa de Gallo:*

1. No 6:15 am mass in the Main Church.
2. No Anticipated Masses in Dasmarinas Village.
3. No Regular Sunday Masses in North Forbes.
4. Urdaneta Village will retain their Regular Sunday Mass at 7:00 pm.



**Dec. 24, 2016**

**Saturday: Christmas Eve**

Schedule of Masses:

Main Church - 8:00 pm and 10:00 pm

Dasmarinas Village/North Forbes/Urdaneta Village: 10:00 pm

*NOTE:*

1. No 4:30 pm & 6:00 pm masses at the Main Church.
2. No 6:00 pm mass in Dasmarinas Village.

**Dec. 31, 2016**

**Saturday - New Year's Eve**

Schedule of Masses:

Main Church - 8:00 pm and 10:00 pm

Urdaneta Village: 9:00 pm

*NOTE:*

1. No 4:30 pm & 6:00 pm masses at the Main Church.
2. No 6:00 pm mass in Dasmarinas Village.

**Dec 25, 2016**

**Sunday Christmas Day (Holy Day of Obligation)**

Schedule of Masses:

Regular Sunday Schedule at the Main Church and Urdaneta Village.

Main Church: 7:45 am, 9:00 am, 10:30 am, 12:00 nn, 4:30 pm, 6:00 pm

*NOTE:*

- No 6:30 am mass at the Main Church.
- Urdaneta Village Hall - 7:00 pm
- North Forbes Park Pavillon - No 11:00 am mass

**Jan. 1, 2017**

**Sunday - Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (Holy Day of Obligation)**


Schedule of Masses:

Regular Sunday Schedule at the Main Church and all Villages.

Main Church: 7:45 am, 9:00 am, 10:30 am, 12:00 nn, 4:30 pm, 6:00 pm

*NOTE:*

- No 6:30 am mass at the Main Church.
- North Forbes Pavillion - 11:00 am
- Urdaneta Village Hall - 7:00 pm

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