



April 16, 2017

PARISH BULLETIN

We Care Because We Pray

Easter

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Forbes Park, Makati

A CHALLENGE TO TRANSFORM OUR PARISH TO BECOME A COMMUNION OF COMMUNITIES

Beloved co-journeyer in life and faith!

In behalf of the Pastoral Team (PT) and the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC), I wish to greet all of you a blessed Easter and pray for the gifts it brings to you, your loved ones and to our parish-community.

Our Lenten journey came so fast and we are now celebrating the spirit of Easter even in the most ordinary routines we do daily. Hopefully, as we look back on what we have been through our parish activities to relive the greatest expression of God's love for us – offering His only begotten Son's life for our salvation, we can always capture the irreversible imprint of God's mercy and compassion that transforms our human frailty into a living sign of God's infinite and unconditional love.

As we embark our Easter journey, I would like to humbly invite each and every member of our parish to take seriously the message of Jesus' resurrection – Easter is God's 'yes' to all that Jesus preached and taught to His followers and God's 'no' to the powers that killed Him. For Jesus, God was the central reality of His life and the Kingdom of God was the center of His message. The Kingdom of God was not about Heaven, not about life after death, but about the transformation of life on earth, as the Lord's Prayer affirms. It is not about "Take us to Heaven when we die," but about "Your Kingdom come on earth" – as already in Heaven. The Kingdom of God on earth was about God's passion – and Jesus's passion – for the transformation of "this world": the humanly created world of injustice and violence into a world of justice, peace and care for mother earth.

In so doing, let us remember that Lent allowed us to personally and communally experience God's mercy and compassion. Easter empowers us to share, even to the extent of offering forgiveness and reconciliation within our homes, workplaces and communities in order to transform these sacred places from being tombs of death to being tabernacles of life and love. We cannot find Jesus in the tomb among the dead because He lives among the living, in our hearts where mercy and compassion is truly alive.

Let me take this opportunity to express my humble and profound gratitude to all those who participated our Lenten and Easter preparations and activities, especially the PPC officers and members, different ministries and organizations, and to all our parish staff and employees. Your tireless endeavor joyfully lightens our journey by doing God's will and purpose.

Your co-journeyer,

FR. REU JOSE C. GALOY, OFM



A Eucharistic Community of Families: Bearers of God's Victorious Love

RANDOM THOUGHTS by Peachy Maramba

MAN: THE BEARER of GOD'S VICTORIOUS LOVE

(Almost the whole text of my article was taken from the Catechism of the Catholic Church.)

God the Creator

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." The Holy Scripture begins with these solemn words.

When we pray the Apostles' Creed we profess that God is 'Creator of heaven and earth'. The Nicene Creed includes 'all that is seen and unseen.'

Creation of Man

In the story of creation (*see the first three chapters of Genesis in the Bible*) we learn that God created man on the sixth day after He had created the visible world. Man is the summit of the Creator's work. We know this by the fact that the account of the creation of man he came last and was clearly distinguished from the creation of the other creatures.

In the Image of God

'God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him, male and female He created them' (Genesis 1:27). Of all visible creatures only man is 'able to know and love His creator'. He is the only creature on earth that God has willed for his own sake. And he alone is called to share by knowledge and love in God's own life. It was for this end that he was created and this is the fundamental reason for his dignity.

St. Catherine of Siena tells us that "...by love indeed You created man, by love You have given him a being capable of tasting Your external Good."

Christians believe that the work has been established and kept in being by the Creator's love.

God's Secret: Exchange of Love

St. John tells us that God is Love. God's very being is love. God so loved the world that He gave His only Son. By doing this God revealed His innermost secret: God Himself is an eternal exchange of love... and He has destined us to share in that exchange.

The Word became flesh so that we might know God's love. On the mountain of the Transfiguration, the Father commands: "Listen to Him!" In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent His only Son into the world, so that we might live through Him.

The Word became flesh to be our model of holiness: "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me. I am the way and the truth and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by Me." Jesus is the model for the Beatitudes.

The Word became flesh in order to save us by reconciling us with God who "loved us and sent His Son to be the expiation for our sins." The Nicene Creed tells us: "For us men and for our salvation He came down from heaven." For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

God put us in the world to know, to love and to serve Him and so come to paradise.

Man as Bearer of God's Victorious Love

As bearers of God's victorious love over sin and death we as Christians are called to lead henceforth a life worthy of the gospel of Christ... to be imitators of God as beloved children and walk in love... by loving Him with the same love with which He has loved us.

Man is obliged to follow the moral law which urges him "to do what is good and avoid what is evil."

The Beatitudes

The Beatitudes are the heart of Jesus's preaching. It invites us to purify our hearts of bad instincts and to seek the love of God above all else. It teaches us that true happiness is not found in riches or well-being, in human fame or power, or in any human achievement – but in God alone, the source of every good and of all love. It reforms the heart, the root of human acts.

Since the Beatitudes depict the countenance of Jesus Christ, they express the vocation of the faithful and shed light on the actions and attitudes characteristic of Christian life.

The Law of the Gospel

Jesus said, "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you: abide in My love. This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. This is the entire Law of the Gospel. It is summed up in the Golden Rule.

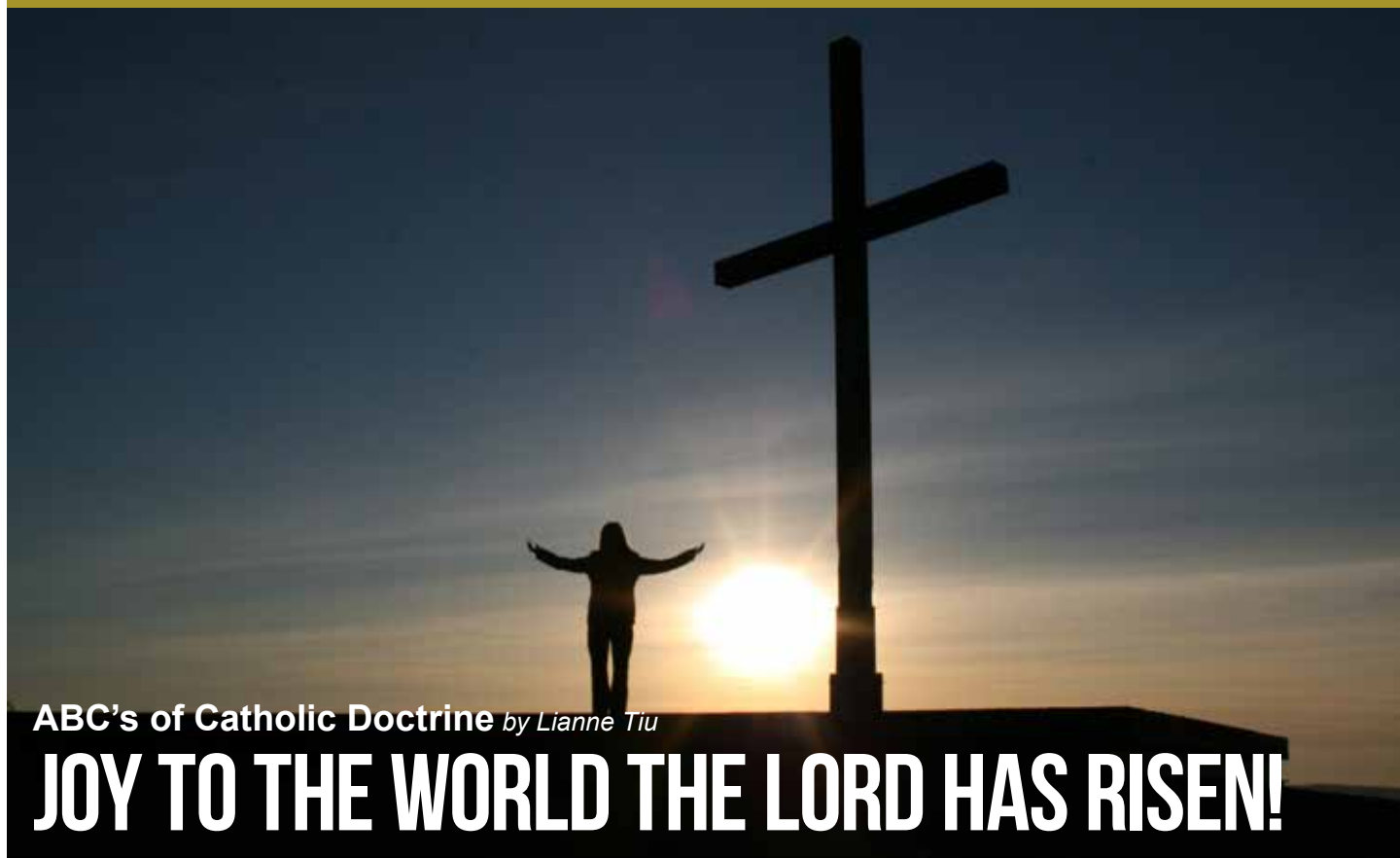
Christ died out of love for us. The Lord asks us to love as He does, even our enemies, to make ourselves the neighbor of those farthest away, and to love children and the poor as Christ Himself.

See Matthew 5: 3-12 for the Beatitudes.

Our Covenant

Since God created everything for man and attached so much importance to his salvation that He did not spare his own Son for the sake of man, man is called by grace to a covenant with His Creator to offer Him a response of faith and love that no other creature can give. Let our response this year be a fitting one!

A Eucharistic Community of Families: Bearers of God's Victorious Love



ABC's of Catholic Doctrine by Lianne Tiu

JOY TO THE WORLD THE LORD HAS RISEN!

What is Easter to us? Egg hunt for children? The end of a four-day long vacation? An ordinary Sunday get-together with the family?

Easter is actually the most important event of the Catholic Church - more important than Christmas.

Jesus has risen from the dead! (Imagine the paparazzi waiting outside for Him to push the boulder and come out of the tomb.) This act is so significant because it was Jesus' final proof that He was God Himself, as He claimed to be. We were dead through sin. None of us could enter Heaven. But God, full of love and compassion, gave us Jesus, who died on the cross and paid the price for our sins, ...and He raised us with Him. Easter is the celebration of our Redemption because God loves us; thus a celebration of thanksgiving and joy.

Our joy should move us to re-

christianize the world. Our Lord said, "Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature." Today, there is so much ignorance and error around us. Many people go through life lost and confused because they don't know Christ. Others distance themselves from Him because of the disordered attraction to material well-being, giving little importance to spiritual values.

We cannot remain silent. We have to communicate our Catholic faith and doctrine to many people we meet. We have to bring them to God with our good words and examples, and our loving relationship with Him.

As we start the Easter season, we resolve to spread Christ's message with joy and peace, just as the apostles did after the Resurrection.

(Reference: "Conversation with God" Volume 2 by Francis Fernandez)

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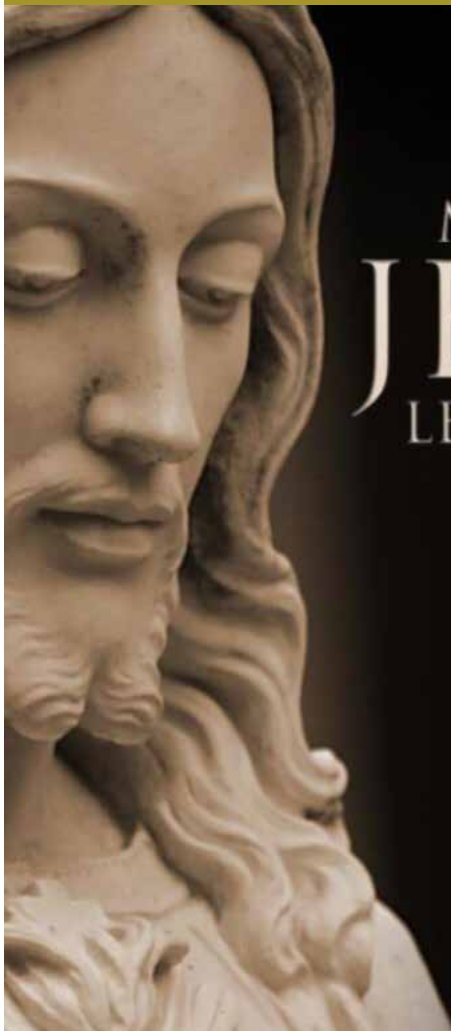
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A Eucharistic Community of Families: Bearers of God's Victorious Love



MORE LIKE
JESUS,
LESS LIKE ME.

BEARERS OF GOD'S VICTORIOUS LOVE

by Nancy S. Gonewai

This Lenten Season, I feel distinctly blessed to attend not one but three very special and very different Recollections and talks. The speakers from the clergy and from the laity spoke on **FORGIVENESS, HUMILITY, on FAST, ABSTINENCE, ALMSGIVING and PENANCE.** Being from different backgrounds, their presentations of their subjects were uniquely their own but with the same underlying theme proper to the season of Lent. For me however, what was so amazing, and full of hope, was that they each ended their talks with the same message—that God is love and that God's love will always win, which to me, translates into "God's Victorious Love", beginning with that first Easter Sunday.

Contemplative Outreach Philippines, through its many different prayer groups in Metro Manila meets weekly at

With utmost trust and belief in His infinite power and mercy, we welcome and accept each day as a gift from Him.

different locations. (*Here in SSA, we meet every Monday morning at St. Elizabeth room near the parish office.*) We do Centering Prayer and Lectio Divina, a practice of prayerful listening to Scripture. The regular practice of contemplative prayer and lectio has become a way of life for us. In time, one experiences a deepening of one's relationship with God leading to personal transformation.

As His beloved sons and daughters, we are "Bearers of God's Victorious Love". With utmost trust and belief in His infinite power and mercy, we welcome and accept each day as a gift from Him. With fidelity to our spiritual practices of Centering Prayer and Lectio Divina, God's grace helps us to grow in obedience, compassion, forgiveness, and charity.

Let us pray and walk together in our spiritual journey. As a faith community may we experience God's love, peace and joy. In turn, may we become bearers of these divine gifts to our families and friends not only during this Lenten season but for all seasons.

Visit us at the Contemplative Outreach Philippines web site. Go to www.cophil.org

A Eucharistic Community of Families: Bearers of God's Victorious Love

How First Holy Communion Will Change My Life

by Emma Georgina C. Ramos

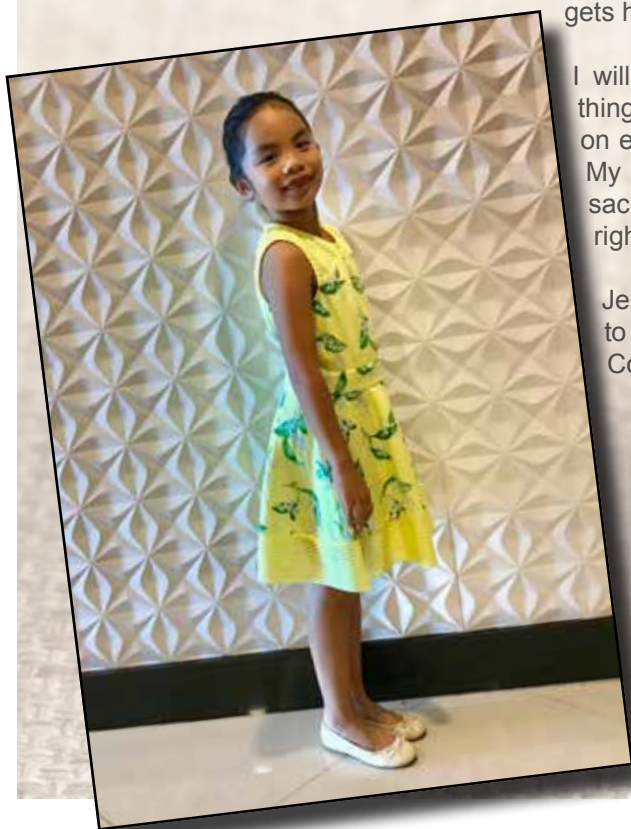
First Holy Communion will change my life because Jesus will travel into my body and He will guide me wherever I go. Since Jesus is now with me, I need to behave. I must follow The Ten Commandments and do lots of works of mercy!

As I receive Jesus' body and blood, I will praise God and ask forgiveness for my sins. I know I should try to not sin because it's like sticking a nail in Jesus' hand when He was crucified. Jesus died for my sins and it was painful. When I look at the cross, I remember Jesus' sacrifice. He died for us. I am sad because He died. But I am also happy because He freed us from sin.

When I take my First Holy Communion, I will be more aware of my actions. I will try my best to help my yayas, follow my parents, and play with my little brother whenever He asks me to. In school, I will try to solve fights that happen with my friends when we play games. I will help anyone who gets hurt.

I will do all these because these are the things that Jesus did when He was alive on earth and I want to follow His example. My sacrifice is small compared to Jesus' sacrifice. But I think that as long as I do the right thing, Jesus will love what I am doing.

Jesus is our Savior and I am so happy to be receiving Him during First Holy Communion!



A Eucharistic Community of Families:
Bearers of God's Victorious Love

In His Right Time

by Totoy Abiog

.....”.....

Our two girls are living miracles that we never thought we would have. Whenever my wife and I have unanswered prayers, all we have to do is to look at our daughters.

.....

My wife and I got married in Cebu. We were part of a team who were posted by our employer to set up a branch there. We have hoped to have children right after marriage however God had other plans for us. We waited and waited until the day came when we learned that my wife had conceived - after five long years of waiting. We were so happy and excited to welcome the new addition to our family. Later on, we learned we're having a girl! After a visit to the doctor, we were told that the baby could already hear us from the womb. So we bought some nursery rhyme books which we religiously read to her every night. On my wife's fifth month of pregnancy, she experienced a spotting. The doctor advised her to be on full bed rest. She had to have a nurse as she was not allowed to even walk to the bathroom. Two weeks passed and she experienced bleeding. She was rushed to the hospital and prematurely gave birth to our baby girl. Our baby came out alive but only for about an hour. We even heard her cried, and watched her little fingers moved until she breathed her last. No one could save her. The doctors told us that our baby was too young to survive. My wife was devastated and heartbroken. I, too, was very sad and bitter to the point of questioning God's plan for us. My wife would cry everyday and I would silently cry with her. We could not understand why it had to happen to us. We were both ready to be parents.

Then, we moved back to Manila the year after my wife's miscarriage. Just two months after, my wife conceived once again. It's another girl. Our eldest daughter is now fourteen years old. She is kind-hearted, loving and caring. She takes up voice lessons and paints during her free time. After four years, again, we gladly welcomed another baby girl who is now 10 years old. She is independent-minded and acts like a mature lady. She now takes up ballet and adores her big sister very much.

Our two girls are living miracles that we never thought we would have. Whenever my wife and I have unanswered prayers, all we have to do is to look at our daughters. They

are reminders that God will never abandon us. Surely, my wife's miscarriage was a heart-breaking trial for us. But in His right time, the Lord blessed us with two beautiful girls and we are so grateful for this. The pain of losing our little Angel will never be forgotten but we have learned to move forward and trust that the Lord will always be with us. God always knows best.



PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS



CONTINUING CATHOLIC DEVELOPMENT (CCD)

Parish Office, Santuario de San Antonio Parish, Forbes Park, Makati City

Enrollment is ongoing for SY August 2017 - May 2018!

We are accepting applicants in the following levels:

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The Continuing Catholic Development (CCD) is an internationally recognized parochial religious education program for children. In the Philippines, it has been officially assigned as a ministry of the Santuario de San Antonio Parish (SSAP) in Forbes Park. As such, it is committed to educate its students with the basic teachings and fundamental truths of the Church. It also prepares students for the reception of the Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation.

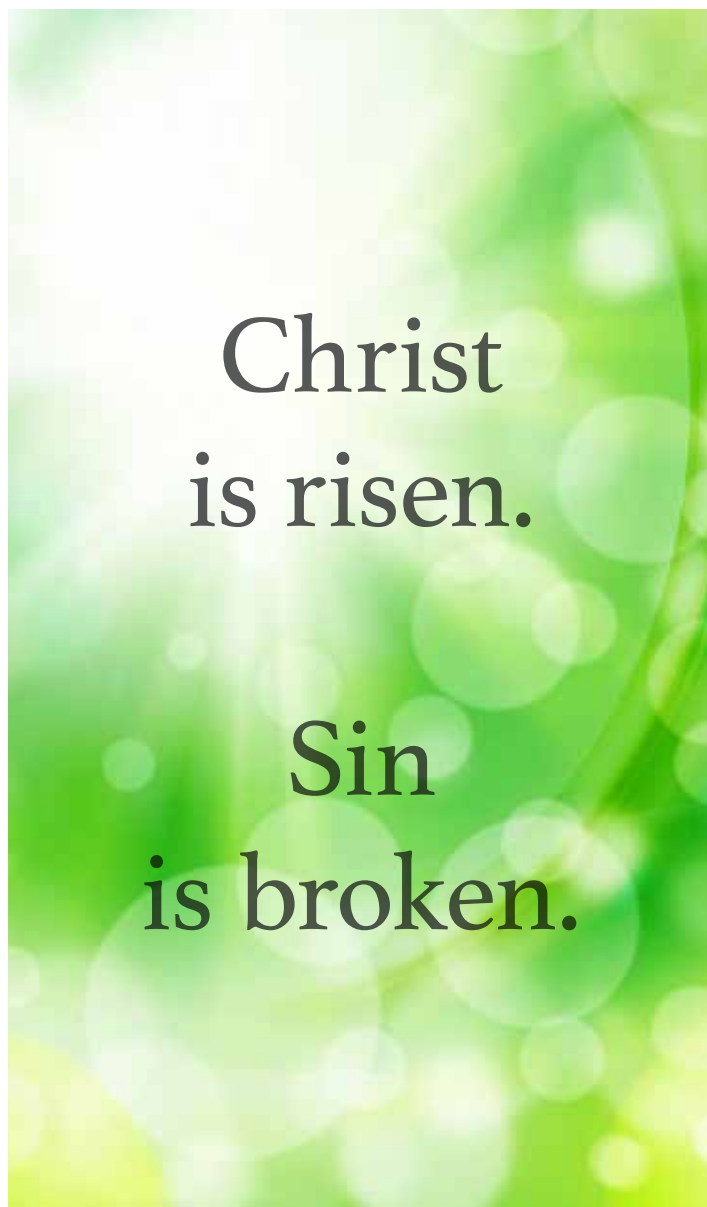
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O Great St. Joseph of Cupertino who while on earth did obtain from God the grace to be asked at your examination only the questions you knew, obtain for me a like favour in the examinations for which I am now preparing. In return I promise to make you known and cause you to be invoked.

Through Christ our Lord.

St. Joseph of Cupertino, Pray for us.

Amen.



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