

# GO 4th



Issue 4 Volume 1  
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The San Jose Filipino Cursillo Movement

Newsletter

## Ask and you shall receive an answer

### Focus: Step by step Part 1

**Q:** Explain the 360 degree turn in policy now allowing mananita in the Weekend. It was not too long ago when mananita was verboten, according to National policy. If it came about from the recent translations of Bonnin's work, why did he not say anything about it in the 1990s? In our diocese, Bro. Art Sacman and others encountered Bonnin and took him to the San Jose Women's Cursillo in the mid-1990s. When asked about mananita, Bro. Art said, Bonnin replied: "what is the mananita?" Didn't seem like Bonnin had any idea about mananita, much less recommend it.

**A:** Mananitas were forbidden not too long ago. This is a frequently asked question at the Step-by-Step Rector's Guide workshop.

Over the years, the National Secretariat wanted to follow the Charism by revising the Three Day Cursillo Manual and other Cursillo literature. These revisions were guided by movements within the Catholic Church, like the Vatican II directive Decree on the Apostolate of Lay People.

The revision's accuracy was affected by the founder's limited access to writings, poor English translations, and multiple adaptations by Diocesan movements. As a result, the National Staff and the founder decided that the Movement should be guided by Foundational Charism, not rules or directives.

The Holy Spirit drew us into a deeper friendship with Mallorca and into an association with the Foundation of Eduardo Bonnin Aguiló, FEBA. This friendship increased our access to the writings of our founder, deepened our understandings of The Foundational Charism, and improved our translations.

We learned Eduardo experienced Mañanitas in a Cursillo in Mexico, then introduced the Mañanitas to Cursillos in Mallorca, and as the founder, was able to do so.

(The video with Bonnin's comments on the Mananitas was revealed in 2003 by Tom Sarg when he, Victor Lugo, Jorge Barcelo and Joachim Le spent a week in Mallorca with Eduardo.)

("As the founder gradually discovers the various dimensions of the charism, he indicates the goals to be reached and defined methods and organizational structures." [the Ecclesial Movements in the Pastoral Concern of the Bishops, Laity Today, Volume 4. p. 2]

— **Sis. Linda Buhay**

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## Meditation from the Spiritual Director

### Catholic Faith and Citizenship

By **Fr. Francis Kalaw**

One of the crucial decisions that we will have to make in the next few weeks is to cast our votes in the upcoming local, state, and national elections. As your Spiritual Adviser, I would like to take this opportunity to clarify some important points, particularly for us Catholics.

It is a given truth that in our Catholic tradition, there is no such thing as "Catholic Vote." In other words, no bishop, priest, deacon, religious or laity in church leadership may endorse or oppose any candidate for office. The U.S. Catholic Bishops document "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship" prohibits any endorsement of a candidate by church leadership but challenges Catholics to vote with a properly formed conscience. Below are some excerpts from the document.

It states, "Clergy and lay people have complementary roles in public life. We bishops have the primary responsibility to hand on the Church's moral and social teaching. Together with priests and deacons, assisted by religious and lay leaders of the Church, we are to teach fundamental moral principles that help Catholics form their consciences correctly, to provide guidance on the moral dimensions of public decisions, and to encourage the faithful to carry out their responsibilities in political life. In fulfilling these responsibilities, the Church's leaders avoid endorsing or opposing candidates."

It is our right and responsibility to vote with a well-formed conscience. A well-formed conscience is formed under the guidance of the Holy Spirit through prayer, Scripture, and reflecting and informing oneself about the moral teachings of the Catholic Church as guided by "Faithful Citizenship." It is our responsibility as disciples of Jesus to look carefully at the platform of each candidate and compare these principles to the teaching of Christ and the Church.

There are many moral and social issues we must be aware of to form our conscience and decide how to vote. As Catholic citizens, we should remember three things:

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## Focus...

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Mañanitas are a tangible sign for Cursillistas where they can readily see what they have been told that people are praying and sacrificing for them. Mañanitas are a way for Cursillistas to touch with their hands people they don't know but are praying for them. Mañanitas in Mallorca have been going on for many years and are part of their Step-by-Step.

*(Sis. Rosalinda Pascual, RC Filipino Region XI)*

**Q:** If we are to follow 1:5 ratio for candidates: team members, won't there be a dilution in the rollos? If a rollista has to deliver two or three or more rollos, his focus will be divided and he may have to repeat his witness talk and be less effective with each additional rollo. And this Cursillista with three rollos will also have to cook and prepare the beds, as well as do the cleaning or upkeep of the bathrooms.

**A:** There is no dilution in the rollos because the witness talk should be based on the rollo only. According to our Cursillo manual, each talk must cover the rollo part he/she is assigned, including the witness talk covered in the specific rollo. There is a carefully worked out progression in the Cursillo talks. They build up a picture gradually from Friday morning to Sunday afternoon. It is crucial that each one be done right, in its own style, and not say too much. Each talk is meant to do a certain job in a certain way.

If something is left out, a part of the picture will not come through. If more is added, it will usually obscure the purpose of the talk and the flow of the weekend.

The Kitchen staff, Dormitory staff members and General services are auxiliary.

*(Sis. Rosalinda Pascual, RC Filipino Region XI)*

**Q:** If we remove deans and table leaders from the weekend then allow presidents to lead the post-rollo discussions, how do we control the discussion so it won't go all over and over time? How do we expect the presidents to be in the best position to facilitate the post-rollo discussion if they themselves are still in the process of learning about the Movement?

**A:** A Team Leader is assigned to each table group. He/she should be a good listener, let the Cursillistas talk, encourage participation in their table group, and does not give advice or solutions. The Team Leader should be attentive to the table group's needs.

*(Sis. Rosalinda Pascual, RC Filipino Region XI)*

**Q:** Keeping written tabs on the spiritual development of candidates seems like what we call profiling today. It could be perceived as harassment or judgmental or an invasion of privacy. How do we do this reporting and engage in discussing these reports without being perceived as encroaching on somebody's privacy or infringing their rights? Written reports of this nature should be discarded and notice of this development must be issued to the candidates in the interest of transparency – this is the reality of 2020, unfortunately we are no longer in the 1940s.

**A:** The confidentiality of the information should be strictly observed. The rectora will assign someone to take care of the list so it will not be within reach of others. The list will be discarded on the last day of the Three Day Cursillo.

*(Sis. Rosalinda Pascual, RC Filipino Region XI)*

## Catholic Faith...

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1. Respect for the dignity of each person is the core of Catholic social and moral teaching. This is our most basic principle.
2. We focus on the common good, not our own personal interests. We ask, how can we make the world a better place? Not, how can I improve my own personal situation?
3. We have a responsibility— a true obligation—to form our consciences and participate in the civic life of this nation.

Here are some ways to do that:

Be true to the teachings of the Church. Read Scripture, the Catechism of the Catholic Church, teachings from the Holy See, and the statements of our bishops.

Remain in contact with our representatives in local, state, and federal government. Our responsibility to form our consciences leads to an obligation to be active citizens. We communicate regularly with our leaders — not only during election seasons.

Engage in reasoned, compassionate, and loving dialogue with others — Catholics and non-Catholics alike — about the issues and choices that we are facing as a nation. Remember that we are called first to witness the Gospel, and through that witness, to share our social teaching, to highlight the moral dimensions of issues, and to participate in debate on public policy.

The dual calling of faith and citizenship lies at the heart of what it means to be a Catholic in the United States. We stand on the shoulders of many Catholics who have gone before us, who have helped the United States of America become a better country because of their faith in a loving God.

Let us together pray for our country and for peace in our world.





## Close encounters with Eduardo Bonnin

"I never had any conversation with Eduardo Bonnin but Sis. Flor and I saw him at the 2000 World Ultreya where he was the guest of St. John Paul II. He was seated near the altar that the Pope celebrated and which we attended and were lucky to be just a stone's throw away.

"This is what I remember Bonnin say: 'For me, the gospel is always the right orientation, an illuminating light, and a constant encouragement at all the cross-roads of my life. My goal has always been to be able to pray the Our Father, daily and in truth.' – From Signs of Hope, Eduardo Bonnin 1997"

**(Bro. Andy Ramones)**

"I met him at St Francis Retreat House in Aptos. Sis. Naty Mendoza (deceased) was the rectora and I was the Dean of Action so, Sis. Naty told me to prepare something for him. I was frying Shanghai bread when he signed my name tag. He asked how I made it then he blessed me and my hands so I could feed more people, he said, and he ate what I cooked." **(Sis. Fe Rodriguez)**

"I went with some San Francisco Cursillistas to the 1995 Encounter in Denver, Colorado to report on it for their defunct newsletter The Good Shepherd. As far as I can remember, I was with Sis. Norma Gamboa, Sis. Aida Viray (deceased), Sis. Carol Bautista, Deacon Mar Tano and maybe others that now escape my memory. Bonnin had a teen-ager tagging along with him. And he asked the Cursillo community why he didn't see any youth, recalling the Cursillo began with the Christian Youth Action group. He also asked why palancas in envelopes were processed like in a post office during the Weekend. For break, some of us went to a casino, including Bonnin. Deacon Mar made sure Bonnin was loaded in front of the slot machines. But my best take-away from the experience was when I brought back a news clip from a Boston newspaper about Bonnin. It was the first time I read the story about the two condemned prisoners in a Spanish jail that he evangelized. The story would eventually be a favorite witness in rollos and then included in the bankruptcy stories for Step by step."

**(Bro. Harvey Barkin)**

"In the early days of the Cursillo Movement in the Diocese of San Jose, the English, Filipino, Chinese, Korean and Spanish language groups had their own secretariats but shared Fr. John Coleman as spiritual adviser. Every quarter, leaders from each secretariats would gather to share information and concerns. In one of those meetings, the Spanish group shared that Eduardo Bonnin was going to be a speaker in their recollection. As representative of the Filipino group, I asked them if Bonnin could spare the time to chat with me. Bonnin was available at 3:00 pm. Bro. Ric Posadas, Bro. Ramon Aquino (deceased) joined me to meet Bonnin. Since we could not think of a better place to take our special guest, I called Rectora Sis. Naty Mendoza (deceased) at Camp St. Francis in Aptos where the women were having their Weekend. The sisters were elated that no less than our founder was joining them for dinner. Msgr. (still Fr. at that time) Willie Manrique stopped his meditation to introduce the sisters to Bonnin. He shared his thoughts in Spanish while Fr. Willie translated them. The Action team outdid themselves in serving Bonnin Filipino delicacies as everyone chatted with him. I believe Sis. Remy Soriano and Sis. Mercy Sacman still have their name tags autographed by Bonnin. But my lasting impression of him was when we were driving through the long and winding uphill road to Camp St. Francis. Bro. Ric, Bro. Ramon and I were hard put to carry on a conversation in Spanish. But from what I could gather, Bonnin told us a short history of the Movement, his travels and his account of many conversions. He was getting on in years but you could still see the fire in his eyes when he spoke with passion and wisdom. But when he talked about the Cursillos in the US, he had some concerns about the leadership, the direction of the Movement and the so-called 'non-essentials.' He also mentioned the change from Piety, Study and Action to Holiness, Formation and Evangelization with disappointment on his face. He asked us to pray for the leaders that they be guided to do what is right for the Cursillo and for us to be faithful to the charism of the Movement."

**(Bro. Art Sacman)**

– **Compiled by Sis. Maria DeQuinto**



*Sis. Sophie Rualo (deceased), Bro. Ric Posadas, Eduardo Bonnin & Sis. Mercy Sacman. Photo by Bro. Art Sacman*



*Bro. Art Sacman, Bro. Ric Posadas Eduardo Bonnin, Sis. Sophie Rualo (deceased) and other Cursillistas. Photo by Bro. Art Sacman*

## In memory of Sis. Shirley Aggarwal



Sis. Shirley Aggarwal

Sis Shirley Aggarwal was born on December 19, 1939 in Jakarta, Indonesia and passed away peacefully in her sleep on July 3, 2019. She was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, and friend.

I admired Sis Shirley's faith in God and her devotion to our Blessed Mother Mary. When she called me to join the Marian Pilgrimage for October 2001, I told her that the pilgrimage was already sold out. She called me every day to check if there were any cancellations, she was persistent. She begged me to do something because she needed to bring her husband Kamal to the Shrines of Our Lady of Fatima and Our Lady of Lourdes due to a complicated health issue. I told her to pray on it and hopefully there would be cancellations. Her prayers were answered when a couple changed their minds, so I notified her immediately.

About a month before our pilgrimage tour, many tours were cancelled due to the 9-11 terrorist attacks. Fr Ben Manding, who was the Spiritual Tour Chaplain for the group said that we are not cancelling the trip. I advised everyone but in case anyone wants to back out, the airline was willing to refund their money. To my surprise, no one cancelled and all 52 passengers went.

However, once we arrived at the airport on the day of our departure, we were advised by the airlines that our group will have to be divided with half of the group going directly to Lisbon and the other half re-routing via Madrid on another airline.

I asked the group if anyone would be interested to lead half of the group going to Lisbon and Kamal Aggarwal volunteered immediately. I was worried at first because he did not know any of them. Kamal and Shirley were so nice to took care of the group and even treated them to snacks and coffee. They were so gracious.

During the trip, Sis Shirley asked me why a lot of the group called each other Brothers and Sisters. So, I explained to her that we are members of the Cursillo Movement and she said that she would be happy to join our Movement too.

At the end of the tour, one tour participant was not allowed to check in at the airport in Paris because she presented a copy of her green card instead of the original one. She started crying because she did not know what to do. Almost everyone boarded the flight, except Shirley and Kamal. Shirley asked Kamal if she can stay with her to help her go to the US Consulate in Paris. Kamal agreed and they stayed in a hotel in Paris for three days to help her get another green card. Thank God Shirley spoke French. Shirley told me later that she felt like she was the Virgin Mother who helped a new friend at that time.



Sis. Tessie Mijares, Sis. Aster Pasion, Sis. Helen Songco and Sis. Shirley Aggarwal

Sis. Shirley joined the Cursillo on September 11, 2003 at Camp St Francis, Aptos. I was her sponsor. She served in the September 2005 weekend as member of the action team. I became even closer to her and Kamal. We always traveled together, almost every year. Whenever I have pilgrimages Sis. Shirley would always join, even without Kamal. I think they have joined 15 pilgrimages through the years. They want to thank God and our Virgin Mother for the miraculous healing of Kamal.

The life story of Kamal and Shirley Aggarwal is in the book *America, Here We Come! A Story of Destiny, Fate and Family*. Sis Shirley said "I am very grateful and what I

want my children to understand is that love and charity has to be there, that they have to help each other and have to love each other. You have to be compassionate and never, never let the Lord out of your life. Always have faith in Him, even when things are not going well. "

I will always remember Sis. Shirley for her humility, generosity, sincerity, patience, love and all the fun in our travels. I will miss her but will never forget her. I thank the Lord for her friendship. May she Rest in Peace. (Sis. Helen Songco)



## They said 'yes' to the Lord, then to each other - Part II

Interview: Cursillo Sweethearts - Bro. Ramon and Sis. Rowina Santua

**Q: How did you meet in the Cursillo? Did you seek him/her out yourself or did somebody turned you on to him/her?**

*R&W: Sis. Winnie was already a Cursillista since 1998 and Bro. Ramon joined the movement in 2000. We came to meet each other in 2000 when Bro. Ramon joined the movement. We started as friends.*

**Q: What was the specific quality that you like about him/her and why?**

*R&W: Bro. Ramon is hard working and a family-oriented man, a happy guy and he is always joking around.*

*Sis. Winnie is a choir member and you cannot deny she has a lovely singing voice and, of course, a God-loving woman.*

**Q: How long did you date before you got married?**

*R&W: We started as friends and came to know each other for three years before we got married.*

**Q: When was the time that you were sure you were going to marry this Cursillista?**

*R&W: Our sister and brother Cursillistas would often tease us and have been kidding us all the time and, of course, deep within us, we really like each other.*

**Q: Was it important that he or she is a Cursillista? Why or why not?**

*R&W: We both believe in our faith. The Cursillo Movement has taught us to understand and love each other as we serve God in our own way in the Movement.*

**Q: After you married, did you both get into the same group reunion and was there a difference when you were grouping when you were single? Explain.**

*R&W: We are both blessed that we are in a group reunion where the spouses are Cursillistas. Our group reunion (Bro. Marlon and Sis. Mappy de Leon, Bro. Titus and Sis. Pat Raceles, Sis. Glorina, and Bro. Chito and Sis. Maria de Quinto) became a support group for each other as we go about the challenges in our lives.*

**Q: Does being married make it easier if you were both officers in the Secretariat? Why or why not?**

*R&W: Bro. Ramon became a member of the Secretariat as Post-Cursillo Chair in 2016. As a couple, we believe, one can be an officer and the other a support arm.*

**Q: Do you evangelize together as a couple or do you find you must evangelize on your own and why? When you do it as a couple, do you think evangelizing is more effective and why?**

*R&W: As a couple, we try to understand each other's concept of evangelization and we realized that we are more effective if we do it as a couple.*

**Q: Do you think you have less spats because you are Cursillistas? Why or why not?**

*R&W: Yes. We try to resolve issues together easily because we do not want conflicts and besides, we are Cursillistas.*

**Q: Are you pressured into decisions or situations by your Cursillista friends or do you get a lot of teasing and what do you do about**

**it? Or do you feel that sometimes you lose your privacy because of what your Cursillo friends know about you (from group reunions) and how do you deal with it?**

*R&W: As a couple we see to it that we discuss issues together and we try to resolve it without the prodding or teasing of others. With our brothers and sisters in the group reunion, we don't feel that we're losing privacy. Everyone in the group fully understands and respects each other's privacy.*

**Q: Would you advocate for a Cursillo Weekend for married couples? Why or why not and what would be the difference?**

*R&W: It may not be a Cursillo Weekend but rather a recollection for married couples. The Cursillo Weekend may offer a different charism which may not work well for married couples together.*

**Q: What do you think makes Cursillista unions such as yours a "match made in heaven" or not? Explain.**

*R&W: Our union started from friendship, the teasing of our brothers and sisters which we call a "match made in the Cursillo Movement," then blessed and ended as a "match made in heaven." (Sis. Maria DeQuinto)*



Bro. Ramon and Sis. Rowina Santua

## A few words from our Sponsor

### A Chat with Sis. Elsa Songcayawon

**Q: Why did you want to be a Cursillista? Who sponsored you to the Weekend in what year? Who was your rectora?**

E: I didn't really want to be a Cursillista but Sis. Connie Valderrama and Sis. Aster Pasion were so convincing. Besides, Bro. Vince joined the Men's Weekend, so to support him, I had to find out what the cursillo was all about.

My rectora was Sis. Aster Pasion and my sponsors were Sis. Aster and Sis. Connie.

**Q: Can you list some of the sisters and brothers who were graduates of the first San Jose Filipino Cursillo movement in your Weekend? About how many candidates were in the first San Jose Filipino Cursillo Weekend? Was there an Action team that cooked for you in that Weekend? Was there a Mananita and, if yes, were they from the 4th day or another diocese?**

E: I remember Sisters Tessie Mijares, Belle Aclan, Rose Abrizo (deceased). There were 28 candidates. There was an Action Team and they added menus to the one offered at the St. Joseph Seminary. There was a mananita and they were from the men's weekend and Cursillistas from the Dioceses of San Francisco and Oakland.



*Sis. Elsa & Bro. Vince Songcayawon*

**Q: Is there a difference in the rollos then vs. the rollos now and explain?**

E: Basically, rollos are almost the same, except for the titles. The rollistas nor the team did not have the Weekend Manual that we currently have. An old pamphlet was used during that time which was hard to understand.

**Q: From the first Filipino San Jose Cursillo Weekend, how many graduates returned to make Cursillo their primary apostolate? To which groups did the other graduates go? What Cursillo activity then is not being done today and why?**

E: As far as I know, only Sis Tessie and Sis Belle became active.

**Q: Share with us some tips on how to recruit candidates for the weekend. List some Cursillistas not related to you who are still active in the Movement. Who was the Cursillista that was the toughest to recruit, tell us the story of how you got him/her.**

E: In order to recruit, we use the charism of Make a Friend, Be a Friend and Bring your Friend to Christ.

We generally recruit from work, home, and other organizations.

The toughest recruits I have were my own brothers, Bro. Florentino "Pong" Pesayco (deceased) and Bro. Vicente Pesayco, Jr. They acted as if they know everything, very philosophical. They have a reason and an answer for everything and they think they are better than anyone else. But at the end they relented and they made the weekend.

**Q: Bro. Vince Songcayawon was the first to advocate engaging the four senses to successfully deliver a rollo. Bro. Glen Mayor was the first to use slide presentations to enhance a rollo. In the aftermath of COVID-19, speech and songs are frowned upon. How do you think we will deliver rollos in the future?**

E: For now, I do not have any thoughts about this 'til post-COVID.

**Q: Since we can't gather and do face-to-face interaction, how do you propose we conduct our SOLs, Ultreyas and other activities? Can friendship exist without physical contact? If yes, how?**

E: The same manner we do in the School of Leaders, via Zoom or other web media. Friendship probably will be an eternal pen pal.

**Q: Step by step suggests that control of the weekend post-rollo discussions be given to the candidate presidents without table leaders and deans. How do you suggest we rein in the discussions after the rollos so they don't go all over and over time?**

E: Provide presidents with guide questions in addition to what they already have. Besides, questions may originate from the Decuria members maybe in the form of 1.) Further explanation 2.) More examples 3.) Personal experience.

**Q: Because Step by step puts a premium on friendship, it has been suggested that we take 2 years to prep for a weekend – first year to form friends for recruitment, then the second for team formation. Will we not lose momentum this way? How would you prep for the weekend and still fulfill Step by step's requirement on friendship?**

E: Invite prospective candidates to join the SOL Zoom, Ultreya or other activities after COVID, like picnic, dinner dance, etc. (Sis. Maria DeQuinto)

## What is your silver lining behind the cloud of COVID-19?



*Sis. Maria & Bro. Chito DeQuinto*

husband, Simon requested for us to SIP in their house. Jennie just had Abigail, her first. Whether her intention is for her to know where we are at all times and not be affected by this disease or to help her, it was a blessing for the both of us to be safely stuck in their house and avoid infection by this dreaded disease. As the months passed, we came to totally submit to the possibility of ever traveling for a while and that, to busy ourselves, we will give our energy to help raise Abigail. God really works in mysterious ways. We have prayed for this child for so many years and now that she was given to us, we were also given the chance to help care for her. Abigail is now six months and we are so awed by her each day and we thank God for this gift of life. ~ **Bro. Chito and Sis. Maria DeQuinto** ~

For me personally, my silver lining is being an extension of God's helping hands to the barrio of Panghulo, Obando, Bulacan where I was born and raised. As the lockdown in the Philippines progressed, people who have "no work, no pay" became desperately in need of sustaining themselves especially in terms of rice, medications, and milk for children. God's blessing has to be shared and that is what I did during this pandemic. God is good and his blessing is better when shared with others."

~ **Sis. Maria DeQuinto** ~

Lots of positive things have happened despite the pandemic. Many of us have become more spiritual and closer to God. We are so blessed to attend live-streamed masses as much as we can on a daily basis. Since masses are recorded, we are able to listen to the words of God and learn more about his teachings. We have the time to listen to spiritual talks online, read the bible and many other interesting books. Happy and thankful for the convenience of staying home and be able to virtually attend the 30th National Encounter which was held on July 24-25. No need to fly or get a hotel to listen to the inspiring talks of the speakers. More than 700 Cursillistas, priests, laity and religious attended this first Virtual Encounter. Our small group of 10 were so blessed to have Fr. Francis Kalaw and two other priests who all participated during our breakout sessions.

Since all my group travels have been cancelled this year, I realized that I could relax a little bit and slow down with everything I do. Last April, for the first time, I was able to appreciate and tend to my garden. Due to previous travels, the plants were neglected and I was not able to see all the flowers in bloom. Staying home for me has been a big blessing. We were able to clean our attic, organize our things in the house and garage, as well as donate a lot of clothes and furniture. Bro. Philip and I have been walking about two to three miles regularly with another couple, three times a week since the lockdown. During our walk, we are able to talk about our family, food, politics and sometimes pray the rosary.

Being at home is an opportune time to bake and cook for my family. We spend more time with our grandchildren since they live close by. All of these are blessings from God. We hope and pray that this pandemic crisis will end soon. We have to think positive, trust in God and be thankful for all the good things He has provided us. De Colores!

~ **Sis Helen Songco** ~

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*Bro. Philip & Sis. Helen Songco*



## What is your silver lining...

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Sis. Beth Cayabyab

As I recall, seven months ago, when we were placed on lockdown due to pandemic COVID-19, many were disappointed and frustrated that they cannot do their usual activities. Personally, the lockdown was a blessing to me! I embraced it and also thought of preventing myself and others from getting the virus! Faith and prayers had given me the calmness to deal with the situation! Made me think what can I do productively while I am on lockdown. It's been seven months, I am still busy doing some organization in my house, gardening, pruning bushes and trees! But, most of all, I have restful times watching birds that visit my garden! I am so thankful to God, that He gave me chances to nurture His gifts to me! I focused on what God is communicating to me through my surroundings! The gift of being able to accept and submit to the moment, enabled me to believe more and trust more in His goodness! My prayer is always ... His Will shall be done! I try to find the new normalcy! The pandemic cannot paralyze me! I am always thankful for my ability to react positively to such crisis I go through! God is good always, He has plans for us! Just stay focus on His Son, Jesus Christ who suffered on the cross for the salvation of mankind! Every little thing you do in His honor, gives us steps closer to the ultimate goal, the Kingdom, the everlasting life beyond this earthy life!"

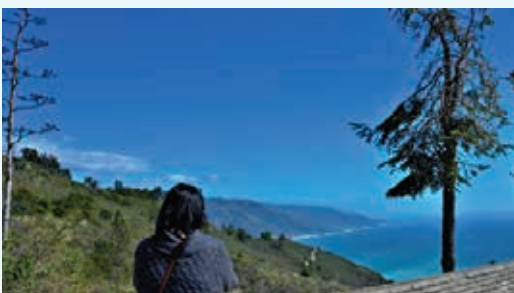
~ Sis. Beth Cayabyab ~ (Compiled by Sis. Melinda Collins)

## Vocation in my Vacation

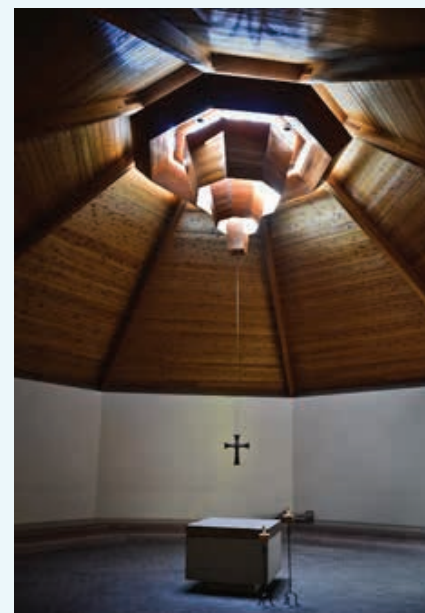
### New Camaldoli Hermitage in Big Sur, California

We visited the New Camaldoli Hermitage in April 2012 for our 20th wedding anniversary. Located off the coast of Highway 1 in a remote area atop Santa Lucia mountains in Big Sur and overlooking the magnificent Pacific ocean, the Hermitage is an ideal place for meditation and prayer. We were there on a Holy Thursday and joined in the celebration of the Mass in their chapel. The prayers and songs during the Mass were sung in beautiful chants by the monks as we witnessed the traditional washing of each other's feet amongst the Camaldoli brother monks and priests. After the Mass, we had a chance to visit the blessed sacrament for personal prayers and thanksgiving. The Hermitage is a beautiful place to unwind, reflect, admire nature, and a great place for spiritual retreats. Our visit was peaceful and joyful. If anyone ever visits this peaceful place, don't forget to buy, and bring home their famous brandy dipped fruitcake and date-nut cake.

— (Bro. Titus & Sis. Pat Raceles)



New Camaldoli Hermitage lookout view, photo by Bro. Titus Raceles



New Camaldoli Hermitage Chapel, photo by Bro. Titus Raceles

## A priest walks into a bar...

Jesus and Satan were at their computers writing reports and doing spreadsheets. Suddenly lightning flashed and thunder rolled. The power went off. And when it came back on Satan bowed his head and wept. Because he'd lost everything but Jesus had no problem because Jesus saves.

Abraham decided to upgrade his PC to Windows and Isaac couldn't believe it. He said, "Dad, your old PC doesn't have enough memory." And Abraham said, "My son, God will provide the RAM."

As the prisoner was strapped to the electric chair, the priest said, "Son, is there anything I can do for you?" The prisoner said, "Yeah, when they pull the switch, can you hold my hand?"

So, the Zen master said to the hot dog vendor, "Make me one with everything." So, the hot dog vendor fixes a hot dog and hands it to the Zen master, who pays with a \$20 bill. The hot dog vendor places the bill in the cash drawer and closes the drawer. "Where's my change?" asks the Zen master. And the hot dog vendor says, "Change must come from within."

— all jokes from A Prairie Home Companion Pretty Good Joke Book

### San Jose Filipino Cursillo Movement Secretariat

Spiritual Advisor - Fr. Francis Kalaw

Lay Director - Sis. Robin Barkin

Secretary - Sis. Emma Forlanda

Treasurer - Sis. Desi Lucas

Pre-Cursillo - Sis. Maria DeQuinto

Cursillo Proper - Sis. Marcy Reyes

Post Cursillo - Bro. Sam Sebastian

School of Leaders - Bro. Marlon de Leon

### San Jose Filipino Cursillo Communications Team

Bro. Marlon de Leon - marlondleon@yahoo.com

Sis. Emma Forlanda - Emma.forlanda@comcast.net

Sis. Marcy Reyes - marcy@songsrealty.com

Sis. Maria de Quinto - mhdequinto@gmail.com

Bro. Harvey Barkin - rh1barkin@sbcglobal.net

Sis Melinda Collins - melinda@songsrealty.com