

GO 4th

Issue 6 Volume 2
June - July 2022

THE SAN JOSE FILIPINO

CURSILLO MOVEMENT NEWSLETTER

SJF Cursillo News Bits

- **Save the Date:** It's time for the new Secretariat members nomination and discernment. Nomination night on August 19, 2022. Watch out for email invitations in the next weeks.
- **The Great Reunion:** Offer payer palancas for the 2022 on-site National Cursillo Encounter in July 21 - 24 at Chapman University in Orange County.
- **Stand up and be counted:** See you at the San Jose Cursillo Leaders Retreat is happening on July 30. Watch out for email announcements for the venue and details.
- **Must be there:** The Step-by-Step dry-run occurs August 26-28. Watch out for email announcements for venue and details.
- **See you at the monthly Ultreya, every first week of the month.** Watch out for the monthly Zoom meeting email invitation.
- **Keep showing up – the SOL is counting on you!** See you at the School Leaders, every 3rd Friday of the month. Watch out for the Zoom meeting email invites and Facebook announcements.
- **Let's pray for your intentions.** Join the Call to Pray the (Cursillo Family) Rosary every Monday at 7:30pm via WebEx. Use the same meeting ID and passcode for all WebEx meetings.
- **Help us tell the San Jose Filipino Cursillo story.** We're looking for volunteer writers, photographers and editors for the Go 4th SJFCM newsletter. Contact anyone in the Secretariat team if you can help.
- **Pray, study and grow where you are planted:** Visit the National Cursillo website for information and resources on rollos, events and prayer requests. www.natl-cursillo.org

In other news

- **World's first exorcism center in Manila:** The St. Michael Center for Spiritual Liberation and Exorcism will soon rise on Bernardino Street, corner EDSA and Guadalupe Viejo in Makati. It took seven years to plan and fund, according to Director Fr. Francisco Syquia. Construction began in May for the Philippine Association of Catholic Exorcists headquarters.
- **Pinoy priest given Vatican posting:** Fr. Arnaldo Catalan from Manila, 35, was elevated to archbishop and transferred as chargé d'affaires at the China diplomatic mission. Pope Francis appointed him to be his representative in Rwanda Africa early this year. He is the fifth Filipino nuncio serving the Holy See.
- **Another Pinoy saint in the making:** Teofilo Camomot, the late Cebuano archbishop may soon be the next Filipino saint. The Vatican Congregation for the Causes of Saints authorized processing for his sainthood since last year. Camomot's generosity to the poor is legendary.

From the Spiritual Director's Desk

Meditation on the war between Russia and Ukraine

By Fr. Francis Kalaw

As we continue to witness the ongoing war in Ukraine, how should we as Catholic Cursillistas respond?

Almost 57 years ago, Pope Paul VI became the first pope to visit and address the United Nations. It was on October 4, 1965, the pontiff said: "No more war, war never again." He called for everyone to become peacemakers and to re-discover his non-violent roots. Fifty-seven years later, the same call continues to echo through our Holy Father Pope Francis.

Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, was sent by God as an alternative to this violence. This is specially highlighted on the cross when Christ offered his life for our sake. In the Bible, St. Paul called the message of the cross "foolishness." But that's exactly why Paul said what he did: "in the way of the world" responding to air strikes, tanks and armed soldiers with more air strikes, tanks and armed soldiers is the thing to do. In some sense, it's what we've always done and responding any other way would be foolish. But as Christians, as people, we cannot love our enemies as Jesus commands us to and simultaneously prepare to kill them. This is not the way of Jesus and this is not Christ-like.

And so, Jesus calls us to another way – what we can call the "third way." But Jesus didn't just call us to this way, he lived it too. Christ scolded Peter as he resorted to violence saying to Peter, "Live by the sword, die by the sword." By accepting the cross, the Christ our Lord chose not to respond to violence with more violence, or sin with more sin. Jesus chose to be a peacemaker. And yet we continue again and again to live by the sword and die by the sword.

What then would it look like to be Christ-like in the current Ukraine crisis? First, like Jesus, we must pray. Pope Francis has called us to the "weakness of prayer" in response to this crisis, including a day of prayer and fasting for peace last Ash Wednesday and an act of consecration for Russia and Ukraine to Mary last March 25.

Second, and again like Jesus, we must stand against the oppressive powers and with the oppressed. In other words, we must be in solidarity with Ukraine. Third, like Jesus on the cross, we must actively resist violence with non-violence. In other words, we must be peacemakers. But this does not mean passivity. Peacemaking involves the active resistance of violence but not playing by the same set of rules as violence. Shane Claiborne, a Christian advocate of peace once said: "Peacemaking is about interrupting injustice without mirroring injustice, resisting oppressors without becoming oppressors." No more war, never again!

Bishop Cantu's got game

Story by Bro. Sam Sebastian & Sis. Maria de Quinto, photos courtesy of Bro. Sam, Sis. Lulu and Bro. Jun Esteves

MOUNTAIN VIEW – The Revs vs. Sems basketball exhibition is the much-awaited annual fund-raising event for the seminarians in the Diocese of San Jose. This spectacle shows our priests in a different light and religious life as not just about prayer and celebrating Mass. It was Sunday night, May 15 and St. Francis High school Markley Event Center Alumni Gym was alive with fans rooting for their team – the Revs (Reverends) or the Sems (Seminarians). But one thing for sure, all the parishes were represented.

It started with the National Anthem followed by opening prayers by Bishop Oscar Cantu who prayed fervently that the younger Sems be nice and respectful to the older Revs.



Fr. Francis Kalaw took advantage of his height and played a tough street ball

Starting five for the Revs were Bishop Cantu (jersey number 12), Fr. Brian Ive (4), Fr. Francis Kalaw (18), Fr. Joe Kim (10) and Fr. Sergio (20). Fr. Brian Ive tipped off the ball for the Revs. Fr. Francis Kalaw sank a free throw. Towards the end of the first quarter, the Revs were up by 3 points.

But the Sems' Daniel Rashid got in a 3-point shot to tie the game at 44 all before the end of the 4th. The Revs got back with two free-throw shots. But the Sems scored an easy lay-up shot. From then on, youth prevailed over age. Sems won, 51-47.

Bishop Cantu dazzled spectators by the way he dribbled. He still had it -- he used to play varsity basketball in high school. What's more, he sank a 3-point shot.

Our very own, Fr. Francis Kalaw played well. Taking advantage of his height, he was also rough and tough.

The Sems were assisted by a varsity player from Archbishop Mitty HS and the youth group from St. Francis of Assisi. The Revs, on the other hand were assisted by the St. Catherine's youth group.

The game went fast and loud with exchanges of whirlwind shots leaving spectators breathless and hoarse from cheering.

It was a satisfying way to end Sunday night with a perfect weather, instead of spending a ho-hum night flipping through cable channels. Here's a more exciting way to support the diocese than dinner dances and bingo nights.



Daniel Rashid (center) was the Sems', err ... ah redeemer when he sank a 3-pointer to tie the game. Daniel actually plays Jesus Christ at St. Francis of Assisi's Salubong.



Bishop Oscar Cantu (in jersey number 12), Cursillistas Sis. Lulu de Quinto (front, sixth from left), Bro. Jun Esteves (back, 2nd from right) and Bro. Chito de Quinto (masked)



Team Revs (standing, L-R:) Fr. Brian Dinkel, Fr Francis Kalaw, Coah Saric, Fr. Joe Kim, Fr Sergio Ovando, Jeremy (youth player), Fr Mathias, Fr Simon, Fr Brian Shining, Fr. Khoa Vu, and Msgr Rios; Sems (front L-F:) Ethan (youth player), Bishop Cantu, youth players Caden, Kiefer, Cody, and Fr. Jonathan Dumlao. (PHOTO courtesy of the San Jose Diocese Vocations office)



Team Sems (standing, L-R:) Justin Perez, Matthew Leung, Sem. Quizzer Besinio, Sem. Ryan Mau, Paul Pimentel, Brian Ballesteros, Sem. Robert Lamorena, Vincent Dinh, Fr. Joseph Nguyen and two others unidentified; (front L-R:) Jasper Perez, Sem. Duy Nguyen, (4th in front of Daniel Rashid, L-R:) Jay Matthew Perez, Nathan, Sem. Khoa Bui, Fr. Manuel Barrios, Sem. Thanh Ho and two unidentified youth players (PHOTO: courtesy of the San Jose Diocese Vocations office)

Celebrating 500 years of Christianity in the Philippines

Gifted to give

MILPITAS – Fr. Andy Ligot led 13 concelebrants, the Fil-Am group at St. Elizabeth of Portugal and well-wishers to commemorate the 500-year anniversary of Christianity in the Philippines last March 27.

Historically, the anniversary was on 2021 but Covid had shut down most everything. The Diocese did celebrate Mass last year at Our Lady of Peace church in Santa Clara on the occasion. Bishop Cantu greeted Fil-Am parishioners then with a promise to visit the Philippines “to see if there was any Filipino left.”

With the theme, “Gifted to Give,” the year-long commemoration was celebrated at St. Elizabeth where they pulled out all the stops. A version of the sinulog dance was incorporated in the Mass (as it used to be at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Joseph in downtown San Jose). Fr. Noel Sanvicente delivered a homey homily. Fr. Andy personally saw that there would be lechon even if attendees had to brown bag dinner amid the gusty drizzle.

Concelebrants included: Church of Transfiguration’s Fr. Tito Cartagenas, St. Clare’s Fr. Jonathan Cuarto, Queen of Apostles’ Fr. Jeff Fernandez, St. Joseph’s (Mountain View) Fr. Engelbert Gammad, Most Holy Trinity’s Fr. Andrew Garcia, St. Victor’s Fr. Mark Gazzingan, St. Martin of Tours’ Fr. Generoso Geronimo, St. Catherine’s Fr. Francis Kalaw, St. Elizabeth’s Fr. Duoung Nguyen, St. John the Baptist’s Fr. Eddie Obrero, St. Cyprian’s Fr. Vincent Pineda and hospital chaplain Fr. Randy Valenton.



(photos courtesy of St. Elizabeth of Portugal parish)

Cursillistas in Community



First post-lockdown on-site School of Leaders, April 29 at Holy Cross church gym: Bro. Charles Muscat (standing at far right) talked about church objects and vestments, Sis. Robin Barkin talked about the Tree of Cursillo.





Statement by Bishop Oscar Cantú on U.S. Supreme Court ruling on *Dobbs Vs. Jackson Women's Health Organization*

June 24, 2022

Laws should reflect the values of society. We recognize that in a pluralistic society, there are several value systems. Yet, the Catholic Church wishes to uphold the protection of the most vulnerable, especially women in vulnerable situations and children, including those in the womb, as a fundamental human right for all. Therefore, the Church advocates for just laws that defend the vulnerable and for a culture that respects human life, from conception to natural death.

Thus, we welcome the Supreme Court's decision in *Dobb's v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, which has affirmed our dearly held belief that life is precious, valuable, and should be protected and that states have a compelling interest to protect the unborn and limit abortion.

While we celebrate this decision in many ways, our work has just begun.

For decades, the Catholic Church in California has supported women, children, and families – walking hand in hand with those in crisis pregnancies, supporting families by providing maternity services, parenting supplies and resources, housing assistance, mental health support, and advocating for increased social services.

From this experience of holding the hands of those struggling with the decision to have an abortion, we know that for many women, abortion is not a choice they *want* to make but rather a choice they feel they *have to* make. From our work with mothers and families, we know they don't *need* expanded abortion services. They need housing assistance, prenatal and postpartum care, protection from domestic violence, paid family leave, and maternity accommodations from employers. With rising inflation and soaring housing and healthcare costs, California is not an easy place to raise a child. **We, the Church, pledge to expand access to life-affirming services that empower women in our state with the confidence that they won't walk through pregnancy or parenting alone.**

The California Catholic Conference is fervently committed to ensuring women in California know they are supported and that there are options when facing an unplanned pregnancy. **We challenge lawmakers to provide equitable assistance and commit new funding and resources for maternity and childcare.** California needs to be a sanctuary for women, children, and families struggling to thrive in our state over those seeking abortions.

As we seek to contain the expansion of abortion in California and work to defeat the efforts of state leaders to enshrine abortion into the state constitution permanently, my brother bishops and I ask that all Catholics throughout the state meet this moment and actively engage through the California Catholic Conference, in their dioceses and parishes, and in their communities to help women, children, and families. It is not enough to claim we are for life; we must be the hands and feet of Christ working to make it a reality.

And while the Supreme Court's decision will save the countless lives, we look to increase our work to support California's women, children, and families and protect the sanctity of every human life.

A priest walks into a bar

One Sunday, a pastor announced to his congregation, "It's a beautiful day to worship. My good people, I have here in my hands three sermons ... a \$1,000 sermon that lasts five minutes, a \$500 sermon that lasts fifteen minutes, and a \$100 sermon that lasts a full hour. We'll take the collection and see which one I'll deliver."

At a preacher's convention a pastor got up and started his sermon with this sentence: "I spent the best years of my life in the arms of a woman not my wife." As the congregation gasped, he quickly said, "She was my mother!" The congregation chuckled and a young preacher tucked it into his memory to use with his own congregation. Back home he began to feel a bit uncertain that he remembered it right. Forging ahead anyway, he started with, "I spent the best years of my life in the arms of a woman not my wife." The congregation gasped and the preacher paused, forgetting the punch line. After a few nervous moments he stammered, "And I can't remember who she was!" (Jokes from The Big Book of Church Jokes by Len Jones and Dennis Daniel copyright 2009 by Barbour Publishing, Inc.)

A missionary speaks at all the Masses for an appeal for the missions. After the last Mass a couple invite him over for dinner. After the dinner, on leaving, the couple asked the missionary to pray for them to get a child. "I'll light a candle for you in Rome." Five years later, the missionary was back and remembered the couple. So, he went to visit them. When he rang the doorbell, the lady opened the door with one child pulling her dress from the right, a child in one arm, another child in the other arm. "That's great! The candle in Rome worked. By the way, where is your husband?" "Father, he went to Rome to blow out the candle."

One day, a teacher, a garbage collector and a lawyer all die and go to Heaven. St. Peter's there, and when they get to the gate, St. Peter informs them that there will be a test to get into Heaven: they each have to answer one question. To the teacher, he says, "What was the name of the ship that crashed into the iceberg and sank with all its passengers?" The teacher thinks for a sec, and then replies: "That would have been the Titanic, right?" St. Peter lets him through the gate. St. Peter turns to the garbage man and figuring that Heaven doesn't really need this guy, decides to make the question a little harder: "How many people died on the ship?" The garbage man guesses: "1228." "That happens to be right, go ahead." St. Peter turns to the lawyer: "Name them." (Jokes from Oh! For Heaven's sakes! Jokes Again Volume 4 by Fr. Tony Peters)



KEEP **SHOWING**
UP
San Jose Filipino Cursillo
School of Leaders



Make a friend. Be a friend. And bring your friend to Christ.

Fr. Francis Kalaw

Bro. Sam Sebastian

Sis. Desi Lucas

Sis. Maria De Quinto

Sis. Marcy Reyes

Sis. Melinda Collins

Sis. Emma Forlanda

Bro. Harvey & Sis. Robin Barkin

Bro. Marlon De Leon

*Send us your suggestions for topics, questions and photos. **De Colores!***