



BATINGAW

A NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED BY  **cotk**
Cathedral of the King

July 2024 Issue : Volume I



Enlarging Our Ecclesiastical Borders



ENLARGING OUR ECCLESIASTICAL BORDERS

By: Fr. Gary W. Thurman, Editor-in-Chief

On the early morning of July 31, 1994, a group of a few thousand people began to crowd into the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC). They were all members of an independent Charismatic religious movement that had begun in Manila in February, 1979. Most of them had been born and raised in the Philippines' dominant Roman Catholic community, but had been drawn away by the life and sense of purpose they found in this new movement. They had grown rapidly in that time; in addition to the main congregation in Makati, there had blossomed quite a few offshoots, both nationally and internationally, called 'chapters.' But more recently a restlessness had developed in the group's leadership—a restlessness which was not unique to them, but was shared by many other believers throughout the world. Over the previous couple of years they had grown in the realization that their new-found Charismatic and Evangelical essence was missing something—ironically, the very Sacramentalism which they had discarded long before. And in that couple of years, the Holy Spirit brought many of these restless believers together, not to create a new separatist denomination or movement, but to participate in the Convergence He was bringing to the Body of Christ.

And on that July morning, things changed forever for that burgeoning group of Filipinos when a man known as Bishop Adler said, at the end of his address to the people, "So, you want to be part of the CEC? You're in."

Or words to that effect.

Changes? Immediately the man who had served as the group's leader, called progressively Brother, Pastor, then Bishop, became known as 'Father', due to his CEC ordination several months before. (But plans for his episcopal future were already well underway.)

Those in the group who had been previously known as pastors were now called 'brother', and several were shortly ordained into the diaconate, with an eye toward the priesthood, and for some, the episcopate; all in good time. The Executive Staff became the Presbytery, Ministries were redubbed societies, all those chapters were now called missions, and the entire structure of the group was soon to be subdivided into Territory, dioceses, cathedrals, parishes, and missions.

The myriad of changes that began that day was due to one thing: They were received into full communion with the Charismatic Episcopal Church, and, through it, became a part of the one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

Now, fast-forward thirty years, and the change is still ongoing. It is a special type of change called growth, a growth that is primarily generational, a growth that enlarges our ecclesiastical borders. Whereas before most of the members of Christian Life Fellowship, the seed which sprouted into the Cathedral of the King (now the cathedral parish of the diocese of Metro Manila and Northern Luzon), had a spiritual history and background elsewhere, the majority of the congregation is now second and third generation members, those for whom the CEC is a lifelong experience. The future holds more ordinations, further ministry opportunities, and more growth, not only numerical, but more importantly, a growth in godly character and relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. Thank God for those words from three decades ago: "You're in!"

Our Rector's Welcome Message

"Oh, That You Would Bless Me Indeed and Enlarge My Borders"

The Prayer of Jabez, a bestselling little booklet, was trending before the term "trending" became an internet buzz word. His prayer simply asked God to bless him particularly with the expansion of his territory. Could the reason for its popularity be because it caters to people's (mostly Christians) self-centeredness? While there is nothing wrong with personal supplication when we pray, we must always remember the example of our Lord Jesus who came not to be served but to serve and to give His life a ransom for many, and His teaching about how that it is more blessed to give than to receive.

As many know, our local parish used to be a megachurch. There came a point when our numbers were starting to dwindle because people did not like the fact that the leadership was going the direction it believed God gave and was transitioning into liturgy and the sacraments. My prayer at that time was that He would put us back on the map because I was worried about our reputation. But what are we Christians for? Prestige? Clout? As He continued to lead us along in our journey, I started to realize that ministry is not about us. And I became sorry for the things I've made it, when it's all about Jesus. It is His ministry, not ours, and we are just privileged to share in it. And we do it His way. By definition, ministry is meeting needs, others' needs. That's the way it is in His kingdom.

Realizing this, our motive in asking God to enlarge our ecclesiastical border should not be to establish a name for ourselves, but so that we can have more ability to reach more people in order to help them. When we pray for Him to grant unto us our allotted inheritance and the grace to build upon it facilities, our desire should be so that in them, we, being restored in His image and ever growing in love for Him, might become a habitation of His presence and ministers of His life. Not to our glory but His. And realize that we belong to an ever-increasing kingdom which is on a trajectory toward a new world which one day will be filled with His glory as the waters cover the sea.

BISHOP ARIEL P. SANTOS
Rector, Cathedral of the King
Charismatic Episcopal Church
Diocese of Metro Manila and Northern Luzon

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PRISON MINISTRY

"I needed clothes and you clothed Me, I was sick and you looked after Me, I was in prison and you came to visit Me." [Matthew 25:36]

The verses above may have inspired the late Fr. Manny Melendres and Mommy Yolly Velasco who pioneered the work at the Correctional Institute for Women (CIW) in Mandaluyong City many years ago. Currently, Dcn. Lito Robles has taken up the cudgels and has been faithfully doing so for the last 15 years, with the able help of the members of Shepherd's Touch Ministry (STM) as well as other volunteers from Cathedral of the King (COTK). What started as a modest gathering of 37 women has grown to become almost 500. These women, convicted of various crimes related to dangerous drugs, illegal recruitment, murder, graft, etc., are housed at the maximum-security compound. But the Lord has made a way for our workers, despite very tight security measures, to regularly minister to the PDLs (Persons Deprived of Liberty) of CIW.

The outreach is done every 3rd Saturday of the month from 9am to 11am. A typical ministry day would be celebrating Mass at the chapel, followed by sharing and fellowship. Upon request, the ministers bring suman, a native delicacy, to share every other month. To others, suman may be commonplace, but for the PDLs, it is something that they can always look forward to. The workers also make sure that these women feel loved and cared for especially on important occasions such as Christmas. In fact, last Christmas, STM, in partnership with their sponsors, gifted them [like they always have] with native mats and bath soaps for personal use. Of course, suman was part of their Christmas celebration, too!

Ministering to these women, many of whom have been either simply forgotten or completely abandoned by their loved ones, requires a great deal of commitment. According to Dcn. Lito, he has learned to never let the PDLs feel any discouragement, or let them see the volunteers throwing in the towel. Hope is renewed whenever the ministers come to spend time with them so it's very important for the work there to continue. What's even more interesting is that this ministry works both ways. It adds value not only to the lives of the PDLs but also to those of the volunteers.

Over the years, many have matured in their spiritual journey, becoming a source of encouragement for ministers to persevere despite challenges, personally or as a team. In fact, last Mother's Day, the PDLs rendered a soul-stirring tribute that melted the hearts of the volunteers.

Since there are changes in the CIW management every two years, Dcn. Lito and his team have to regularly update the legal documents of the workers, just to sustain the ministry there. Nevertheless, nothing will stop them from pursuing the work of the Lord.

In order to meet the growing needs of the Prison Ministry, STM continues to actively raise funds. Aside from organizing rummage sales, it also engages in selling various merchandise, including food and non-food items. It is also grateful to sponsors who have been regularly supporting the cause. Of course, STM would really appreciate additional help in any way. Not only does STM welcome any help in cash or in kind, its doors are also wide open for more workers, especially the millennials and Gen Zs, who may have the heart to minister not just to female PDLs at CIW, but also to other PDLs in prison sites whose doors have been opened to CotK for ministry as well. Indeed, here is one great opportunity to pay it forward as we appreciate how blessed we truly are for being free in Christ.

This past Ash Wednesday, observed on February 14, 2024, marked the beginning of the Paranaque Police Station Jail Ministry to almost 170 PDLs who participated in a one-hour Liturgical Mass and received Holy Communion. Those who were sick were also anointed with healing oil. The initial encounter, being Ash Wednesday, was a perfect opportunity for these PDLs to reflect upon their relationship with the Lord. Initially, it was held every third Saturday of the month from 9am to 10am but then it was moved to every third Sunday of the month from 2pm to 3pm. Ministers taking turns in presiding the Mass, ministering Holy Communion, and anointing with healing oil include Bishop Ariel, Fr. Adel, Dcn. Lito, Dcn. Ritche, sometimes assisted by Bro. Somerset Abarquez and Acolyte David Adam Jandayan.

(cont. next page)



...Prison Ministry

Meanwhile on May 11, the ministry to the PDLs at the Las Pinas Police Station Jail was also organized. Liturgical Masses, with the ministration of Holy Communion, are held every Saturday from 9am to 10am, followed by anointing of the sick with healing oil. The approximate number of PDLs here is about 60-65. Plans are also underway to hold another Liturgical Mass at a different site of the Las Pinas Police Station Jail soon. There are about 15 to 20 PDLs there. The group of ministers at the Paranaque City Jail are also the ones ministering at Las Pinas Police Station Jail. Indeed, the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. We are thanking the Lord this early for sending laborers in His vineyard so that we can continually know Him and make Him known. They may be deprived of liberty for now, but as they surrender their lives and will to Christ, then He will truly set them free.

Diwani V. Arbis

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Organized in 1980 as the Children's Bible Class, the Children's Ministry started classes at the lobby of the Dusit Hotel formerly Manila Garden Hotel ballroom on Sundays. The goal is to teach the children the Word of God at a level they can understand.

Borne out of the Father's and every minister's heart for the children, the ministry continues to fulfill this mission. Whether in the hotel lobby, in Magallanes children's room and in the various transfer of locations of the church until its own church building in Marimar, the Word of God is preached to the children.

Today, the Sunday School is held onsite from 8:00-8:30 AM every Sunday for Beginners (6 years old & below), Primary/Juniors (7-12 years old). We also use social media to broaden the reach of the ministry through the weekly posting online of the Sunday reflection and related activity in its Facebook page. We also provide support in the activities of other ministries such as the Pagtitipon of the Steward Ministry.

The incorruptible seed of God's word is planted and the fruit of the Holy Spirit in the lives and hearts of the children will be manifested for His glory.



Vera V. Malaga

May Pagdiriwang! Ladies' Fellowship

May 4, 2024 | 8:00 to 10:00 AM

Cathedral of the King Sanctuary

On a bright May morning, the ladies from the Cathedral of the King and the Pineda community came together for a heartwarming fellowship. We began with a group activity, using our hands to gently massage one another while speaking words of hope and offering prayers. This simple yet powerful gesture set a loving and supportive tone for the rest of the gathering.

Sis. Ting Librojo then shared a beautiful reflection on the significance of our hands. She reminded us that the dry spots and cracks on our skin tell stories of hope and love, symbolizing God's faithfulness in our lives. We then broke into smaller groups to share our own stories, celebrating the preciousness of our hands and the work they do in the different roles we fulfill.

In honor of Mother's Day, we played a game called "Tumpakners," where all answers had to be qualities of a good mother starting with "ma-." Words such as "maganda", "masipag", and "maasikaso" lifted up the spirits of those who were present, and the room was filled with laughter and joy as everyone participated.

The fellowship continued with a delightful feast, joined by those who attended the Men's Fellowship. We enjoyed pandesal, homemade spreads, fruits, and more, filling our tummies and our hearts. It was a morning of connection, celebration, and gratitude that left everyone feeling deeply blessed.

Lala C. Espiña



PARISH & MISSION CHURCH

St. Augustine Parish Church

B13 L2 Ambrosia St.

Fairgrounds Vallejo Place 4

Pasong Buaya 2, Imus City

Tel. No. 092092209523

Sunday Mass: 8AM

Church of St. Andrew the Apostle

#6 Narra St. Lakeview Homes,

Muntinlupa City, Philippines

Tel. No. 09164924811 /

09602189546

Sunday Mass: 7AM Tagalog Mass

9AM English Mass

Holy Family CEC

42 Maligaya Park Subdivision

Novaliches, Caloocan City

Tel. No. 09996030333

Sunday Mass: 9AM

St. Stephen the Martyr CEC

#63 Sto. Niño, Zone 4,

South Signal, Taguig

Tel. No. 09190669686

09985981270

Sunday Mass: 8AM

Wednesday Fellowship: 7PM

St. Peter the Apostle MC

509 J. Luna St, near Tramo St.

Pasay City

Tel. No. 09175911650

Sunday Mass: 9AM

San Juan Evangelista MC

3F Choice Market, Rosario Pasig City

Sunday Mass: 10:30AM

Jesus the Good Shepherd MC

BBCCC Bldg., Assumption Rd Ext.

Baguio City

Tel. No. 09094955575

Sunday Mass: 10AM

HEALTH TIPS OR EDUCATION



Exercise to Serve God Without Borders

By: Doc Marie Develos

Did you know that our physical bodies have been fearfully and wonderfully made? The human body has been designed for work; hence, it works best when it is active. Our ancestors knew this very well. In fact, they depended much on physical activity to survive. In order to obtain food for themselves and their families, they had to hunt and gather food. God directed Adam, "By the sweat of your face you will eat bread." (Gen 3:19). God made sure Adam and the rest of mankind was capable of doing this. How loving and merciful our God is! Here are some amazing and fascinating facts about our bodies:

- We have around 700 muscles and their main function is movement.
- Every physical action that a person consciously performs such as speaking, walking, and writing, requires skeletal muscle.
- Muscles are required to maintain posture and body position.
- Internal organs such as the stomach, intestines, heart, and blood vessels are also made up of muscles which cannot be controlled voluntarily. For instance, the human heart beats around 100,000 times per day without you even consciously knowing it.
- These muscles work continuously even when the body is asleep – they are responsible for transporting substances like blood and food from one part of the body to another.
- "If we don't use it, we lose it". Muscle atrophy is a condition where muscle tissue is lost or degraded. Disuse atrophy occurs from a lack of physical activity when the muscles are not used enough. But the good news is this type of atrophy can be reversed with exercise and better nutrition.

Realize that God has given us these earthly vessels for a purpose. If we want to serve God, we should not only be spiritually strong but we should be physically fit as well. Imagine if the disciples didn't have the physical strength and stamina, they wouldn't have been able to distribute the loaves and fish to feed five thousand men! We are stewards of these vessels; therefore, it is important that we take care of them. "Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body (1 Cor 6:19-20)."

These are just some of the many health benefits that have been ascribed to exercise:

- improved immune function to resist infections;
- better regulation of blood sugar to prevent or delay the onset of diabetes;
- increased muscular strength and endurance so we can "do all things through Christ who strengthens us" (Phil 4:13);
- improved cardiorespiratory functioning, lower blood pressure, better control of body fat, increased flexibility, and a whole lot more.

The Bible has a lot of things to say about exercise. Athletes have been used as an example by Saint Paul when he talked about discipline. 1 Corinthians 9:25 says "Every athlete exercises discipline in every way. They do it for a perishable crown but we, an imperishable one." But before deciding to commit to having an active lifestyle remember what 1 Tim 4:7B-8 says, "Rather train yourself for godliness; for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come."

The key message that I am trying to deliver is that every Christian should have a balanced approach to exercise and health. Yes, we should by all means take care of our physical bodies, but in these pursuits, we must never lose sight of God. We should exercise for the right reasons; not desiring to have perfectly chiseled bodies so we can flaunt them and be popular, but because we value God's gift to us.

Our exercise routine should not compete with our time with God. Actually, we can use it to spend time with God. We can use our workouts to give glory to God. We can pray while we jog, meditate while we swim, or put ourselves in God's presence while hiking a mountain. We can even use this time to strengthen bonds with our brethren. Grab the opportunity to speak words of encouragement to a brother or a sister who's about ready to give up with the 5-kilometer run. We can have outdoor activities while training our children in the essentials of life. "So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all for the glory of God (1 Cor 10:32)". So ladies and gentlemen, as we gird ourselves with strength and exert our arms with vigor, let us all keep the faith.

Enjoy your spiritual and physical workout!

Why BATINGAW?

In various cultures and religions like Christianity and Hinduism, bells hold great reverence as symbols of divine power and cosmic energy. Their ringing embodies creative energy, and has been used in various rituals to ward off negative spirits and energies. The sound of bells is often seen as a message from a higher authority. In spiritual settings and dreams, the sound of bells represents a summons to forge a deeper connection with the divine.

The ringing of bells can signify sacred moments, like the call to prayer in churches, the beginning and ending of a wedding ceremony, or the passing of a saint: The Resurrection Mass begins as the Church bell tolls one time for each year of the life of the deceased.

The sound of church bells, especially during Christmas, symbolizes festive celebrations. It heralds the holiday season and commemorates the birth of Christ. In Catholic traditions, bells are rung at midnight during Christmas Eve mass. Bells in homes symbolize the joy and cheer of the Christmas season.

In many societies, bells are rung hourly to indicate the time, with the number of chimes denoting the current hour. They have been used as musical instruments, creating melodious tones that enchant audiences.

Bells also serve as effective warning signals during times of impending danger, like fires, natural calamities, and other imminent threats.

And so, we present to you Batingaw. We hope it will be the clarion call of celebration, information, demarcation, and transformation to the Diocese of Metro Manila and Northern Luzon for many, many issues to come.

OUR HEARTFELT THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING DONORS

**MR. JOSEPH MACAGGA
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TO GOD BE ALL THE GLORY!