



THE TRUMPET

Alliance of Filipino Catholic Charismatic Prayer Communities
www.afccpc.org

Rejoice greatly in the Lord. (Phil 4:10)

October 2008

THE ALLIANCE IN 2008

Narciso S. Albarracin, Jr., M.D., *Editor*

In behalf of the Alliance, Sandi Ramirez and her fellow conference organizers, welcome to the Stockton Regional Conference. "Alliance" stands for the *Alliance of Filipino Catholic Charismatic Prayer Communities (AFCCPC)*. It is an umbrella and networking organization of Catholic prayer communities, with Filipino membership, in the USA and Canada, encompassing 13 regions including the most recently added Hawaii/Pacific Islands region. We participate with the National Service Committee of the Charismatic Renewal of the USA as an ethnic constituency and share in its mission of stirring into flame the grace of Pentecost, with particular focus and emphasis on Filipinos. An important aspect of the Alliance's mission is to *serve, unify, and build up Filipino Catholic charismatic prayer communities by promoting national, regional, and local conferences*. The Stockton Regional Conference (the third held in the North Pacific Region) is one such conference. A similar conference was held in Las Vegas (Rocky Mountain Region) last March. And prior to that, a National Biennial Convention was held in Burbank, CA, in July of 2007, attended by more than 2000 people.

The Alliance in its present structure was born circa 1996 when Bob Canton took charge of its leadership. The first National Convention under his leadership was held in Toronto in 1997 and drew some 5,000 attendees who were eager to see and hear and be blessed by His Eminence Ricardo J. Cardinal Vidal (Archbishop of Cebu) and a line-up of anointed speakers. A new Bylaws document was formulated in 1999 and the first formal election of officers under this Bylaws was held in 2000 in Las Vegas. The present Alliance officers were elected in 2004 in Baltimore, MD. A new set of officers will be elected during this conference here in Stockton.

What has the Alliance accomplished? One significant accomplishment is its being recognized by the National Service Committee as a major ethnic stream in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, along with the Haitians, Hispanics, and Koreans. We are represented by Bob Canton in the annual Gathering of National Leadership Groups. We publish our own newsletter, *The Trumpet*, and we have our own website (www.afccpc.org). Bob Canton's election last year to the *Council* of the Vatican-based International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services (ICCRS) has, indirectly, brought international recognition to the Alliance.

Enjoy the Conference and may you all be blessed by the outpouring of grace that results from listening to anointed speakers, participating in praise and worship and liturgies, and meeting like-minded *charismatic* friends. And, hopefully, enjoy reading our newsletter.

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FROM THE NATIONAL COORDINATOR'S DESK

Bob Canton

May the Lord's peace and grace and blessings be upon all of us always! As of this writing, we are very much in the heat of our preparations for the *Third North Pacific Regional Conference* to be held here in Stockton, CA, on Nov.7-9, 2008. It is indeed very exciting and challenging to be the host and a member of the Planning Committee of the conference. I could sense the excitement and the expectant faith rising every day among the members of the Committee and the volunteers. There is also a strong sense of camaraderie and cooperation among the different Committees and everybody wants to give their "all" to make this Convention truly a Spirit-filled one. We will continue to invoke on the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, to guide and strengthen and inspire us to do what He wants us to do so that His church will be built up and the Lord Jesus will be glorified. Truly, I could hardly wait for this gathering to take place here in my hometown of Stockton. I sincerely believe that the Lord will once again pour out on us His blessings and anointing. I'm expecting great and mighty things to happen in this conference such as spiritual, physical, emotional, and relational healings. With God, nothing indeed is impossible.

During this conference, election of officers for the AFCCPC will be conducted. The following officers will be elected: *National Coordinator, National Treasurer, National Auditor, 5 Members of the Board of Directors*. All the officers and Regional Coordinators including the current office holders are eligible to be elected to any of these positions. (For more information regarding the election of officers, please read our by-laws and access our website, www.afccpc.org). We pray that the Lord will continue to guide us in electing officers who have a "heart of a servant" who is willing to say "yes" to the Lord always. To serve the Lord is definitely not easy, "but we can do all things with Jesus who strengthens us. (Phil 4:13). No doubt this conference is of historic nature.

This brings to mind our *National Convention* on June 26-28, 2009 at the Baltimore Convention Center in downtown Baltimore, MD. The host of this national gathering, the Mid Atlantic Region headed by Dr. Jose Nepomuceno and Agnes Nepomuceno, is also in the midst of the preparation for this Convention, the 15th Convention so far. Let us therefore continue to embark on our daily intercession for the success of this National Convention. As I said many times in the past and as you all agree, prayers can avail much to turn death into life, darkness into light, hopelessness into hope, and impossibilities into possibilities. Jesus is our life and our light. Let us depend on Him and trust in His undying love for us.

Lastly, I would like to announce the newly appointed officers of the AFCCPC. They are Mike Tupaz (Asst. National Coordinator for Resources and Logistics), Marico Enriquez (Asst. National Coordinator, Finance/West), Leo Lacbain (Special Adviser to the National Coordinator). For the purposes of the election of officers of the AFCCPC, Ging Mangaliman was appointed as the Commission on Elections chairperson and Diane DeGuzman and Atty. Gus Mora as members of this Ad Hoc Committee.

Praise the Lord, the AFCCPC is on target on its goals of evangelization and promotion of unity among the Filipino prayer groups and prayer communities in North America. There is still much to be done, however. The Lord is not done with us yet. Let us continue to join hands and hearts and together let us say, "Come, Lord Jesus."

ORESTE PESARE, ICCRS DIRECTOR, GREETS AFCCPC FROM THE VATICAN



Dear members of the AFCCPC,

The love and the peace of Jesus be with you all!

It is with great joy that I write these words of greeting to you from the ICCRS office in Rome. I was blessed to meet with some of you in Jacksonville earlier this year at the School of Healing Prayer for Leaders. I want to congratulate you for the work that you are doing to promote the Kingdom of God in our times - our world is sorely in need of people who are on fire for the Lord and eager to spread his word and healing to the nations.

Truly the Catholic Charismatic Renewal is one big family, combining many different cultures and languages across the whole world. We at ICCRS are privileged to be in contact with so many different expressions of our faith, and we can witness that the Spirit is moving all over the world. I encourage you to continue in faith in your ministry. You do not toil in vain!

I am also very happy to welcome a member of your community, Bob Canton, onto our ICCRS Council. He is a true ambassador for the Lord, and a great asset to ICCRS. We thank you for supporting him in his new ministry to the worldwide Catholic Charismatic Renewal, and ask you to continue to pray for him and for all of the ICCRS Councilors.

Finally, if you are ever in Rome, please don't forget to come and say hello to us! We are always happy to meet our brothers and sisters in the Lord!

Yours in Christ,

Oreste Pesare
Director
International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services (ICCRS)
The Vatican

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PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND

Gus Mora (*Coordinator, North Pacific Region*)

Bob Canton and Fr. P.J. Camiring spearheaded a recently concluded pilgrimage to the Holy Land and Egypt from October 1 to 12, 2008. The entire group consisted of 91 pilgrims who came from all over the United States. The first stop where everybody convened was Tel-Aviv in Israel. The group toured the Holy Land in two buses, visiting sacred places on Day 1, like *Mt Tabor* where Jesus was transfigured before His disciples. A church marks the spot where Jesus stood between Moses and Elijah. Then the group proceeded to the *Basilica of the Annunciation* where the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary and to the house where the Holy Family lived. Then we visited *Cana* where Jesus performed His first miracle. All married couples in the group renewed their marriage vows after the mass. The group stayed in a hotel in *Tiberias*, near the Sea of Galilee, where the sunrise and the sunset presented a spectacular view for all to see. The following day, the group went to *Capernaum* where Jesus performed many miracles among which was the multiplication of loaves and fishes to feed the multitude. The day ended with a boat ride in the *Sea of Galilee*. The next day led the group to the *River Jordan* where Jesus was baptized. This was followed by a visit to the *Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem* where Jesus was born. The trip to *Jerusalem* the following day was indeed a memorable one. As the buses approached the holy city almost everyone was touched and awed at the sight of its massive walls and the domes and steeples of the temples and the mosques recalling the scriptural account of Jesus' triumphant entry and that moment when he wept for the city. One of the most moving experiences the group had was walking the *Via Dolorosa*, the route that Jesus took when he carried His cross to the place of His crucifixion. The pilgrims took turns in carrying two wooden crosses as they made their way to the Church where the cross of Jesus once stood between those of two other men who were crucified with Him. A few feet away was a slab of cold marble where they laid His lifeless body in preparation for burial. At some distance was a cave where his tomb was marked by an altar. That was the holiest place in the entire city where the pilgrims knelt and prayed and kissed the ground. Some were even overcome with emotion and wept. Mass was celebrated at a chapel in the *Garden of Gethsemane* on the *Mount of Olives* overlooking the Kidron Valley. The group had a

chance to visit the *Upper Room* where the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples on the day of Pentecost. A brief healing service was conducted by Bro. Bob where significant healings took place.

A trip to the *Wailing Wall* was indeed very memorable to some who were treated to an unorthodox brand of local "hospitality". The seventh day was a trip to the Judean desert, to the lowest spot on earth called the *Dead Sea*. Here, the pilgrims learned how to float without really trying because the salinity of the water produced extraordinary buoyancy. A spectacular view of the surrounding area presented itself at the top of *Masada*, a high plateau where the ruins of Herod's summer palace was located. The group ascended the mountain via cable car. That historic place witnessed how the Zealots stood in resistance against Roman forces for three years and chose self immolation to slavery. Day 8 saw the group crossing the Israeli border into *Egypt* (not an easy one) and spending the night at St. Catherine's monastery at the foot of *Mt. Sinai* where Moses received the Ten Commandments. Early the next morning, a few brave souls ascended the holy mountain to the summit for the exhilarating experience. The rest of the group went up half-way to the place of the legendary *burning bush* where the monastery of St. Catherine was built in the 6th century. The group then proceeded to Cairo where they saw the great pyramids and the sphinx at Giza. The day ended with a dinner-cruise along the Nile River. The penultimate day of the tour was marked by a tour of the Cairo Museum which housed the treasures of the pharaoh Tutankhamun and the celebration of the holy mass at the Abu Serga Church also known as the *Hanging Church*. The pilgrimage tour opened the eyes and hearts of many to the reality of God's presence in that part of the world and became a life-changing experience for most, if not all, of those who joined hopefully to be shared so that others, too, may likewise learn and benefit from it.



AFFIRMATIONS FROM ALL OVER

KINSMAN, OHIO

Theresa Rufener

I cannot put in words what the weekend meant to us. It was the most powerful weekend of our lives and it was not only us but everyone I talked to felt the same way. How awesome God is! He in His goodness chose a little country church to perform signs and wonders that will change many lives. I do believe and have always felt that if we love Our Lady and have devotion to her and go through her to Jesus, as Jesus came to us through her, that the Holy Spirit will be present where His Spouse is honored and loved. This is what I believed happened this weekend. I also believe that it was not by chance that you and your Alliance friends in Columbus were here in Kinsman with us, sharing our humble home, but most of all sharing our faith and the love of our Mother who binds us together as a family with that love. In our hearts we all felt that love, that bonding. It has to be Our Mother bringing us together as a family. That alone was so wonderful, and then how good God is – He gave us miracles and healing through Brother Bob Canton. How blest we are to have him and his ministry. As the days unfold there will be many signs and wonders reported from this weekend. Already the plans are being made for Brother Bob's future visit in May. We will be more excited then than we were this time (if that is possible) for every one has tasted the goodness of the Lord.



KUCHING, MALAYSIA

Janice

I was having low platelets for 8 years with levels of around 56,000. Then after Bob Canton's healing service, I went for medical check-up. Surprisingly, my platelet count increased to 160,000. Praise the Lord! My daughter, Jacquelyn was healed by God too from a bone problem, scoliosis. My mother, Mary, was diagnosed with terminal lung cancer. During the four months after your healing service God really loved her that she had less pain and suffering as compared to other patients. Praise God! When are you coming to Kuching again? People are waiting for your coming again. Hope to see you very soon.



UC IRVINE MEDICAL SCHOOL

Ryan

SCRC Convention in Anaheim, CA. All I can say is that God moved with His Spirit and touched many lives this past weekend. People were healed, including me. Can't describe how people felt but just knew in my heart that people were at peace. On the account of my healing – my eyes twitched and moved side to side as in I'm looking at a person or in lectures. It's not a lazy eye problem but something going on with my nerve circuit and eye muscles. This has been going on for the past year. I thought it was due to lack of sleep. Over the weekend I went to a talk on "I am the Lord, your Healer" given by Bro. Bob Canton. He has a blessed healing ministry and travels all over the world. Anyway we were just praying for one another and he mentioned "for those who have glasses, take them off and we'll pray for the eyes." So we prayed in the Spirit for a while and healings came: healings of glaucoma, lazy eyes, and other eye problems. For me, while in prayer I felt something like a knife or laser go through my eyes from left to right. It didn't hurt but something was just there. After I opened my eyes I was able to see better without any trouble. My eyes did not shake anymore and I just felt the Holy Spirit upon me and I knew in my heart that I was healed from whatever problem I had in my eyes. Praise God!

*Great things happen when **God mixes with us** — great and beautiful things. Some find **life**, some find **peace**. Some people even find **joy**. Some see things as they never could before. And some people find that they can now begin to **trust**. Some find **health**, some find **hope**. Some people even find that they can now begin to **live**.*

Carey Landrey

PROFILES



VAL & LEONI KIAMKO

*Regional Coordinators
Rocky Mountain Region*



DON QUILAO

*Regional Coordinator
Eastern Canada*

The partnership and Christian witness of **VAL AND LEONI KIAMKO** is awe-inspiring in its passion and total commitment to our Lord. Both are abundantly gifted not only in good looks but also in natural abilities. Their college degrees are in Business Administration. Val was a rising star in sales and was one of the youngest supervisor and trainer in the largest insurance company in the Philippines. In college, Leoni (nee Leonida Fae Casurra) majored in Management and “minored” in a lifelong passion – dancing – devoting her spare time as a college coed to dancing lessons and participation with the University Dance Troupe and Choristers of the University of San Carlos in Cebu City. Initially she juggled her corporate career in business administration and her passion for dancing, but eventually relented to her interest in dance by opening the Artistique Ballet Center in Surigao City and founding the De La Rose Ballet School at Virra Mall in Greenhills, Philippines.

Both Val and Leoni fell “victim” to the Catholic Charismatic Renewal – she in 1979 and he in 1981. Although at different times, both found deeper meaning in their personal relationship with Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Despite bright and promising careers in business, both concurred with St. Paul that to live is Christ and the rest is trash. To Leoni, to proclaim the Good News of Jesus and sharing God’s word through dance and drama became her passion. To Val, his dynamic personality and presentation skill were re-directed towards winning souls for Jesus.

Val and Leoni married in 1991 but even prior to their marriage each had a long list of accomplishments in the Lord’s vineyard – establishing and supporting prayer groups in parishes, offices, schools, and homes, involving travel throughout the Philippines, conducting Life in the Spirit and Growth in the Spirit seminars, and also retreats, recollections, and leadership training. Val co-hosted a weekly program in Radio Veritas, a Catholic radio station in Quezon City. Leoni established ministries for household helpers, the orphanage, the poor and the homeless in Manila.

In 1993, Val and Leoni founded the Seed of Life Ministry in Los Angeles, CA. When the couple moved to Las Vegas, they founded the Seed of Life Ministry, a Catholic Charismatic Outreach ministry in “sin city.” Both are members of the Evangelization and Teaching Team of the Southern Nevada Renewal Communities, the leadership arm of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal Communities in the Diocese of Las Vegas and Southern Nevada. They also co-host “Seed Sowers” which is a weekly radio program in station KKVV at 1060 AM in Las Vegas.

Val is a Regional Coordinator of AFCCPC representing the Rocky Mountain Region. Val and Leoni chaired the first Rocky Mountain Regional AFCCPC Conference held in Las Vegas in March 2008, a most successful conference animated not only by its outreach to the youth but also in the presentation of choreographed liturgical and meditation dances directed by Leoni. May the good Lord continue to bless their ministry abundantly.

DON QUILAO is a Catholic Lay Preacher based in Toronto, Canada, and is AFCCPC Coordinator representing Eastern Canada. He started preaching at the age of 19. He has been all over the Philippines, Asia, Europe, and America preaching. His mission is more on giving Catholic Life in the Spirit Seminars, Growth in the Spirit Seminars, Discipleship & Leadership Seminars, Healing Seminars, Speakers’ Seminar-Workshops, Equipping the Saints and Deepening Talks, Retreats & Recollections and Community Building Seminars. He is married to Norma Abuyo Quilao, who is also a preacher, and graced with 5 religious children. His wife, children and community (Disciples of Christ Catholic Charismatic Community) are his partners and prayer warriors in the ministry.

His charismatic experiences include: founder and presiding elder, Disciples of Christ Catholic Charismatic Prayer Community; speaker, 1997 National Convention, AFCCPC, Regal Constellation Hotel, Toronto; past chair, Catholic Lay Teachers of the Philippines; founder and past head servant, Joy of the Lord Foundation International; past spiritual adviser, Servants of Christ and Mary Community (Medical City Hospital, Manila), Living Bread Community (RFM Group of Companies, Manila), Asian Development Bank Prayer Group, Manila. Since 2004, he has been Process and Document Control Manager of East Metal Products, Ltd., of Toronto. By education and training, Don is an engineer. He retired from Manila Electric Company (MERALCO), Philippines, as manager. May the good Lord continue to bless his ministry abundantly.

MY NEW LIFE IN CHRIST

Greg Acedo

Coordinator, Southeast Region

God loves you. Because of this love He died for us on the cross to bring us salvation. Out of this love He is reaching out to you now and offering you a personal relationship and a new life in the Holy Spirit. The good news I share with you today is that a new life is indeed available through a fuller reception of the Holy Spirit. The new life I found after I was baptized in the Holy Spirit centers on an experiential relationship with the Lord.

Being a cradle Catholic, I did what most Catholics do: went to Mass and received communion daily if possible, say the rosary and other devotions, and visit the Blessed Sacrament. So when somebody invited my husband and me to a prayer meeting in Durham, my first reaction was: *I don't need that!* We got invited again and on the third time I stopped resisting and went just as a courtesy since they were friends from U.P. Los Banos, our *alma mater* in the Philippines. I had no idea then what a prayer meeting was, but their vibrant singing and the lyrics of their songs appealed to my heart. The group also seemed to love and care for one another like a family. From then on I continued to attend the weekly prayer meetings. That same year we went to Toms River, NJ, to attend a *Life in the Spirit Seminar*. I don't know what overcame me that day but tears just started to flow when we began praising. I could not stop crying. I thought it could have been tears of joy because I was upbeat that morning but someone told me later it was a process of purification -- the Lord was washing away my sins! This is also mentioned in Ezekiel 36: 25 which says: "I will sprinkle clean water upon you to cleanse you from all impurities..." When I was prayed with for the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, I saw a vision of the Risen Lord sitting right in front of me. He was robed in white, His face was so full of compassion and love. This made me so elated and touched to realize that Jesus loves me, and that I must be very precious to him. This realization brought a profound sense of peace and joy and these feelings stayed with me. The Risen Christ continues to do awesome work and deeds through our lives today.

The love that filled my heart that day was overflowing and when I came home that weekend I ran up the stairs to tell my husband and my daughter that I

wanted them to experience what I had just gone through. The same love that filled me that day is what impels me now to desire to bring the Catholic Charismatic Renewal to others so that they too can "taste and see the goodness of the Lord." (Ps. 34:9). In my new life, the transforming power of the Holy Spirit manifested in many other ways. The more obvious ones of these is, first, ***my thirst for the Scriptures***. When I read the Bible I perceive a new and greater meaning in the message God wants to impart on me, whereas before I did not retain much of what I read. Second, I became ***attentive to what is going on at Mass***. *I listen intently to the homily. I go to Mass every chance I got and visit the Blessed Sacrament more often.* Third, ***my prayer life changed to desire for deep prayer, from asking things from God to prayers of praise and thanksgiving for His greater honor and glory***. My desire to know and love Jesus comes from this deep prayer life and from surrendering to the aspirations and guidance of the Holy Spirit. Fourth, God in His goodness gave me ***the gift of tongues*** and this greatly reinforced my prayer life. Fifth, I had the ***desire for greater involvement in the Church***. I am aware that the spiritual gifts bestowed on me were not for me to keep but to serve others. In my parish I serve as a Eucharistic Minister, a bread baker and member of other committees. With others we organized a quarterly Festival of Praise at Holy Infant Parish as our outreach to neighboring parishes. We also reach out to the poor, college-bound students in the Philippines desirous of an education by sponsoring an undergraduate scholarship administered by the Philippine American Association of NC. In the Alliance of Filipino Catholic Charismatic Prayer Communities, the organization ministering to you now, I serve as one of the Regional Coordinators of the Southeast Region which includes the Carolinas, Georgia, and Florida. I also served as a Board member of the Alliance from 2000 to 2004.

From the abundance of God's love, I have become a more patient, humble, compassionate, and caring person than before. Now I can easily see the face of Jesus on those who are difficult to love and show them God's unconditional love. I show by example what it means to love unconditionally, bringing them the light and warmth of Christ.

I feel my Baptism in the Holy Spirit is making me live my Christian life abundantly and to the fullest. I realize now that there is much more joy and satisfaction doing work for the Lord as you come closer to

Continued on next page

Him in love. We have to do our best to accomplish what God designed us to be. The Holy Spirit will give us the power to expand beyond our limits as Jesus said (Acts 1: 5), “John baptized you with water but in a few days you will be baptized in the Holy Spirit...you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes to you.” It is a mighty power He is giving us in order to be able to minister to others—with such power you can “cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, drive out demons” (Matthew 10: 8). You can make a difference in this world by spreading the Good News. You can do anything in the name of Jesus “for nothing is impossible with God.” (Matthew 19:26).

The lavish love of God poured out in my heart is so empowering and overflowing, I cannot keep this love to myself. I must let others experience it too. I thank the Lord for this grace and fire that burns in me to this day. It is this burning desire to let other people experience the transforming and life-changing power of the Holy Spirit in other peoples’ lives that makes me continually want to form and nurture prayer groups. Living the abundant life brings me immense peace and joy. In my new life in the Spirit I see God’s beauty in all things and in all people around me. God in His goodness has showered me and my family with many blessings especially the healing of my granddaughter Lauren from deafness and the gift of a new heart to my husband, Juanito.

I feel that in my New Life in Christ, I’ve ascended to new spiritual heights and in these higher places, there is much more beauty and wonder in everyone and in everything. I see visions which are lovelier than anything I’ve seen so far. One such vision was in the Mt. of Beatitudes at the Holy Land. One day we set up for our daily Mass under the trees. Brother Bob Canton saw the dancing sun which attracted the attention of the rest of us. I gazed at many objects which came to my view, like a heart, a bird, an empty cup and many more. The loveliest of this vision was the Sacred Host in the monstrance surrounded by rays of many different brilliant colors that together exquisitely formed a lace around it. It was so beautiful! Continuing on in our pilgrimage to Oberammergau, I saw the host again as big as a saucer surrounded by petunia flowers of different colors. The flowers were partly a foretelling of what awaited us because when we got to town, there were lots of petunias on the lawns and window sills of most homes. The performance of the play itself on the “Passion of Christ” was superb, something coming from the nobility of Christ’s people.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, to me these manifestation of God’s love is the *life in abundance* here on earth that our Lord Jesus Christ promised us in John 10:10, “I have come that you may have life and have it in abundance.” To have a life in abundance is to experience God’s love, peace, and joy to the fullest. It has much to do with how we love God, and care for other people here on earth. It means how easily we forgive those who hurt us, and doing what is truly necessary in life. I feel so grateful that God showed and directed me to what is truly important in this life and for allowing me to set my priorities making Him the center of everything I say and do. In sharing with you my life-changing experience, I hope and pray that you will experience also the abundance of Christ’ love, proclaiming always that Jesus is Lord in your home, in your families, in your work and in everything. May our awesome God be praised and glorified forever and ever!

(Excerpts of a talk on “New Life” delivered during a Life in the Spirit Seminar held in Charlotte, NC, on June 10, 2006. Sister Greg was part of a Speakers Bureau that accompanied Bob Canton in his teaching and healing ministry. A PhD researcher, she is a Coordinator of the Southeast Region and has served as a Board member of the Alliance).

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Deacon Bob Rosales
 Scarborough, ONT

Fr. Lorenzo Salandanan
 St. Mark Parish
 Stouffville, ONT

Fr. Vic Paloma
 Our Lady of Victories
 Jersey City, NJ

THE CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC RENEWAL

Fr. Joe Cadusale, *Spiritual Adviser*

When Pope Pius XII died in 1958, the new pope, Pope John XIII, electrified the whole Christian world by symbolically throwing wide open the closed doors of the Vatican with the remark that *the church needed a breath of fresh air*. In announcing the Vatican Council on January 25, 1959, the Pope invited the church to pray thus for the success of the Council: *O Holy Spirit, renew Thy wonders in this our day as by a New Pentecost*. That prayer has been answered both by the 16 magnificent documents of the Vatican Council and by the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, a New Pentecost which surfaced from within the Church in 1967 and as in the prophetic words of the Pope, the Gift of the Holy Spirit, and a change for the Church.

The aim of the Charismatic Renewal is to transform human hearts through a "Life in the Spirit Seminar" which is nothing else but the basic Gospel proclamation into what is called the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. By now the Catholic Charismatic Renewal has spread among 120 million Catholic charismatics (*International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services, February, 2003*) who are baptized in the Holy Spirit. From living a life in the Spirit are born the fruits, namely: healing, charism, love for the Bible, conversion, devotion to the Eucharist, love for others, and loyalty to the Church. When did this phenomenon begin to happen in the Church?

While the Catholic Charismatic Renewal as a movement may have begun in 1967, the experience of the Renewal is as ancient as the Church herself. In fact, you cannot separate the action of the Holy Spirit from the Church. It was the coming of the Spirit at Pentecost that literally brought the Church to life.

The nature of the Charismatic Renewal is the presence and the activity of the Holy Spirit in the lives of men and women who have committed their lives to Christ. Just as fire is most helpful in a stove, God in his humility and wisdom allows the awesome power of the Holy Spirit to work within man's structure and organization. The Charismatic Renewal is part of the broader Church; it is not an entity unto itself. Practically, this means that we must be faithful and obedient to the teaching Magisterium of the church. Most dioceses include some kind of structure for the Charismatic Renewal.

For the Filipino charismatics there is the Alliance of Filipino Catholic Charismatic Prayer Communities (AFCCPC) at the national level. In the Diocese of Brooklyn, the Filipino Pastoral Team coordinates activities of all Filipino prayer groups. I always find the story of Paul visiting the Christians in Ephesus very challenging. He asked, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit?" (Acts 19:2-3). When I look at some parish congregations and some of the things that happen in the Church, I too ask the same question, "*Did you receive the Holy Spirit ?*"

(Reprinted from the July 2004 issue of *The Trumpet*).

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. Acts 1:8.

From the Head Shepherd's Pasture

THE HEART OF A SERVANT

Fr. Ramon Valera, *St. Cyprian Church, Long Beach, CA*

Before I entered the seminary, the vocation director asked me, “*why do you want to become a priest?*” My immediate response was, “*I want to serve God and His people.*” Now that I am 33 years in the priesthood, I still can honestly declare, “*I want to serve God and God’s people.*”

“To serve God and His people”, one must have a heart that is aimed towards service. Jesus said, “*You know that the rulers of the gentiles lord it over them, and their officials exercise authority over them. It will not be so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you, must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first, must be your slave – just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.*” (Mt. 20: 25-28). In this passage Jesus says that service is greatness in His kingdom.

What does it mean to be a servant? It can only mean to love and serve others. God created us for service, not for self-centeredness. There is always the temptation to misuse our gifts and talents, and use them for personal gain. Love fundamentally entails servanthood. Paul says in his letter to the Corinthians, “*If I speak in the tongues of men and angels, but have not love, I have become a sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal. And if I have prophecy and know all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. And if I dole out all my goods, and if I deliver my body that I may boast but have not love, nothing I am profited.*” (1 Cor. 13:1ff).

Allow me to share some qualities of the heart of a servant. The first quality that comes to mind is “**Willingness to Serve.**” Real servants do not fill up their time with other pursuits that could limit their availability. They are always ready to jump into service when called upon. If you only serve when it is convenient, you are not a real servant. Real servants do what is needed, even when it is inconvenient. A good test here would be to ask oneself: “Am I available to God any time? Can God mess up my plans without me becoming resentful?” Being a good servant is giving up the right to control my schedule and allow God to interrupt it whenever he needs to. A servant sees interruptions as divine appointments for ministry which become opportunities to practice service.

A second quality is “**Focus.**” Servants pay attention to needs. Galatians 6:10: . . . *Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.* Servants are always on the lookout for ways to help others and are always sensitive to the needs of people. When God puts someone in need right before you, He is actually giving you the opportunity to grow in servanthood. We miss many opportunities to serve because we lack sensitivity and spontaneity. You may only get one chance to serve that particular person, so take advantage of the moment.

A third quality is “**Do your Best.**” Servants do their best with what they have. They do not make excuses, procrastinate, or wait for better circumstances. They just do what needs to be done. They never say, “One of these days” or “When the time is right.” God expects us to do what we can, with what we have, wherever we are. You may not have much, but offer what you have. Grow with it, whether it be, praying for the sick, leading in prayer meetings, teaching in a meeting, preaching, or the like. As God’s call is there, His hand is there too.

Continued on next page

“Dedication and Perseverance” is the fourth quality. True servants do every task with equal dedication. Listen to what St. Paul has to say here: *“Whatever you do, do it with all your heart.” Col. 3:23.* The size of the task is irrelevant. The only issue is: does it need to be done? It is in small services that we grow like Christ. Jesus specialized in menial tasks (unskilled work) that everyone else tried to avoid: washing feet, helping children, fixing breakfast, and serving lepers. In the last analysis, Jesus demands that we follow his example. Small tasks often show a big heart. Your servant’s heart is revealed in little acts that others do not think of doing. Do not look for great tasks to do for God. Just do the not-so-great stuff, and God will assign you whatever he wants you to do.

Another important quality is **“Faithfulness or Commitment.”** True servants are faithful to their ministry. They keep their promises and complete their commitments and responsibilities. They do not leave a job half done. They do not quit when they get discouraged. They are trustworthy and dependable. Anyone can count on them.

Finally **“Humility.”** Real servants maintain a low profile. They do not promote or call attention to themselves. Instead of acting to impress, they “put on the apron of humility, to serve others.” (1 Peter 5:5). Self-promotion and servanthood do not mix. Real servants do not serve for the approval or applause of others. They are content with quietly serving in the shadows.

These qualities serve as the starting point for anyone to become more involved in any ministry of the Church, especially in the Charismatic Renewal. May Paul’s exhortation encourage us to have the heart of Jesus Christ, *“Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.”* (1 Cor. 15: 58)



Fr. Ramon leading Filipino liturgical music during Mass at the annual Charismatic Leadership Meeting held in Miami, FL, in January, 2008. From left: Ging Mangaliman, Dr. Joe Nepomuceno, Agnes Nepomuceno, Bob Canton, Gus Mora. Taking turns in providing ethnic liturgical music were the Hispanic, Haitian, and Korean delegations attending this meeting. Next year’s Gathering of National Leadership Groups will be held in Lutz, FL, in the Tampa area.

ELECTION OF NATIONAL OFFICERS

November 9, 2009

Stockton, CA



GATHERING OF NATIONAL LEADERSHIP GROUPS

January 12-14, 2009

18150 Bethany Center

Lutz, FL 33558

813-960-6300



NATIONAL BIENNIAL CONVENTION

June 26-28, 2009

Baltimore Convention Center

Baltimore, MD

Contact: Joe and Agnes Nepomuceno

THE TRUMPET

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