



# THE TRUMPET

Alliance of Filipino Catholic Charismatic Prayer Communities

[www.afccpc.org](http://www.afccpc.org)

*He is not here, but is risen. (Luke 24:6)*

**APRIL 2007**

*I am the way, the truth, and the life. (Jn 14:6)*

April 30 to May 5, 2007

## HEALING WORKSHOP

Jacksonville, FL: Wyndham Riverwalk

A School of Healing Prayer will be held in Jacksonville, FL, on April 30 to May 5, 2007, presented by ICCRS and co-sponsored by the NSC. This special edition of the School of Healing Prayer Series has been specially prepared by Francis and Judith MacNutt for the leaders of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. The registration fee is \$400 (single) and \$750 (married couple). The Wyndham Jacksonville Riverwalk Hotel is the official hotel for this event. Rooms are available for registrants at special conference rates of \$79 (+tax) per room per night. Closing date for registration is March 31. For hotel information and reservation, call: **904-396-5100**. For registration for the conference, call **904-765-3332**, or write Christian Healing Ministry at P.O. Box 9520, Jacksonville, FL 32208. You can also access further information at the ICCRS website: [www.iccrs.org](http://www.iccrs.org). This website has downloadable registration forms in several languages.

Participants will learn a balanced approach to healing and gain a level of confidence in the practice of healing prayer. A hands-on practicum, this seminar offers a scriptural basis for God's gift of healing and a deeper understanding of Jesus' ministry and the role of healing in evangelization. The conference starts on Monday, April 30, with a keynote address by Francis MacNutt entitled "Why Jesus Came."

June 22 to 24, 2007

## NSC CONFERENCE

Secaucus, NJ: Meadowlands Expo Center

The National Service Committee, in conjunction with a number of other national leadership groups, is calling the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the US to come together June 22-24 to celebrate 40 years of contemporary Catholic Charismatic Renewal. The venue for this conference is northern New Jersey, the Meadowlands Exposition Center in Secaucus, NJ. The conference theme is: *40 Years of Renewal: Pour Out Your Spirit Anew*. Adult registration costs \$45 (for youth, \$35). Make check out to "RCC 2007" and mail with information on your name, address, telephone, and prayer group to: Conference 2007, CharisCenter, P.O. Box 628, Locust Grove, VA 22508. For the English and Filipino Tracks, the Sheraton Meadowlands Hotel is the recommended lodging place (201-896-0500 or 800-325-3535).

The AFCCPC is holding a mini-conference within this Conference, a Filipino Track dubbed "Our Filipino Conference" hosted by the East Atlantic Region prayer communities, coordinated by Mario and Purita Vazquez, and scheduled for Saturday, June 23, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Speakers will be Bishop Sam Jacobs, Fr. John Gordon, Fr. Bill Halbing, and Bro. Bob Canton.

Call Sister Purita at **201-333-3136** for inquiries regarding the "Filipino Conference" or contact her by email at this address: [PVJerseyCity@Verizon.net](mailto:PVJerseyCity@Verizon.net).

July 13 to 15, 2007

## 14th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Burbank, CA: Airport Marriott H and Convention Ctr

The AFCCPC is celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal by holding its 14th National Convention at the Burbank Airport Marriott Hotel and Convention Center on July 13-15, 2007. This event is hosted by the Mid-Pacific Region of the Alliance and is chaired by BJ and Ging Mangaliman. For telephone inquiries you may call the Convention Secretariat at **213-351-9510** or **213-453-2595**. Ging Mangaliman's email address is: [ging12353@yahoo.com](mailto:ging12353@yahoo.com). Burbank Airport Hotel can be contacted by telephone at **800-736-9712** or via Internet at [www.marriott.com/burap](http://www.marriott.com/burap) (code:PHBPHBA).

The Convention hopes to draw 4,000 to 5,000 attendees throughout the United States and Canada. Speaking during the Convention are: **Bishop Oscar Solis, Bishop Gerald Wilkerson, Bishop Luisito Tagle, Bishop Teodoro Bacani, Fr. Alex Aclan, Fr. Bill Delaney, Fr. Fernando Suarez, Fr. Ed Abano, Bob Canton, Linda Koontz, Cecile Motus, Des Omac, Jim Murphy, Fr. Ramon Valera, and Dominic Berardino.**

Registration fee is **\$35** per adult 21 years and above (\$45 after April 30) and **\$10** per youth (15-20 years old). Make checks payable to "AFCCPC" and mail with information regarding name(s), address, email address, and phone number to: **Ging Mangaliman, 119 S. Rampart Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90057.**

The theme is: *I have come to give you life and have it abundantly* (John 10:10).

Those using LAX Airport need to call the Secretariat to arrange airport pickup.

## ALLIANCE ACTIVITIES IN 2006

**June:** Alliance Speakers Bureau led by Bob Canton conducted a weekend LSS and Healing Service in Charlotte, NC, locally organized by Regional Coordinator Joe Calicdan.

**July:** East Atlantic Regional Conference held in East Brunswick, NJ, chaired by Board member Purita Vazquez. National Leaders Meeting held in East Brunswick, NJ, in conjunction with the East Atlantic Regional Conference.

**August:** Alliance members are honored by membership in national and international Catholic charismatic renewal organizations: National coordinator Bob Canton was elected to membership in Vatican-based ICCRS (International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Service). Board member Agnes Nepomuceno is appointed for membership in the National Service Committee.

**September:** Pacific Northwest Regional Conference held in Anchorage, AK, a first in that region, chaired by Regional Coordinator Karen Smith. National Leaders Meeting held in Anchorage, AK, in conjunction with the Pacific Northwest Regional Conference, the second national leaders meeting for the year.

**November:** Healing and Renewal Pilgrimage retracing the footsteps of St. Paul and visiting Mother Mary's house in Ephesus was led by Bob Canton and organized by Glory Tours.

The Alliance participated and continues to participate in the planning of the following events:

- Charismatic Renewal Convention organized by the National Service Committee to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the USA, to be held in Meadowlands, NJ, in June, 2007.
- Biennial National Convention of the AFCCPC to be held in Burbank, CA, in July 2007, chaired by Regional Coordinator and Board member BJ and Ging Mangaliman.

By attendance and through speakers, the Alliance participated in the following 2006 conferences:

- Catholic Charismatic Conference organized by the Northern California Renewal Committee (NCRC) and held in Santa Clara, CA, in May, 2006
- Catholic Charismatic Conference organized by the Southern California Renewal Committee (SCRC) and held in Anaheim, CA, in September, 2006
- Conference on the Holy Spirit held in San Francisco in October, 2006
- Wildwood Catholic Charismatic Convention held in New Jersey in October, 2006
- Regional Leaders Meeting of the NSC held in New Mexico in November, 2006

Continued its communication network via:

- Publication of its newsletter, The Trumpet, which is also posted on-line
- Maintenance of its website, [www.afccpc.org](http://www.afccpc.org)
- Teleconferencing by the Alliance Board
- E-mailing among officers and regional coordinators

## SAVE THESE DATES IN 2008:

- ⇒ March 28, 29, 30, 2008: *Regional Conference and National Leaders Meeting in Las Vegas, NV*
- ⇒ November 7, 8, 9, 2008: *Regional Conference and National Leaders Meeting in Stockton, CA*

**FROM THE NATIONAL COORDINATOR'S DESK**

Bob Canton

May the grace, peace, and joy of the Lord Jesus Christ be with us always.

I thank the Lord for blessing and supporting the Alliance in its various activities in 2006. The opposite page gives a birds-eye view of what we have engaged in and accomplished. I also thank all of you for your contributions, both as individuals and as charismatic prayer communities. I need your prayers as I assume a major responsibility in an international organization, the ICCRS. I need the Lord's guidance and empowerment and I need you as my prayer warriors.

As we face 2007, we ask again for the guidance of and strengthening by the Holy Spirit. We are back to doing "business unusual" – I termed it thus because doing God's business is "business unusual" as we all know.

The first National Leaders' Meeting for 2007 will be held in Jacksonville, FL., in conjunction with the School of Healing Prayer (see front page). Through the help of Oreste Pesare, Director of ICCRS, and Jim Murphy, we have been provided with a meeting room at the Wyndham Jacksonville Riverwalk Hotel. We meet on May 2, 2007. It is my hope that you attend both our meeting and the Healing Workshop. I attended the first Healing Workshop sponsored by the ICCRS in San Giovanni Rotundo (Italy) in 1995, and I could never forget the experience and the knowledge that I received on how to pray for the sick. By attending this Workshop, you'll be hitting two birds with one stone, so to speak.

I also hope to see you at our 14<sup>th</sup> National Convention to be held at Burbank, CA (see front page). This convention promises to be another Spirit-filled gathering. Please come and be a part of AFCCPC's celebration of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the US. I also hope that you can attend the NSC-sponsored Conference to be held in June (see front page), where the Alliance will be holding a Filipino mini-conference.

Here are our challenges for 2007: (1) Financial rehabilitation; our treasury suffered some setback after the Anchorage regional conference. We thank our members who quickly responded to our call for help; their names are printed elsewhere in this newsletter. (2) A need for an updated Alliance Directory. (3) A dire and long-standing need for a Handbook on Regional Conferences, which will offer guidelines to those regions putting up a conference for the first time. (4) A more functional and more "current" website. (5) A more effective use of our Speakers Bureau. My goal for this year and next is to reach out to as many prayer groups as possible and to make the Alliance more cohesive and more focused on the Lord Jesus Christ.

Please intercede for the success of the works and activities of the AFCCPC. To God be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

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## COMMITTEE OF 5: A GATHERING OF NATIONAL LEADERSHIP GROUPS IN CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC RENEWAL

The 2007 meeting of the Committee of Five was held in Southwest Miami at the Ignatian Spiritual Center on January 15-17. It was attended by representatives of the “Committee of Five”: (1) Bishops’ Ad Hoc Committee for Charismatic Renewal (Bishop Robert Carlson however could not attend); (2) National Association of Diocesan Liaisons (represented by Fr. Bill Delaney); (3) English-speaking National Service Committee (represented by Aggie Neck); (4) Covenant Communities in the Charismatic Renewal and the Catholic Confraternity of Communities (represented by Dennis McBride); (5) Haitian, Hispanic, Filipino, and Korean Service Committees (represented by Msgr. Joseph Malagrea. The ethnic streams of the Renewal were well represented by their respective national leaders. Representing the AFCCPC were: Fr. Perry Kenaston, Bob Canton, Ging Mangaliman, Rency Biagan, Joe and Agnes Nepomuceno, Carmen Sotto, Al and Terri Albarracin.

The meeting venue was ideal, a retreat center in the southwest outskirts of the city of Miami, with 75 well-furnished 2-bed dorm rooms with private baths, which, along with a library, cafeteria, auditorium, and church, surround a central court. It was ideal for conferences, prayers and meditations, praise and worship, meeting old friends, and making new ones. Mass was celebrated each day of the conference.

Msgr. Malagrea reviewed the history of the Committee of Five and its accomplishments in previous annual meetings which began in 1995. Each group was then asked to give a report on what God has been doing in their respective communities. The Alliance reports were given by Al Albarracin and Rency Biagan, and Ging Mangaliman had the opportunity to announce the upcoming Alliance National Convention in Burbank, CA. The “core” of this gathering was a teaching on “The New Evangelization” given by Fr. Bill Delaney. This was followed by dialogues on the teaching and a summation during a plenary session.

From the Alliance point of view, the great value of this meeting was the opportunity to meet with the national leaders of other ethnic organizations and the familiarization with the activities of members of the Committee of Five. This meeting also gave Bob Canton the opportunity to do his initial duties as a newly-elected member of ICCRS.



Profile:

## JOE G. CALICDAN

Charlotte, NC

*Alliance Coordinator, Southeastern Region*

Joe was born in Urbiztondo, Pangasinan, and is one of 11 siblings, raised by devoutly-Catholic parents who held a solemn devotion to the miraculous Our Lady of Manaoag and who believed that a good education is the best legacy parents can give to a child. Both a lawyer and an accountant, Joe received both his degrees in Bachelor of Laws (*with honors*) and BS in Business Administration (*cum laude*) from the University of the East. He met his wife, Cristy, while working for the Philippine National Bank in



Escolta, Manila. An accomplished musician and a graduate of St. Theresa College in Manila, Cristy was then playing the organ at the executive lounge to entertain banking executives and dignitaries, local and international. Their marriage is blessed with three sons: Jommel (Management Information Systems and Marketing, University of Wisconsin), JP (Computer Science, Purdue University), BJ (Nursing, University of N. Carolina Chapel Hill).

Joe came to the US in 1984. He worked in the maritime industry for almost 18 years, rising through the ranks to become Chief Financial Officer of his company, a foreign flagship of Poland, France, and Canada shipping lines. He was transferred to various port locations. His last transfer was in North Carolina in 2000. In 2001, the company was transferring him again to another location in Canada. He decided against this move in order to be close to his children who at the time were all studying in American universities.

*Says Joe: Pondering on the impact of becoming jobless, I worried about my financial stability to support my family. At that time, the US economy was down and the unemployment rate was high. Massive layoffs were everywhere as the corporate giants were downsizing their operations. I clung to my faith with the Lord and begged for the Blessed Mother's intercession for the Lord's mercy and grace. This was a turning point for me: examining myself thoroughly, trying to understand why I lost my job when I needed it most, I asked what the Lord's message was to me? As Lent approached my wife asked me this question: **When was your last confession with the Lord?** I was stunned. My last confession was in 1977, when I got married. That was almost 24 years ago. I felt that I did not know how to go to confession anymore.*

*Our local parish was holding a Mission Workshop during Lent and the topic was "Journey to Salvation." A handout entitled "A Guide to Confession" was distributed and this material proved very helpful to me as it paved the way of my reconciliation with the Lord. I prayed to the Holy Spirit. I examined my conscience. I repented for my sins. I resolved to change my life. **I went to confession.** What a great feeling to receive the consolation of God's pardon!*

*After I reconciled myself with the Lord, God started to show his love and mercy to me. My former employer awarded me a hefty and generous severance package and my service was extended for another year as a consultant. As my consultancy job neared its end, I landed a permanent job in Charlotte with a medium-size manufacturing company of which I am now the CFO. Praise the Lord! My employment was continuous and without break. In the meantime, my two sons graduated from college and are now gainfully employed. My youngest son will soon graduate from the UNC Chapel Hill.*

*Thankful for God's blessings, I started to spend a quality hour with the Blessed Sacrament almost every day. Cristy and I started in Charlotte the devotion to Our Lady of the Rosary of Manaoag and formed a group called **The Marian Rosary Squad of Charlotte, North Carolina.** Every month the Blessed Mother icon is transferred to a household member. There are now 7 rosary groups in Charlotte. Each rosary group consists of 12 household families. All household members are encouraged to share with the group their ideas, beliefs, and personal experiences with the Lord. Our annual fiesta for the Blessed Mother is in October. My wife is very supportive of my spiritual transformation. We have attended the Christian Life Program of the **Couples for Christ** and we are supporting the Gawad Kalinga housing project for the poor in the Philippines. We are also in the process of putting up a Filipino-American charismatic prayer group in our local parish in Charlotte.*

*When I was president of the New York Phil-Am Lions Club District 20-R2 (1990-91) I adopted the theme of "A year of change, the formation of character in a celebration of change." When I lost my job in 2001, I underwent another change. This time is was **spiritual change.***

*I am beginning to understand now the message of the Lord why I lost my job at the time when I needed it most. Because of this, I experienced a big change in my life. Not a physical change but a spiritual transformation in my life. I praise and thank the Lord for his mercy and guidance.*



June 9-10, 2006  
 Charlotte, North Carolina:

**LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR AND HEALING RALLY**

A Life in the Spirit Seminar and Healing Rally was held in the St. Matthew Catholic Church, Charlotte, North Carolina, on June 9-10, 2006. Organized by Joe and Cristy Calicdan and a team of enthusiastic and service-eager workers, the meeting gathered some 600 people during the opening Friday evening meeting which began with Mass celebrated by the Reverend Monsignor John J. McSweeney and preceded by a procession of the image of Our Lady of Manaog. Msgr. McSweeney gave an enthusiastic endorsement of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal Movement, echoing the attitude and sentiments of the late Pope John Paul II towards the Renewal, particularly as regards empowering the laity in the ministry of evangelization. The evening continued with Brother Bob Canton's Healing Service which brought healing to many attendees.



The entire day of Saturday, June 10, was devoted to a condensed Life in the Spirit Seminar conducted by Brother Bob and a team from the Alliance Speakers' Bureau. Al Albarracin, a physician pathologist (Columbus, OH), talked on "God's Love." Gus Mora, a practicing attorney (Los Angeles, CA), talked on "Salvation." Greg Acedo, a PhD researcher, Alliance regional coordinator and former Board member (Durham, NC), talked on "New Life." Bob Canton, Alliance national coordinator (Stockton, CA), talked on "Receiving God's Gifts" and "Jesus, the Master Healer." Bob also talked on and conducted the Baptism in the Holy Spirit while intermittently praying for healing as the Spirit led him. At the conclusion of the session, a large circle of some 170 people was formed in the St. Matthew Church gymnasium, and Brother Bob went around to pray and bless them. Many rested in the Spirit and no doubt many went home blessed with their own personal healing.



The event was held under the auspices of the Southeast Region of the Alliance of Filipino Catholic Charismatic Prayer Communities. The coordinator in this region is Greg Acedo. Newly appointed by Bob Canton as regional coordinator of the Southeast Region is Joe Calicdan of Charlotte, NC.



Praise and worship music was led by Kristine Besas and the FOR THE LORD Music Ministry. The Saturday session was ably emceed by Pete Santos. A sumptuous Saturday lunch was served at the gymnasium cafeteria.

Participation of the Alliance Speakers Bureau in this event is an Alliance first and is an implementation of Bob Canton's idea of having a resource of LSS speakers to help him in his ministry of evangelization and formation of prayer groups.

This weekend event was hosted by the *Marian Rosary Squad of Charlotte* and the *Filipino-American Catholics of the Carolinas*.



September 8-10, 2006  
Anchorage, AK

### 1<sup>st</sup> PACIFIC NORTHWEST REGIONAL CONFERENCE

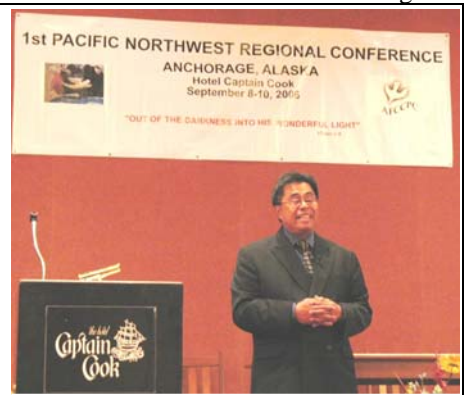
The Alliance Regional Conference held in Anchorage, Alaska, on September 8-10, 2006, was the first of its kind to be held in Alaska. It was a Spirit-filled success. Members of charismatic prayer communities in Juneau, Alaska (Twin Hearts of Jesus and Mary, the Holy Trinity, and Our Lady of the Rosary), inspired by the Holy Spirit, sacrificed their time, money, and efforts to witness this much-awaited gathering. There were also Alliance members coming from California and Ohio. We, from Juneau, were greatly impressed with the manner the conference was conducted. On our arrival at the airport, our very own Naida James, leader of the Holy Trinity Charismatic Prayer Community, picked us up and drove us to a majestic place named *Hotel Captain Cook*. Fr. Perry Kenaston and Alliance regional coordinators Naida James and Karen Smith arrived early in Anchorage to make preparations for the conference.

All the visitors and invited speakers were housed in the Captain Cook Hotel. All activities were done in the hotel. Food served to the delegates was excellent. The dining place was magnificent, in fact fit for wedding receptions. Masses, praying of the Rosary in the Adoration Chapel, the dedication to the Divine Mercy were scheduled. Prayers deepened our faith and love to Jesus and Mary. Songs and praises to God were awe-inspiring. It touched the inner recesses of our hearts. Praise-worthy was the *Children of God Prayer Community choir* from Stockton, CA. Their voices could easily awaken a slumbering and lukewarm soul. As we listened to the anointed speakers, we felt Jesus was speaking to us, reaching out, and ready to answer the deepest yearnings of the heart. Speakers during the conference included Msgr Joseph James, Fr. Polinar, Fr. Halbing, Fr. Tom Ganley, Sr. Nancy Kellar, Jim Murphy, Bob Canton.

During this conference God healed many infirmities. All kinds of sickness like arthritis, rheumatism, and backache were healed by the touching hands of God. To the charismatic members of Juneau, the conference was an enjoyable and transforming experience. We pray fervently that this exalting experience will make us strong so we can prepare for any eventuality and to endure everything with patience.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Pacific Northwest Regional Catholic Charismatic Conference at Anchorage ended with a holy mass officiated by the Bishop of Anchorage. After the mass we bid a warm adieu to one another. We went home to Juneau with hearts full of the Holy Spirit. Out of the darkness we saw the light, which would guide us in our journey in life. Jesus is the light of the world. Because of that light, dead bones will rise again.

(Contributed by: The *Twin Hearts of Jesus and Mary Charismatic Prayer Community* and the *Holy Trinity Charismatic Prayer Community*, Juneau, AK. Photos by: James Blubaugh, Mt. Vernon, OH).



## THANK YOU

To alleviate the deficit that resulted from our latest regional conference, the following people responded to the National Coordinator's call for financial assistance, contributing from \$200 to \$1000 in lump sum or in pledges and the Alliance gives its most appreciative thank-you: RENCY BIAGAN, GUS MORA, BOB CANTON, JAMES BLUBAUGH, INER PUGAT, LEONARDO AND FE LACBAIN, DIANNE DUFORT, FR. BILL HALBING, BERTIE KREHNOVI, ROY COLOMA, NILO CANTON. Thank you also to those coordinators who paid double their annual dues to help out. And the Alliance thanks an anonymous donor who issued a check for \$1,198.56 to pay in full the balance remaining in our Captain Cook Hotel account; may God bless you abundantly. If after reading this you are moved to help out in this fund-raising campaign, contact our national treasurer, Delia Tabasa, at this address: 134 Fox Sparrow Lane, Brisbane, CA 94005. You can also talk to Brother Bob Canton. The red ink notwithstanding, the Anchorage Conference was a tremendous evangelization success, spiritually and fraternally, and we commend Karen Smith, Naida James, and spiritual director Fr. Perry Kenaston for blazing Alliance trail in Alaska for the glory of God.

1-866-352-5952

## GLORY TOURS



Join us in the **HEALING AND RENEWAL PILGRIMAGE** to Fatima, Avila, Madrid, Zaragoza, Lourdes, Nevers, and Paris, on October 8 to October 19, 2007. **Reverend Father Raymund Ellorin and Brother Bob Canton** will accompany us on this 12-day pilgrimage.

Cost of the tour: **\$2,690** (+ taxes) from JFK. **\$2,890** (+ taxes) from SFO/LAX.

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## ONE-LINERS TO PONDER

**A lot of kneeling will keep you in good standing.**

*Don't put a question mark where God puts a period.*

**Are you wrinkled with burden? Come to church for a face-lift.**

*When praying, don't give God instructions; just report for duty.*

**We don't change God's message; His message changes us.**

*When God ordains, He sustains.*

**Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark.**

*Most people want to serve God but only in an advisory position.*

**Suffering from truth decay? Brush up on your Bible.**

*Never give the devil a ride – he will always want to drive.*

**He who angers you controls you.**

*Give satan an inch and he'll be a ruler.*

**God doesn't call the qualified; He qualifies the called.**

*Exercise daily – walk with the Lord.*

*From the Internet*

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**YOUTH CORNER****Kristin Mapili**

As core leaders (Khristele Arguelles, 21; Calvin Dumandan, 20; Carlo Dumandan, 18; Kimberly Guinto, 20; Kristin Mapili, 22 and Reuben Samuels, 19) of a small parish-based youth group in Long Island, we never imagined that we would be going on a mission ... to Native Americans ... in New Mexico. The thought about mission retreats did cross our mind during the four years that our youth group, **Pater Noster Youth Ministry** (PNYM), have been around.

A year ago, our spiritual advisor, Grace Bernardo, was asked by the nuns of Bl. Mother Teresa (Missionaries of Charity) to give a retreat to Navajo youths in Vanderwagen, New Mexico. Tita Grace in turn invited us to come with her, along with her assistant, Maria Henderson. Not knowing that it was actually a blessing in disguise we unanimously agreed with a less enthusiastic response of, "Sure, why not?" With a mission like this, you would think that preparations would start the minute the idea was presented, but somewhere during the span between then and about 3 days before the mission, all six of us caught a slight case of amnesia. We were promptly cured of it, however, by Tita Grace who persistently reminded us to get our acts together because "it's now only three months away!", or "...two months away!", and as the day got closer, "are you guys ready? We're flying to New Mexico tomorrow!" She'd remind us to stay out of trouble, arguments specially at home, forgive and not harbor any kind of ill feelings or resentment, to be faithful to our 'prayer breaks'. We pause to pray for this mission at 9:30 pm every night. We also asked all our friends, relatives, and other communities to intercede. Support and prayers came from everywhere, like God was telling us that what He has prepared for us to do is something great and miraculous. It was an amazing feeling. In addition to intercessory prayers, Tita Grace suggested we fast and "soak" in prayer.

Personally, the day we left for New Mexico I felt so close to the Lord. This extreme feeling of happiness and excitement filled my entire body, and my stomach was filled with butterflies, but I think it was the Holy Spirit letting me know that there will be a great outpouring of God's love within the next week and He is just as excited as I was. When we got there, all our fears, anxiety, nervousness, and doubts were left behind. This was the mission God sent us to, and we wanted it. I can honestly say that it was a week of surprises, disappointments, miracles, and tremendous outpouring of love from everyone.

**Calvin** knows exactly what I'm talking about. He states: "*We prayed for this mission for almost a year but I definitely didn't feel that I was ready until the week before. Like a test, the last week for me felt like I was "spiritually cramming" for the mission. The week started off with a getaway retreat for the service team. This retreat really helped us all concentrate on the goal of our mission . . . help these people to realize how much God loves the . It also helped us gain confidence and reassurance that God will overcome any difficulties we may encounter. The final week included a lot of praying, fasting, and last minute logistical preparations. The first retreat was for the boys. Only two boys came on time and even there were only two participants we started the retreat. As we sang praise songs, more and more boys began to arrive. We thought that many of the boys weren't paying attention but when we broke up into groups, they knew the answers to the questions. After the boys retreat, we had a day off and we used that time to rest and evaluate our materials in order to improve our presentations. I felt that we were more prepared and ready to handle anything, with God's help. Our next retreat was for the girls. They turned out to be more open and cooperative. And I think we, the team, were more relaxed this time. At the end of the week was graduation and Mass for participants of both YLSS retreats. One of the boys commented that he was more deeply touched here than at his high school graduation where he graduation valedictorian.*"

We were "fattened" that whole week from volunteers (who traveled all the way from New Jersey and Nebraska) to cook for us, but more than ever, our hearts were fattened

**YOUTHCORNER cont'd**

with so much love from these Native American kids who didn't even have much. We were sent there to witness and testify to the *Good News* and we came out learning so much from these people -- their land, culture, hardships, and their simple ways of life.

We worked together as a team, as messengers of God, and pushed through the enemy's tactics to annihilate the mission. Though we were tested in many ways, especially during the boys retreat, we didn't let a *thorn in our flesh* defeat our purpose for being there.

Another member of the service team, **Carlo Dumandan**, shares his reflections:

*"I went to New Mexico with many expectations. So many things went wrong on the way to New Mexico that it was a little discouraging at first. We arrived at Albuquerque late at night and we met up with a local volunteer, Ken, who brought us to a St. Patrick's Church, which was about two hours away. Looking around at the vast landscape full of intricate natural designs of rock and stone, the stark difference between New York and our home for the next 7 days finally hit me. We stayed at the guest house adjacent to the convent of the nuns for the next 2 days where we got accustomed to our new surroundings. On the afternoon of July 16, we started the boys retreat. They came from the 3 missions run by the MC's. The participants began to file into the dining hall of Kamp Kiwanis, where we held our two retreats. I was surprised to see the boys dressed in pretty much the same styles as we would see in NY. Many of them did not know a lot of the basic Catholic practices and prayers such as the 'Our Father' and 'Hail Mary', which kind of surprised me, but I knew that they were there to learn these things and to get closer to God. Overall the boys responded pretty well to everything but they were heavily distracted and played around a lot. Many of them even slept during the talks and sharings. But they were there for a reason and God's message did find its way to their hearts. By the last day of the retreat, most of the boys were different people; they were more talkative and they finally decided to sing and dance for the Lord! We had one day of rest and the girls' retreat started the afternoon of July 19. The girls were a lot more open and receptive than the boys. They were more open during group discussions and they sang and danced to most of the songs. Many of the girls opened up their hearts to God in those 3 days. The one thing that hit me the most was how much these people love nature. They would pick up bugs off the floor and play with them, some things that's unheard of in NY. I remember during the last day of the girls retreat, rain was pouring hard and there was lightning and thunder. Most of the core team decided to stay either in the dorm or in the dining hall for shelter. But all the girls ran outside to play in the rain! They took pleasure in the simplest things. From my experience of going to New Mexico, I learned so much about myself and about the Navajo culture as well. I also learned not worry about the smallest things but to always look for joy because it can be found in the most unexpected places or even right outside your door -- nature. But most importantly, I learned that God equips the chosen. Many of us had our doubts going into this mission and felt unworthy of this calling. But looking back at this experience, I can see how God was working through us all and helped us carry out His mission. It is all for His glory that we did all of this and I would do it again in a heart beat.*

Truly, God was our compass throughout the whole week. We couldn't really understand why God sent us there, but little by little as the week progressed, we knew exactly what God wanted us to do. Despite the unexpected troubles we faced during our stay in New Mexico, it was our faith and trust in God that kept us going.

Here's a reflection from **Khristelle**: *At first, I thought that this New Mexico Mission would be like a vacation, but I was wrong. I have never felt the power of God so strong in my life until I spent that week in New Mexico. As soon as we arrived in Albuquerque, New Mexico, I knew this was going to be a whole new experience. When we met the volunteers at the airport, I realized that this mission is now under God's control. I had no idea of what to expect. After meeting the sisters and exploring the area, I felt a sense of peace and joy. The surrounding was so quiet! This gave me a chance to have a deep conversation with God early in the morning and late at night. Eventually, the time for the retreat grew close and I was getting a little nervous. After meeting some of the boys, I was intimidated by their tattoos, the way they dressed, and even the way they spoke. This was out of my comfort zone. After introducing myself and the rest of the service team, the boys (especially the young ones) cracked a smile. The first day of the retreat was very hard. It was hard to get these boys interested, or even awake during the talks and discussions. Truthfully, I felt a bit discouraged that they seemed indifferent. Yet in the end, we all got something special. After days of prayer and meditation, I felt God speak to us through His word. It seemed like He wanted to reveal to us that He was there, present with us all the way. We started each day with the Rosary and the Liturgy of the Hour and the readings of that entire week directly spoke to us about particular situations we had everyday. At the end of the boys retreat, I was exhausted and quite disappointed. For the girls retreat, I conditioned myself to expect less. I anticipated the girls would be trouble makers and I thought that they would not enjoy this retreat. To my surprise, these girls were full of energy and interest in what we had to say. After meeting everyone I soon started to grow close to them, as if they became my sisters. I got a chance to speak to members of my group one on one, and there I realized emotional and family problems carry a huge burden. At first it was hard for them to open up, but after the first dynamic I saw them crying. A lot of them related to our sharings.*

(To be continued in the next issue)



**ON BEING IN THE SPEAKERS BUREAU: *Confessions of a novice participant.*** N. Albarracin, Jr., M.D.

Nothing to it. You just say “Yes” to Brother Bob’s invitation and you’re in. There is a fine print in this loose agreement: *expenses paid fully by you*. So there is a big advantage in operating within your region or at least in a region that is geographically close. The talk topics are pretty much well defined if the event is a standard LSS. The seminar always starts with “God’s Love.” In Charlotte, NC, that was my topic. It is probably the easiest topic of the Seminar as God’s love is ubiquitous, all over, constant, obvious, unconditional. The problem is that we forget, take His love for granted, ignore, or even resist. The talk therefore centers on a grand reminder, making the obvious more obvious. My “hook” was the statement: *You have a secret lover!* And He is a passionate lover. He initiates and pursues and is the active lover. He however does not impose and is sensitive to your free will. He wants to be in faithful relationship: he is shepherd and you are sheep; he is king and you are subject; he is healer and you are the broken; he is father and you are child; he is potter and you are clay; he is vine and you are branch. Abundant life is what this lover wishes for you. The other topics can be more difficult as they border on theology. Take the subject of “Salvation” for instance.

Whether my talk made a difference or not, I am not sure. In my mind I just repeat what St. Paul said in 2 Corinthians 8:12: *For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have.* What an encouraging remark! What matters more is not the quality or the type or the loftiness of a gift but the *eagerness in its application.* Eagerness presupposes one’s availability.

When I said “expenses fully paid by you” I was only partially truthful. It is true with respect to transportation. But our accommodations and meals in Charlotte were free. Bob, Gus Mora, and I were “billeted” in the beautiful and spacious empty-nester home of Joe and Cristy Calicdan. We were taken to various restaurants for meals. Because I arrived early I had the good fortune of being toured by Joe to see some of the interesting spots of Charlotte and being dined at a classy Italian restaurant where we exchanged life histories and got to know each other better. Our last night was memorable as we let our hair down, so to speak. Cristy is an accomplished pianist. She in fact teaches piano. So we had a music session that could have lasted all night were it not for our early flights the next morning. Gus Mora revealed another gift – a beautiful singing voice, the stuff “American Idols” are gifted with. And Bob Canton, while putting his healing powers on hold, revealed his gift of dance – this night he exhibited his cha-cha. Maybe some other night in some other city he will exhibit the tango. Someone sang “Bituing Marikit” and I believe it was Brother Bob, decorating the song with a Cebuano accent.

How is it to be in the Speakers Bureau? Nothing to it. In fact you might just become the recipient of surprising memories.



## NO MORE GLAUCOMA

*Mariam Canton*

I have have been on medication for glaucoma for almost two years. The doctor put me on this medicine that helps my eye pressure go low. If my eye pressure goes too high, I could lose my eye sight. My doctor told me that I will be on this medicine for a life time. Every night I had to put eye drops in each eye, hoping that the pressure will go down. My eye doctor had to see me every four weeks. Each visit, he would ask, "Are you taking this medicine every night? Your pressure did not go down very much, so I will switch you to another medicine." I then took another medicine. Still, my eye doctor was not really happy with the results. My mother suggested that I should get prayed over by my uncle, Bob Canton. To tell the truth, I did not feel like I deserved to get prayed over because I just felt so guilty of the sins I have committed and was scared to ask God to heal my eyes. Weeks passed and my mom continued to urge me to get prayed over. One day, Uncle Bob came to use my computer. My mom quickly asked him to pray over my eyes. I felt kind of uneasy about this because I was scared to come forth to the Lord. After my uncle prayed over me, I felt better, somehow. I felt like God was there with me.

A few days passed and I had to go see another eye doctor. He did some tests. I waited in the room, feeling very nervous and anxious. I prayed a quick prayer to God. Finally, the doctor came in with my tests and said, "This is outstanding. You passed the test! You do not have glaucoma. This is incredible." I smiled so hard. The eye doctor told me that I need to see Dr. Wong, the glaucoma specialist, to see if I still need to take the medicine for my eyes. Passing the glaucoma test made me cry. That showed me how much God loves me and still listens to me even though I have committed so many sins. There I was, feeling so guilty and not wanting to get prayed over, but then God still comes along with His touch for me! On the way home, I just kept crying. Praise God, He does so many wonders and it is so amazing! And one more thing; Dr. Wong told me that I do not have to take the medicine for my eyes. Imagine that! I was supposed to take that medication for a lifetime, and now I am off it! This is all because of the Lord! God has touched me. To those out there who are afraid to speak with God, DO NOT BE AFRAID. This miracle has taught me that God is there for you no matter what. The Lord is so good and that is so wonderful! We should always praise the Lord. He does so many wonders. Thank You Jesus!

## RECOVERY OF SIGHT

*Cecil, Helen, Chelsea, and Ben Andre*

Sorry for the delay in writing this testimony. My daughter, Chelsea, was born clinically blind on her right eye. It is a one in a million case according to the specialists of UCLA's Eye Institute. The diagnosis was *tissue hyperplasia vitrius* (not sure of the spelling). A tissue that was suppose to dissolve between the retina and the lens while in the womb did not dissolve that cause the lazy eye movement and also no vision. It was discovered later, when she was 10 months old, that the tissue already hardened and it was no longer possible to do surgery because the procedure can further damage the lens and the retina. The eye specialists said that a human being can live for 150 years with only one eye working. For the last 11 years, she had only one eye working. A miracle happened on the 9th of March when we attended your healing service at the Our Lady of Las Vegas. After you prayed over her, she was slain by the Spirit. She was touched by the Holy Spirit and cried. When you tested her vision, I was surprised that she was able to follow your hand movement with her left eye being covered. I've been attending prayer healings and this is more dramatic and real. God waited for this moment of her age to heal her right eye so that young people and all people will know that Jesus is alive by the power of His Holy Spirit. That He is the same yesterday, today and forever. As a family we will continue to pray for complete healing of our souls, for daily conversion, and to serve the Lord. Praise the Lord! Alleluia! Hail Mary! Respectfully yours, Cecil, Helen, Chelsea and Ben Andre.

## THE TRUMPET

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To: