



## AFCCPC 12<sup>th</sup> NATIONAL CONVENTION

### A View From The Altar

By Deacon Dean Lopata

***Praise the Lord!*** The AFCCPC held its twelfth, and very possibly its best, North American Convention in East Brunswick, New Jersey on the weekend of June 27-29, 2003. The convention theme was, **“I chose you; go and bear fruit that will last.”** As a Deacon who served at two of the convention’s powerful Eucharistic liturgies, I’d like to offer a brief overall perspective from the vantage point of the Altar.

***Be encouraged!*** The attendance at the convention was outstanding. Over 2000 adults attended the conference from all over the United States--from Florida to Alaska, from New York to California. Many of the guests had never before attended an AFCCPC-sponsored event, and some were so impressed they were already asking when and where the next AFCCPC activity would take place. Pray that many of these newly initiated will very soon find renewal seminars and prayer groups in which they can receive ongoing nourishment.

***Hope in the Lord!*** The future of the Roman Catholic Church lies in our youth, and the youth certainly came to this gathering in N.J. Over 250 young people gathered for the four Saturday and Sunday “youth track” sessions. Each session was memorable with energy-filled praise and worship, dynamic speakers, powerful personal testimonies of God’s transforming love, and, in response to all they heard, challenging small-group interaction. Saturday evening’s session was particularly notable, as God’s Spirit of conviction and holiness fell on the entire group early, and tears and other profound expressions of repentance and new faith were evident until well after midnight. And the Lord isn’t done with them yet!

***Praise Him with the clashing of cymbals!*** Nearly a dozen Filipino prayer group and diocesan music ministries (including the youth!) from across the U.S. responded to an invitation to lead the praise and worship during the convention. Just as the Scripture exhorts us to draw from both the old and the new in all of our ministries, so these enthusiastic music-makers used both familiar favorites as well as modern praise classics to consistently stir the hearts of the faithful. The Festival of Praise on Friday night, always a Filipino favorite, went on for over three hours and was exceptional. Each group provided faith-filled, infectious songs of praise, including liturgical drama, so that, even after midnight, most convention-goers made it clear that they weren’t ready to stop lifting their hearts in adoration just yet.

***When you receive the Holy Spirit, you will receive power!*** The convention speakers were well tested and obviously anointed. Fr. Leonardo Polinar, visiting from the Philippines, gave a powerful keynote address on Friday night, and every speaker thereafter seemed to inherit “the anointing.” Bishop Chito Tagle (Cavite, Philippines), Bishop Paul Bootkoski (Metuchen, N.J.), Fr. Ed Abano, Fr. Joe Cadusale, Sr. Nancy Kellar, Jim Murphy, Walter Mathews, Msgr. Joe Malagrega, Fr. Leoncio Santiago, Fr. Bill Halbing, Fr. George Da Roza, and Bob Canton each shared mature Godly wisdom that was inspiring, yet practical. Each received ovations of approval from those who enthusiastically received their words as the Bread of Life. Brother Bob’s healing service on Saturday night was another mighty and undeniable demonstration that (1) God is alive; (2) the Kingdom of God is, indeed, dwelling among us; and (3) God’s loving rule and reign extend over all things. Physical, spiritual and emotional healings abounded!

***Thanks be to God!*** Many thanks are due Mario and Purita Vazquez, the AFCCPC’s East Atlantic Region convention coordinators, and all those from prayer groups across New Jersey and New York whose many sacrifices over the last year made this marvelous convention possible. May His blessings to each of you be extravagant.

(Deacon Dean Lopata is AFCCPC Spiritual Adviser - Mid-Atlantic Region)



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## FROM THE DESK OF THE NATIONAL COORDINATOR by Bob Canton

Greetings to everyone in the mighty Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! I hope everyone is enjoying the “lazy days of summer” as a song goes. For many, summer means vacation, vacation, vacation. But for Christians, there is no such thing as a vacation from our vocations. Even though we are on vacation or on vacation “mode,” it is not a reason to stop doing the works that the Lord Jesus has called us to do. We have to continue to press on in doing His works while it is still day. I’m glad that we in the AFCCPC organization are not taking a vacation from our vocation. These are urgent times and we cannot afford to sit idly by and fold our arms and just reminisce our past accomplishments and the glories that we have experienced such as what we had witnessed in the recently-concluded 12<sup>th</sup> National Convention. For sure, there are still works to be done to further God’s kingdom and to fulfill the mission of the AFCCPC. To accomplish our goals, we need to continue to ask the Holy Spirit, the Advocate, to empower us, to guide us, to unite us, and to strengthen us. We also need to take “big steps” as well as “small steps” in the name of Jesus in order for us to accomplish our mission. The following activities or “steps” if you may, have been undertaken even before our National Convention in New Jersey took place:

### Regional Conferences:

(A). The North Pacific Region is now in the “heat” of the preparation for its Regional Conference that will be held at the St. Mary’s Cathedral in San Francisco on March 5-7, 2004. The theme of the Conference is “Behold, I Make All Things New,”-Rev.21:5. The invited speakers are Msgr. Fred Al. Bitanga, Jim Murphy, Fr. Jim Tarantino, Fr. Jose Arong, Dominic Berardino, and yours truly. Mario Vierneza, the AFCCPC’s Asst.Vice National Coordinator for Youth Affairs, is the chairperson of the Conference and he will be assisted by Judy Labaria, Delia Tabasa, and Letty Ramos and the entire Filipino Catholic Charismatic Council of San Francisco. The cost of registration is \$25.00 for adults and \$10.00 for ages 13-17. A Youth Track is also included in the program. In conjunction with this Conference, a National Leadership Meeting for the AFCCPC is also being planned. This will be the first of the two leadership meetings scheduled for the year 2004. For information regarding hotels and other questions that you may have regarding the Conference, please call Mario Vierneza, 415-272-4377 or Delia Tabasa, 415-822-1600 ext. 202.

(B). The Mid Atlantic Region will conduct a Regional Conference on April 23-25, 2004 at the Baltimore Convention Center near Inner Harbor in downtown Baltimore, MD. Scheduled to speak at the Conference are Sr. Nancy Kellar, Fr. Rene Mangahas, Fr. Patalinghug, Fr. Bill Halbing, Deacon Dean Lopata, Bob Valiante and yours truly. The Conference’s theme is taken from 2 Tim.1:6, “Stir into flame the gift of God.” Agnes Nepomuceno, one of the Regional Coordinators for the region, will be the chairperson of the Conference and she

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will be assisted by Rod Vicente, another Regional Coordinator, Deacon Dean Lopata, one of AFCCPC's spiritual advisers, Dr. Ray Caparros, AFCCPC's Asst. Vice National Coordinator-Funding, and various servant leaders in the region. The cost to register is the same as the one in San Francisco.

### **New Servant Leaders :**

More servant leaders have been appointed to different positions in the Alliance organization to meet the growing demands to serve the Filipino Catholic Charismatic Prayer Groups and Communities. Patti Isaac was appointed as chairperson of the Ad Hoc Committee on Inter-Service Committees, Nenett Barbilla from Queens, New York as Regional Coordinator for East Atlantic Region, Naida James, from Juneau, Alaska, as Regional Coordinator for Pacific Northwest Region, and Deacon Manny Acosta from New Jersey, as one of the spiritual advisers. I believe that these servant leaders truly love the Lord Jesus and are proven leaders in their own right. God willing, they will serve the AFCCPC for the glory of the Lord. More appointments are forthcoming and it is very uplifting to know that many servant leaders are more than willing to serve the Lord through the AFCCPC. Please include these leaders in your daily prayer. I would also like to ask all of you to include in your prayers Ralph Ferrer, a Regional Coordinator from Toronto, Canada who has been sick and Bing Bautista, the husband of Mila Bautista from Phoenix and a Regional Coordinator for the Mountain Region. May the Lord grant them physical healings.

### **Meetings :**

Many leaders are encouraged to attend the ICCRS sponsored 12-Days of Blessings that will be held in Italy in Sept. 2003 and the National Leaders Meeting in Nashville, Tenn. in November this year. This event is put on by the National Service Committee (NSC) of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the United States.

### **Regional Coordinators :**

All the Regional Coordinators in their respective region are encouraged to meet (even through telephone conference or through the Internet) at least once a month to plan any course of action or activity in order to reach out to the different prayer groups in their respective region. Each region is encouraged to conduct either one or combinations of the following: Life in the Spirit Seminar, Growth in the Spirit Seminar, Day of Renewal, retreat at least 6 times a year. This has been adopted as an AFCCPC policy during the Phoenix Leaders Meeting last February. I would also like to encourage the servant leaders to continue to reach out to the youth. For instance, an LSS for the youth or a Day of Renewal or even a praise concert to be involving the youth to be followed by a retreat would be a good outreach. We need to be creative in order to reach out to the youth in a very effective way and we cannot do it with our own ability or knowledge or skill but we can do it in the Name of Jesus and through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Let us remember the words of St. Paul in Phil. 4:13, *"We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us."*

Thank you all and may we have a nice and very productive Fall Season as we labor in the vineyard of the Lord.

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## **12th National Convention**

### **“A Spirit-filled, Joy-filled, and an Empowering Event!”**

By Bob Canton, National Coordinator

*“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavens...”* Eph1:3. While attending the 12<sup>th</sup> National Convention of the AFCCPC on June 27-29, 2003, in East Brunswick, N.J, I could not help but rejoice and give thanks to the Lord Jesus for what He has done for us, with us, and through us. “Our God is an awesome God and he gave the AFCCPC another awesome Convention,” was the prevailing comment that I have heard from the attendees throughout the event, and even until now. I sensed a great sense of expectation for the mighty move of God and the faith among those who attended was so strong that the Holy Spirit has poured out His anointing upon His people beyond measure, especially upon the speakers, the music ministers, the ushers, and other workers for the Convention. Starting from the opening ceremonies on Friday evening until the concluding praise song on Sunday afternoon, an atmosphere of joy and great enthusiasm among the people had permeated the air. The Festival of Praise on Friday evening set the tone for the Convention. Almost everybody was standing up most of the time praising and singing to the Lord during the three-hour event and it was highlighted by a moving Broadway-style presentation by the members of the Youth for Christ and other youth groups. It was indeed a very joy-filled event that left many still hankering for more even though it was already 12:30 A.M. when it was finally over. It was one of the best if not the best and the most attended Festival of Praise ever staged by the AFCCPC, thanks to the music ministries in the different parts of the country and to the different youth groups, especially the Youth for Christ, Bukas Loob Sa Diyos (BLD) Youth Group and others. Butch Nunes from New York who chaired the Convention’s Music Ministry did a splendid job. The theme song, which was written by Sidney Edoria from California, was very fitting for the Convention. It was indeed very uplifting to praise the Lord in songs non-stop for three hours together with the members of the different prayer groups and prayer communities throughout the country.

All the speakers ministered to the people with their inspired teachings and preachings and exhortations with such power and great anointing from the Lord, and as a result, many were touched and many felt strongly the mighty presence of the Lord. Bishop Chito Tagle from the Philippines and Bishop Paul Bootskoski of the Diocese of Metuchen have echoed what Pope John Paul II said in his encyclical *Novo Millennio Inveniente* “to go out into the deep for a catch.” “I challenge all of you to be true to your calling, as baptized Christians, to become effective witnesses to the risen Christ and to proclaim Jesus, who is the Good News, to wherever you go,” Bishop Tagle said during his homily during the Saturday evening liturgy. “An apostle is chosen by God to witness to the truth, and the Lord can choose anyone to be His apostle. It is a mystery how He chooses people and it is a pure gift, a grace from God,” he further stated. Bishop Bootskoski, on the hand, has challenged the Filipinos to continue to minister to the people of different race within their faith community saying, “It is your obligation, your faith, your family values, your warmth, that we Anglos and others need in this country. God is calling you, Filipinos, to witness to us. I challenge the Filipino youth, especially, to go out and bring that faith spirit, that family spirit, that we sorely need in this country. Please keep your beautiful family traditions and culture, even though you are living in this country. Don’t ever lose it,” Bishop Bootskoski stated during his homily on the concluding liturgy on Sunday afternoon. He said he always finds it a “great joy to minister to Filipinos because of their great faith and devotion to the Lord.”

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In the Youth track, it was very encouraging to hear that many teen-agers were touched by the Holy Spirit mightily. Grace Bernardo and Mario Vierneza, Asst. Vice National Coordinators for Youth Affairs, had jointly put on a great Youth track. Many of the youths have received the baptism of the Holy Spirit and have prayed in tongues for the first time in their lives. As a result of that personal experience with the Lord, we have received reports from the parents that their teen-agers have become more zealous for the Lord Jesus Christ. Praise God! Two weeks after the Convention, the B L D conducted a retreat for the youth to reach out to those who came to East Brunswick. According to Frank Benadas, a B L D Youth minister, they had to turn away many teen-agers because of lack of space. He said more retreats are scheduled during the coming months. We should continue to include the youths in our daily prayers and we should continue to reach out to them.

The prophetic words spoken through the unction of the Holy Spirit have touched many hearts. Through the people in the Word Gift Ministry headed by Fler and Max Gutierrez, the Lord Jesus has not only affirmed His people but He also promises more empowerment by the Holy Spirit, more cleansing, more testing by fire, more graces and more victories by the power of His Holy Spirit. The Lord also exhorted His people to continue to trust Him and to come to Him fully without any doubt and hesitation and to walk with Him in holiness and righteousness.

No doubt, an atmosphere of great camaraderie, unity, wholeness, and goodwill, was also very visible throughout the Convention. I praise the Lord for Purita Vazquez who was the chairperson of the Convention together with her husband Mario. Their leadership made a great difference. The anointed speakers, the different ministry heads or chairpersons and their associates, the auxiliary ministries, the music ministries, the youth ministers, ushers, guides, catchers, and many more were God-sent and they served the people with the love that was coming from God. Many came with expectant faith and the Lord did not deny His blessings for them. As of this writing, people are still talking about it and many commented that they did not want to see it end. However, the 12<sup>th</sup> AFCCPC Convention did not end on June 28, 2003. As a matter of fact, it started on that date, if only we have started right away to do what the Lord has said to all of us during that Convention: *“Go and bring Jesus with you wherever you go and give Him away to those who are hungry of Him. By doing so, you will bear fruit that will last.”*

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**Grace Bernardo and Mario Vierneza, Vice National Coordinators for Youth Affairs, jointly put on a great *Youth Track*. Many of the youth received the baptism of the Holy Spirit and prayed in tongues for the first time in their lives.**

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## I FEEL CLOSER TO GOD

Khristele Arguelles

My name is Khristelle Arguelles from the Pater Noster Youth Ministry, otherwise known as PNYM. I attend and help lead the youth group meetings every Sunday on Long Island. My weekend stay in New Jersey for the Youth Conference (of the Alliance National Convention) was a great experience. Even though I arrived late on Saturday at the Hilton Hotel, my experience was still overwhelming. Attending youth group meetings could never compare to this experience. I have been to just a couple of these praising events and I must say that this one brought me even closer to God. I arrived on Saturday evening right before mass and was told that I missed all the fun stuff. Fun stuff such as workshops, fellowship, and games that included interacting with others. I was upset at how late I was but I was also excited to meet new people with the time I had left. After mass that evening, David and Marian did an excellent job at getting us to open to the Holy Spirit. I must include that before this session, I was excited and ready for what was in store to come. Not only was I anxious to meet people, but I felt a bit of regret for attending. I felt regret and guilt for attending because I could instead be spending precious time with my sickly father. Even before I left for New Jersey, I was asked by my uncle why I was attending this event instead of spending time with my father. The time I spend with him is precious for it might be the last minutes of his life. So, while I was listening to David Song with his 'SIN' Dynamic, I started to feel sorry for everything. I started to feel warm inside. After his talk, Marian held her ground and continued to praise God. Asking God for forgiveness made me feel sorry for not spending enough time with my father. After her continuous praising during the end, I felt relief. It's as if Someone was telling me that everything is okay. I believe that toward the end, the Lord sent down his Holy Spirit to tell me that everything is fine and that it's within God's hands. I felt great and relieved when we started singing the song "Trading my Sorrow." Singing even brought a greater relief because I felt that God is taking care of my father and that my time in New Jersey away from my father is okay with the Lord and that I should enjoy myself. With this overwhelming joy I felt great. I started to dance and enjoy myself. The feeling of laughter brought me closer to my peers. I may not have been here for the whole thing, but my time there was not put to waste. To me, the whole program was a success because I now feel closer to God.

*Khristele Arguelles is a member of the Pater Noster Youth Ministry of Long Island, NY.*

## IT WAS ACTUALLY KOOL

From my Diary  
July 2, 2003

I can't sleep ... my stomach hurts... anyway lemme take the time to talk about the conference this past weekend. I think it was pretty kool seein everyone praising the Lord and having everything God-centered for the weekend ... it wuz kool bein given the opportunity to praise the Lord openly without being looked at weird ... every activity at the conference strengthened my relationship with God especially the healing session and it definitely surpassed my expectations ... I met alotta new people from kali and jersey ... I've never seen soo many people go crazy for religious songs in my life! I usually only see people like that on tv or in those religious music videos ... haha ... I used to think it was weird but it's actually kool and different experiencing it ... it was fun! ... later. I like that black eyed peas song ... it's rare nowadays that singers include anything God-related in songs ...

"People killing, people dying  
Children hurt and you hear them crying  
Can you practice what you preach  
And would you turn the other cheek.

Father, Father, Father help us  
Send us some guidance from above  
Cuz people got me, got me questioning  
Where is the love?"

**Carlo Dumandan**  
*Pater Noster Youth Ministry*  
*Hempstead, Long Island, NY*



## GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO MEET GIRLS

Last weekend was a really good experience for me. It's actually my first. Before the convention, all I could think of was that this would be a good opportunity to meet girls. Sadly, that didn't happen. Until the last minute, I ended up practicing, trying to make sure that everything will run as smoothly as possible, finding ways to help out, and of course, praying and reflecting. Aside from the evening session, Rachel's sharing was very inspiring. I never thought it possible that she had gone through a worse situation than what I already knew, and most of all, that she would have the courage to relive that part of her life by sharing it with the group. It struck me so deep that I had to rethink the life I thought I was completely in control of. I may not be someone who can sing, dance, and praise with a loud voice, but I know that my prayers now are more deafening than the loudest praises, more graceful than the best dances, and more inspiring than the most beautifully rendered songs. Thank you.

**Ricky Cruz**  
*Amazing Grace Singers*  
*Keyboard player*

*From the desk of:*

**GRACE BERNARDO**  
*Vice National Coordinator, Youth*

Praise be the Lord! We give Him all the glory. After all, we're just His workers. There's just too many stories to narrate about the Youth Track of the National Convention. I have sent word to BLD, YFC, JAC (San Francisco, Youth Adult Bible Group, PNYM/Long Island, and the Amazing Grace Singers asking for their reflections and comments.

The Convention is already beginning to bear fruit. Here are some of the stories:

- David Song, the Korean who did the "SIN" dynamic was asked by his Korean pastor to start a youth ministry in his parish for Korean Americans the day after he did the presentation. David has no prior experience in youth ministry. He refused the love offering (\$100 donated by my prayer group) because he felt he received more than he gave, that he owes me for giving him the opportunity to minister to the youth.
- Rudy Fernandez only intended to check out the Youth Track. Something must have happened that he attended the entire program, leaving his wife Tita (a member of the Word Gift ministry) in the Adult Track. According to Tita, he could not stop talking about it until 3:00 a.m. Monday! He told his wife that they must do something about the young people, help them connect with God. Yesterday, at the prayer meeting (Immaculate Conception Prayer Group), we were all astonished to see them coming down with 8 kids ranging from 3-11 years old. Tita called her niece to come and the niece asked all her friends to come along too. Naturally, the mothers came along. Hopefully, you will see them during the next Convention.
- Brother Max just called asking for HELP. They brought two Caucasian youth (15 or 16 years old) to the Convention. Their parents were very concerned because the kids were drawn to the Pentecostal movement. But at the Convention they saw that Catholic youth do praise and sing to God. Through their Dad, they approached Fr. Bob McGuire, a charismatic priest. They will now start a youth ministry in his parish. Praise God!

That's three ministries in just five days! Hallelujah!

This is just the tip of the iceberg.

*From the desk of*

**MARIO VIERNEZA**

*Vice National Coordinator, Youth*

**WONDERFUL!** What a wonderful feeling to know that I have been a part of a very blessed and Spirit-filled event that took place at the Hilton Tower in East Brunswick, New Jersey. To witness the oneness and unity of over a thousand Filipinos who gathered to praise and worship God, to listen, to enjoy and to be filled with the Holy Spirit, is a lucid reminder for everyone, and me that Jesus is *alive!* Yes, Jesus is alive and is present in the midst of those who call upon Him. We witnessed during the Convention that if you rely on the power of the Holy Spirit, many signs and wonders would be seen working in the lives of God's people. The Spirit of the living God manifested Himself upon the many anointed speakers, who touched the lives of many attendees. Praise God forever for this Spirit-filled Convention! Ps. 9:1-2: ***"I will praise you, Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all the wonderful things you have done."***

**GLORIOUS!** This Convention was one of the glorious events I truly enjoyed and took delight in. The courteous brothers and sisters who assisted and helped in registration were kind and friendly. They made us very thankful to God. They exemplified the lives of real Christians: respectful, compassionate, understanding, patient and loving. Many attendees gave glory and honor to the Lord for various messages heard and accepted through those anointed speakers (Bishop Chito Tagle, Rev. Fr. Bill Halbing, Fr. L. Polinar, Bro. J. Irizari, and many more). I believe that our God was truly glorified during this Convention and His presence manifested in the lives of many who were present. Give glory to God! Give glory to God's Church! Ps.147:5 ***"Great and mighty is our Lord; His wisdom cannot be measured."***

**AWESOME!** God's work through His people who humble themselves and pray, are truly awesome! The Convention, with all its added colorful festivities, revealed the giftedness of our "Pinoy" race. The inspiring programs confirmed the presence and inspiration of the Holy Spirit during the Convention. The singing, skit and drama presentations were all uplifting and heartening. People were alive and full of God's Spirit. A sign of joy can be traced in the face of every attendee. Yes, the word of God was truly affecting our lives with firm conviction of loving and praising the Lord with all our heart, soul and spirit. "The j." Amen! My thanksgiving and praises to our Lord for giving us during this Convention, dedicated, committed and anointed sisters and brothers, especially Sister. Purita Vazquez, and her husband, Bro. Mario Vazquez. We will forever remember this very special Charismatic Convention of the AFCCPC in our hearts. Ps. 149:1 ***"Sing a new song to the Lord; praise Him in the assembly of his faithful people!"***

## **REGIONAL REPORT**

*Southeastern Region*

**Joy Tatlonghari**

**Orlando, FL**

**Regional Coordinator**

### **GOD IS SOOOO GOOD!**

Yes, the Lord has been good to us and the Convention was a success! There were so many committed people who came from different places eager to hear God's Word and the messages that were sent through Spirit-filled speakers. I praise the Lord for the opportunities He gives us and the energy he bestows on each and everyone who responds to the call to carry on the mission.

I would like to share and tell you how our trip went from the beginning to the end. We headed for New Jersey on the 26th of June, Thursday, at 10:00am. It was a sunny day in Florida and we rented a 15 seater van. We had 14 people who had planned to come but there was one who cancelled at the last minute for some other commitment that she could not get out of. Lo and behold, when we started loading all our luggage, keyboard and guitars, half of the last seat had to be occupied by luggage and there was hardly any room for three people to sit on. We reshuffled the luggage, squeezed them all tightly and two people did manage to sit in the back seat. It's no wonder that one of our sisters cancelled out because she and her luggage would not have any space anyway. We also found out that the hotel reservation she was supposed to book for three other people was not done so we had to call the hotel for a last-minute reservation. Luckily they still had rooms available but we could no longer get a discounted rate. While we were on the road, a little voice told me to call the hotel and confirm my previous reservations for the other brothers and sisters I have booked for. In my mind there were two rooms I had reserved -- one for the guys and one for the gals. When they looked at my confirmation number, the hotel attendant said, "Yes, M'am, I have three rooms for you." I thought to myself, how did that happen? I got excited and relayed the good news to the rest of the group. Sister Mayette cancelled the other reservation she made. God is soooo good! So we went merrily on our way. We had planned to go the Virginia Beach route instead of Washington to avoid traffic and praise the Lord, Sister Minda's sister had invited us to have dinner there no matter how late we got there and stay the night. It was 11:00 pm when we got there. We ate a good dinner and slept soundly. We got up early morning around 4:00 and headed to East Brunswick. We got to Hilton Hotel and they allowed us to check in early once we got there. We had plenty of time to get ready for the Friday night event. At the



Festival of Praise, we were so fired up. Seeing all the people having a good time, praising the Lord in songs felt like we were in heaven with all the angels singing and dancing.

Saturday was a spirit-filled day. The speakers delivered their messages was well. *"Go and bear fruit...fruit that lasts."* We are all so blessed to be given the opportunity to witness the event and be there with the youth and the different prayer groups that participated. The healing service was powerful. Sunday's Eucharistic celebration was extra-special with 10 priests concelebrating and with two bishops who were so vibrant. All those who were involved in the preparation were surely inspired and fired up by the Holy Spirit. The fruits of their hard labor paid up in the end. **TO GOD BE THE GLORY!**

After the conference, we were on our way back to Orlando. As we were checking out of the hotel, Brother Albert's sister handed us two containers of food to go as we travel back on the road. As we were boarding the van, Brother Albert's sister handed us two containers of food to go as we travel back on the road. As were boarding the van, some friends of Sister Mayette in New Jersey invited us for lunch. It was like a feast they prepared for us. God really took very good care of us and I thank Him for all those good-hearted, spirit-filled people that ministered to us.

We pray that GOD will continue to nourish us both spiritually and physically and that His Spirit will be with us always in all our endeavors to bear fruit that will last, reminding ourselves that it is all for God's honor and glory and NOT for our own material or personal gains or motives.

We arrived back in Orlando Monday afternoon. I went back to work on Tuesday eager to tell my co-workers about the Convention. As I was relating what all happened at the Convention with the administrative assistant and the program assistant I was told that two of our faculty had been injured. We thought about the need for prayer in our workplace, right in our department. I knew the Holy Spirit has inspired us to start a prayer team. We decided to present the idea to our Chair and the next day we acted upon it. She agreed to at least start the week with prayer and whoever wanted to join in was most welcome. The first time we did it we prayed in a circle, joined hands with our brothers and sisters who were Baptist, Muslim, Catholic, etc. and each said a short prayer out loud for healing and other special intentions. We hugged each other afterwards. It was beautiful and I recognized it as one of the fruits that I came to witness and share.

May God's peace be with you always.

Sister Joy  
Head Servant  
Holy Family Prayer Group of St. Isaac Jogues  
Orlando, Florida



#### MORE CONVENTION FEEDBACK

I really need to thank you again for including me in the conference last weekend. The whole Filipino community is so warm and friendly and God is working so powerfully through you all. It was a privilege to be part of your family for three days. I would also thank Purita and her husband for all their efforts. Everything flowed, led by the Holy Spirit of God. I felt I left with so much more than what I came with. God is good, all the time! **Trish.**

I wish to convey to you and the Alliance of Filipino Catholic Charismatic Prayer Communities that I was very pleased and honored to celebrate the closing Eucharist for your Convention. It was a very moving experience, and I wish to thank you and your committee for all the fine work you did to put such an important gathering together. **Most Rev. Paul G. Bootkoski, Bishop of Metuchen.**

I want to again thank you and the AFCCPC for inviting me to participate and speak at your 12<sup>th</sup> National Convention. It was a blessed time for both Claire and myself. Thank you for including her in the speaker meals and for calling upon her gifts in the Healing Service. She was greatly encouraged. Purita did a very fine job and from the affirmation of the people you are certainly loved. I look forward to the next time I can be together with all my brothers and sisters in the Filipino Renewal. **Walter Matthews, Executive Director, National Service Committee.**

I praise the Lord that He has given me the privilege and opportunity to be with you on the Alliance Convention. It was very Spirit-filled and the presence of God was manifested throughout the 3-day conference. I am taking this opportunity to thank you for the wonderful time that we have during our visit. I'm also thankful that God healed me with my allergy and my motion sickness. If you have a chance please call me if you happen to be in the area here in San Francisco. Once again, keep up the good work for the glory of God. **Rose G. Herico, Founder/Elder, Immaculate Conception Prayer Community, San Francisco, CA.**

I like to express my appreciation of the wonderfully run Convention. All were very nicely done, especially the high-power speakers. The Youth Group from BLD Newark was very happy to be part of the program. There were parents of the youth, BLD members in Newark, who came and participated in the Convention. The feedback from them were very positive. Congratulations! In return for such a wonderful favor I received, I would like to open up our BLD programs for any of the AFCCPC members and relatives. BLD Phoenix is running a Marriage Encounter Weekend on August 15, 16, 17. Marriage in the Catholic Church is the primary requirement. Any of your friends and relatives are welcome. Please contact me for further details. I can be reached either via e-mail at [simon.lam@nomos.com](mailto:simon.lam@nomos.com) or via cellular phone (623-363-9061). There are other programs available in many cities in US and Canada. We will be happy to share the information to all of you. Love and peace of our Lord be with you and your family. **Simon and Lourdes Lam, Regional Coordinators, Rocky Mountain Region.**



#### NEW OFFICERS INSTALLED

Bishop Paul G. Bootkoski inducts new officers. From left to right: Joy Tatlonghari, Southeastern Regional Coordinator; Simon Lam, Rocky Mountain Regional Coordinator; Mario Vierneza, North Pacific Regional Coordinator and VNC for Youth; Purita Vazquez, East Atlantic Regional Coordinator. Sitting: Deacon Dean Lopata.



#### REGISTRATION AND AUXILIARY MINISTRIES

We salute the Convention Registration and Auxiliary Ministries! The first test of a big convention is the registration process and the team that runs it. They set the tone for a successful convention. The Auxiliary Ministry served a variety of background functions: welcome participants, serve as greeters and ushers, help the Registration Ministry, decorate the conference hall and workshop rooms, organize the parade of banners, manage logistics during the Festival of Praise, serve as program coordinators, distribute the convention programme and sell souvenir items, assist concessioners in their table assignments, dismantle the physical arrangements and assure that borrowed properties are returned.

The following prayer communities (and their respective head servants) pooled in their personnel and resources: Most Precious Blood Prayer Community (Sister Nenett Barbilla), St. Sebastian Prayer Community (Sister Grace Inciong), Family of Christ Prayer Community (Brother Patrick dela Paz), El Shaddai Prayer Community (Brother Amerito Gerodias), St. John Prayer Community (Sister Linda).



*Thanks for the Memories*  
Photos by Steve Chan





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**ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

**Trumpet Benefactor:** Our latest benefactor, donating \$250.00 to the Alliance in support of Trumpet publication, is the *Community of God's Glory* of Dallas, TX. Brother Romy Baptista is the head servant of this prayer community. The Editorial Staff thanks Brother Romy and his prayer group for this generosity. The only other prayer community in our growing list of benefactors is Brother Bob Canton's prayer group, the *Children of God Prayer Community of St. Luke*, Stockton, CA.

**Father Bill Halbing and St. Antoninus Parish:** Since the 2001 National Convention in Los Angeles, Father Bill has periodically sent in checks to the Alliance Treasury now totaling some \$1400. While the subject of "tithing" and "love offering" gets recurrently discussed in leadership meetings, Father Bill has given the ultimate demonstration of support in cash. Additionally, he has given the Alliance office space in his parish and makes himself available to Alliance meetings as a favorite charismatic speaker. His motto of "We Filipinos should stick together" is not spoken in vain. *Maraming salamat*, Father Bill.

**The Vasquez Duo:** The 12<sup>th</sup> National Convention has come and gone but its sweet fruit lingers. Thanks to Brother Mario and Sister Purita for their Spirit-guided leadership and to the many Ministry chairs and workers who enthusiastically gave of their spiritual abundance to lift others and display God's glory. To chair an activity of the magnitude of a national convention borders on madness. But praise the Lord for people who are willing to go charismatically "crazy" for Christ.

**The Music Makers:** The Convention songs also linger in our hearts. Thanks to the Music Ministries that led praise and worship during the Convention: *BLD*, New Jersey; *Joy of the Holy Spirit*, Maryland; *Holy Family*, Orlando, FL; *Great Harvest*, Antioch, CA; *Blessed Sacrament*, Staten Island, NY; *El Shaddai*, New Jersey; *JAC (Jaycees) Youth*, San Francisco, CA; *God's People*, San Francisco CA; *Youth for Christ*, New Jersey; *Rejoice SFC*, Metuchen, NJ; *Amazing Grace Singers*, Queens, NY; *Filipino Pastoral Music Ministry*.

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