



# THE TRUMPET

Alliance of Filipino Catholic Charismatic Prayer Communities  
[www.afccpc.org](http://www.afccpc.org)

*Melt us, mold us, fill us, use us, Spirit of the Living God.*

*September, 2009*

## THE 15th AFCCPC NATIONAL CONVENTION *The Lord's Magnificent Outpouring in Baltimore*



The 15th National Convention of the *Alliance of Filipino Catholic Charismatic Prayer Communities* (AFCCPC) was held in Baltimore, Maryland, on June 26, 27 and 28, 2009. The theme of the convention was: "*The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me*" (Isaiah 61:1) And yes, the Spirit of the Lord was totally upon this National Convention! There was such tremendous and joyous anointing on every conference talk, on the daily Eucharistic Celebrations, the vigil room Adoration, the healing service, and all the shared prayers and praise-and-worship throughout the three days of the Convention. We praise and thank the Lord for His magnificent outpouring during the Convention and for all His behind-the-scenes direction. He was truly in charge! We also thank the Lord for the *Joy in the Spirit of the Lord*, the host prayer community that organized this Spirit-filled event. For more on the National Convention, go to the JITSL website. Click on this link: [www.afccpc15nc.co.nr](http://www.afccpc15nc.co.nr).

Turn to Page 3 for more on the healing service.

*Text and photo by Teresa M. Gerlinger.*

### CONVENTION NOTES

by N. Albarracin, Jr.

To the lucky ones who were in Baltimore for the 15<sup>th</sup> National Convention, no description of how successful this gathering was is necessary. For those, however, who were *in absentia* and are computer-active and use the Internet, the website given above ([www.afccpc15nc.co.nr](http://www.afccpc15nc.co.nr)) is a rich source of information about the Convention. In fact, in addition to the intangible outpourings of the Holy Spirit, this website and its thorough and organized gathering of information makes this Baltimore Convention unique. Available are such information as the speakers' photo and bio, the program for the entire Convention in both the adult and youth tracks, tons of photos taken by different photographers, personal testimonies, and a list of *Joy in the Spirit of the Lord Prayer Group* members who made this event possible and were proudly referred to during the convention as "God's Squad." Over-all coordination was ably and lovingly and "servantly" done by Sister Agnes and Bro. Joe Nepomuceno and spiritual guidance was provided by the Convention spiritual director, Fr. Louis Olive. The Convention's 86-page *Souvenir Programme*, with photos in glorious color, is superbly crafted and will truly be a souvenir for years to come and a model for future conventions. The Convention theme, *The Spirit of the Lord is upon me* (Isaiah 61:1) was echoed in song by two compositions, one by J. R. Manalad and the other by Sidney Edoria, both printed in the programme with guitar chords. The following testimonies will give the *in absentia* readers of this newsletter a taste of the Convention.

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**FROM THE NATIONAL COORDINATOR'S DESK****Bob Canton**

**RETIREMENT:** As many of you know, I took early retirement from my job as Senior Auditor-Appraiser about 1.5 years ago to devote my time to the works that the Lord wants me to do. It was not a difficult decision to make once I determined that it was God's will for me. But it took 3 years of bargaining with the Lord to give me time to discern and prepare. Initially, I argued with Him saying, "But, Lord, I am too young to retire. Besides, I'm making a very decent salary." After He spoke clearly into my heart, "Don't you trust me, my son?" I finally said "Yes" to Him. I decided to take a "leap of faith" and allow Him to do to me as He wills. Now, I'm busier in so-called "retirement" doing God's will to further His kingdom. I have visited more prayer groups and communities throughout North America. I travel out of the country at least once a month, in addition to the domestic travels that I do to minister to God's people and proclaim the Gospel. A welcome "perk" is that I have more time to spend with my family. It is indeed a humbling experience for me to witness the power of the Holy Spirit touch many people in my travels. The Lord never stops to amaze – in spite of ourselves. I am privileged to do His works. I consider myself very blessed in this regard.

**ICCRS IN SOUTH KOREA:** In June, 2009, I attended the International Catholic Charismatic Conference in Kkktongnae, South Korea. This conference was sponsored by Vatican-based *International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services* (ICCRS). Attendance was at least 1,200 with 46 countries represented. An Open Rally was held towards the end of the conference and more than 50,000 came to hear the Word of God proclaimed, to break bread together during the Eucharistic celebration, and to praise the Lord – in many languages! It was the biggest crowd I have ever seen gathered in His name! And when the congregation prayed in tongues together, it sounded like thunder. What a powerful sight to behold and a powerful sound to hear! Besides conducting the Healing Workshops during the Conference, I was also asked to conduct a Healing Rally in the Diocese of Daejeon, near Seoul, about 2 ½ hours drive from Kkktongnae. I witnessed the disabled get out of their wheelchairs. The blind regained their sight. The deaf could hear again. Canes and walkers were discarded. Tumors and cysts disappeared. The oppressed and demonized were set free. All these miracles were made possible by the Master Healer, our Lord Jesus

Christ, through the power of the Holy Spirit. The strong faith of the South Koreans in the power of the Lord to heal and to set them free is truly impressive and inspiring. I reminded them of Matthew 7:7 -- "*Ask and it will be given to you, seek and you will find, knock and the door will be opened to you.*" The day before I came back to California, on June 14, 2009, I was requested to conduct another Healing Rally in Kkktongnae which was attended by many ICCRS Council members including Bishop Joe Grech from Australia, who gave an inspirational talk on the healing power of Jesus. Again, we witnessed many miraculous healings. Truly, we serve an awesome God!

**THE BALTIMORE NATIONAL CONVENTION:** Congratulations and Alliance-wide gratitude are due to Agnes and Dr. Joe Nepomuceno, members of the Planning Committee, and all the members of the *Joy in the Spirit Prayer Group* for the very anointed and successful AFCCPC National Convention held June 26-28, 2009, in Baltimore, MD. JR Manalad did a splendid job in advertising this event through our website and for doing most of the computer job including putting some of the highlights of the Convention on YouTube. It was heartening to witness many people, especially the youth and young adults, who were touched by the Lord. I was also very encouraged to see people in buses from New Jersey and New York, led by Sister Purita and Mario Vazquez, and members of the St. John Prayer Community of New Jersey, Robert and Liza Joblonski, the head of our National Intercessory group and Lynn Eclipse, the National Secretary from the East, and Patrick de la Paz, one of the Regional Coordinators from New York. Together, they coordinated well in recruiting people from these two States to come to the Convention. There were many Regional Coordinators and Officers and prayer groups from different States who came to the gathering. In attendance also were some ethnic groups such as the Indonesians, Vietnamese, Africans, Malaysians, Haitians who were very enthusiastic in their participation. According to Sister Agnes, many prayer groups in the Baltimore area are now preparing to conduct Life in The Spirit and Growth in the Spirit Seminars or Days of Renewal. It is a great indication that the Lord is continuing to stir into flames the power of the Holy Spirit unleashed during the Convention. Our response to this great move of God is, "Come Holy Spirit, and enkindle in us the fire of your love."

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## AN EVENING OF HEALING IN BALTIMORE

One of the highlights of the Convention was Bro. Bob Canton's healing rally on Saturday night, June 27. As always, Bro. Bob opened the service by pointing to our Lord Jesus as the Healer and the Healing. He led a powerful praise & worship with the *Children of God Prayer Group* music ministry, his own prayer group from Stockton, California. Bro. Bob was led to John 1: 3-4, in particular "All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be. What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race."

He began the service by announcing that the Lord was healing people of the pain in their legs, on the knees, ankles and feet. About sixteen people raised their hands to acknowledge that there was a release from pain in their limbs. "God is healing you. Jesus is always true in His promise," he said. Bro. Bob Canton then called people in their wheelchairs and with canes to come forward. As a group of them assembled before him, he prayed over them. A man in a wheelchair stood up and started to walk. So did an overjoyed lady who threw away her cane and started walking and dancing around the auditorium.

Bro. Jim Murphy, who was one of the speakers at the Convention, joined Bro. Bob on stage to pray and lay hands. "Keep your eyes on Jesus," Bro. Jim exhorted. At one point, Bro. Bob announced that the Lord was healing some people of the spirit of suicide, which had led them in the past to contemplate committing suicide. Three came forward, and as Bro. Bob prayed over them, they were visibly consoled and rested in the Spirit. That night, the Spirit of the Lord was truly upon the people as powerful healings took place. There were testimonies of tumors disappearing. A number of people who had been wearing hearing aids came forward to testify that they could hear without their hearing aids. A woman, who has suffered from macular degeneration for years, removed her eyeglasses and declared that she could see without her glasses.

And beyond the physical healings, the Spirit of the Lord permeated many hearts with His spectacular blessing of joy, peace and love.

*(Photos and text by Teresa M. Gerlinger)*

*And these signs will accompany those who believe: by using my name they will cast out demons, they will speak in new tongues, ... they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover.*

Mark 16: 17,18.



*Bob Canton, continued from Page 2*

**THE TRUMPET EDITORSHIP:** Our newsletter, *The Trumpet*, will have a new Editor after this issue in the person of Ramon Mescallado who lives in Cape Coral, FL, and is one of the Regional Coordinators of the South Central Region. He is a regular contributor to our newsletter. He has been an active servant leader in the Couples for Christ prayer communities in the Florida area. I am confident that Bro. Ramon will do a great job as he has been very conscientious and dedicated in his services for the Lord. He will take the place of Dr. Al Albarracin who has been editor since 2002 and has done an excellent job as Chief Editor for the past 7 years. Bro. Al also served as Board Member for 2 terms. His dedication to his duties in the AFCCPC is incomparable. He is one of the reasons why the AFCCPC is a thriving organization. He will remain as our Website caretaker until we find someone to take over this function. I have recently asked him to take the long-vacant post of Vice National Coordinator for Administration and he has gladly accepted this vital job for the internal operations of AFCCPC.

**OUR PARTICIPATION IN THE NSC:** Dr. Al Albarracin has also been recently appointed by the National Service Committee of the CCR in the US as a Council member representing the AFCCPC and the Filipino stream of the Renewal. Kudos to Bro. Al! I am sure we will be well represented in the NSC through him.

**REGIONAL CONFERENCES IN 2010:** I am happy to announce that the Rocky Mountain Region will hold a Regional Conference in Phoenix, AZ, on **March 19-21, 2010**. The venue is the Marriott Hotel and the theme of the Conference is a verse taken from Psalm 27: ***Lord show me Your Way***. Regional Coordinator Jojo Concepcion is the Chairperson for this project. On **July 2-4, 2010**, the East Atlantic Region will hold their Third Regional Conference in East Brunswick, NJ. The venue for this conference is the Hilton Hotel. Board Member Purita Vazquez will chair this event. The conference theme is taken from Isaiah 43:5: ***Do not be afraid, for I am with you***. Access our website ([www.afccpc.org](http://www.afccpc.org)) for information as planning for these conferences continue. Mark your calendars and plan to attend as these two charismatic gatherings promise to be great sources of empowerment and blessings from Our Heavenly Father.

**ICCRS LEADERSHIP TRAINING COURSE:** In the second week of September, 2010, the AFCCPC will collaborate with ICCRS in sponsoring a weeklong ***North American Leadership Training Course*** to be held in Ohio at the Franciscan University of Steubenville. This is a

comprehensive training course designed to strengthen the leaders in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal.

**APPOINTMENTS:** My appointments of Regional Coordinators and Officers are made throughout the year and at no specific dates and usually follows when a position is vacated for one reason or another or when I meet during my travels a person who I discern as appropriate for a position. Below are the more recent appointees to the leadership roles of AFCCPC:

- Lynn Eclipse (NY): National Secretary, East
- Dr. Myrna Ortega (MD): Assistant VNC Funding, East
- Dr. Narciso Albarracin, Jr. (OH): VNC Administration
- Prime Abiado (OH): Systems Administrator
- Ramon Mescallado (FL): Trumpet Editor
- Michael Tupaz (CA): VNC Logistics and Resources (a newly created position)
- Letty Ramos (CA): Regional Coordinator, North Pacific Region
- Irma de Guzman (CA): Regional Coordinator, Mid Pacific Region
- Mikmik Flores (CA): Regional Coordinator, Mid Pacific Region
- Rose Herico (CA): Regional Coordinator, North Pacific Region
- Emil Valles (NV): Regional Coordinator, Rocky Mountain Region
- Jun Tan (CA): Regional Coordinator, Mid Pacific Region
- Patrick de la Paz (NY): Regional Coordinator, East Atlantic Region
- Melvin Mendoza (NY): Regional Coordinator, East Atlantic Region
- Rosalinda Enriquez (NY): Regional Coordinator, East Atlantic Region
- Fr. Pete Literal (VA): Spiritual Adviser

To God be the glory, for ever and ever, Amen!  
God bless!

**Bob Canton**

National Coordinator, AFCCPC  
ICCRS Council Member

**REGIONAL COORDINATORS**

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Patrick de la Paz  
Luz Delin*

*Rosalinda Enriquez  
Melvin Mendoza  
Rowena Yaptangco*

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Aida Javier*

EASTERN CANADA REGION

*Ralph Ferrer  
Fe Santos*

*Don Quilao*

WESTERN CANADA REGION

**FROM THE HEAD SHEPHERD'S DESK**

**Fr. Ramon Valera**

**MAKING YOUR PRAYER MEETINGS SPIRIT-FILLED**

Every gathering for prayer should be in the name of Jesus Christ and under the guidance and inspiration of the Holy Spirit: *"Where two or three are gathered in my Name, there am I in the midst of them."* (Matt. 28:20). In this article I will share some tips on how to make your prayer meetings more meaningful and Spirit-filled. Beyond these, however, always make room for the promptings of the Holy Spirit in your gatherings.

Why do we gather for a charismatic prayer meeting? In an informal survey I recently made, I got the following responses:

- It's the most meaningful activity for me that week.
- Aside from Sunday Mass, I am given an opportunity to give praise and thanks to a good and loving God.
- My week is never complete without our prayer meeting.
- I get to share with my brothers and sisters what God has been doing in my life.
- Prayer meetings are opportunities for us to learn more about our Catholic faith.
- I am able to pray to God on a more regular way.

I personally believe that prayer meetings are opportunities for people like me to communicate with God in a simple way. I say in a *simple way* because prayer meetings are meant to be just that --- they are not supposed to be time for bible study, or for formal teachings on our Catholic faith. Prayer meetings are meant to be moments whereby people are given sufficient time to let God into their lives. Very significant in prayer meetings is the time devoted to praise and worship. Periods of silence and reflection, however, should be interspersed to give time for God to speak to us. Review the message of 1 Samuel 3:7-10: *At that time Samuel was not familiar with the Lord, because the Lord had not revealed anything to him yet. The Lord called Samuel again, for the third time. Getting up and going to Eli, he said, 'Here I am. You called me.' Then Eli understood that the Lord was calling the youth. So he said to Samuel, 'Go to sleep, and if you are called, reply: Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.' When Samuel went to sleep in his place, the Lord came and revealed his presence, calling out as before, 'Samuel, Samuel.' Samuel answered, "Speak, for your servant is listening*

Here are tips for prayer groups to bear in mind so as to make their prayer meetings Spirit-filled:

- **PHYSICAL CONDITION AND TIME:** This refers to a bright and cheerful atmosphere of room space conducive for prayer so there is little chance of people falling asleep or distracted by the surroundings. The prayer meeting should begin and end promptly on time. Though fellowship such as a meal or snack is important, it should not precede the meeting so as not to divert or sidetrack the purpose why people come to pray together.
- **SPIRIT OF PRAYER:** A prayer meeting must begin with a worshipful tone in order to focus the attention of everyone to God and put them into the right mind-set. It is in the unity of prayer, the community of believers was of one heart and mind, and no one claimed that any of his possessions was his

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*Fr. Ramon Valera, continued from Page 5*

own, but they had everything in common (Acts 4:32), which means that people come to the meeting in the spirit of prayer. The spirit of prayer happens when silence is an essential element. Besides the collective meeting with Jesus, such as the public praise and worship in song, there is also the need for a private audience with Him, a secret heart-to-heart chat, to show Him our intimate sentiments and at the same time, to listen to what He wants to tell us in the inner recesses of our being by means of His Spirit.

- **SCRIPTURES:** Praying with the Scriptures is a very good practice as it allows Jesus to speak to us through His word. Why is there so much backsliding and very little growth in grace? Because of the lack of food for the soul. St. Jerome said, *"ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ."* The more we love the Scriptures, the firmer will be our faith for *"out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks."* (Luke 6:45)

- **GOOD PRAYER LEADER:** The success of a prayer meeting depends largely on the prayer leader. First and foremost, he/she must arrive early so that everything can be determined to be in good order. As leader, he must come prepared to lead. The worst scenario is when the leader stands up before the community and apologizes that he is not prepared. The leader has the duty to intervene to bring back the meeting to the sphere of prayer should it get lost in discussions or polemics. He must encourage everyone to participate especially when inviting members or guests to share their experiences of their journey of faith. If the leader is full of life and of the Spirit, the group will catch his enthusiasm.

I am sure there are many more tips that we can consider in order to make a Spirit-filled prayer meeting. What I have shared here is a starting point towards the goal of a good prayer meeting. The fellowship that usually follows a prayer meeting is just as essential to the prayer meeting itself. When members, friends, and guests gather together and share some goodies or snacks, and continue to show the goodness and love of the Lord with one another, a prayer meeting becomes an extension of our daily lives. We look forward to the next prayer meeting with a positive outlook and with a hopeful anticipation because it is the Lord who calls us together.



## YOUTH REFLECTIONS



ANNA MANALAD



GARDIANA PROSPER

### *Anna Manalad*

Joy in the Spirit Youth, *Barkada for Christ*, Maryland

Many would say that Sunday is the saddest and yet most glorious day of such gatherings. However, for us youth it was not so. A long comical yet spiritually enriching day with our own renditions of Bible stories as well as songs had everyone keyed up, bringing everyone closer together. After the Mass Saturday evening, we convened outside of the youth space in front of a very dark room. Many of us had been there before in the Regional Conference but at that younger age, we weren't so eager to talk; that night was a different story. We reminisced about the day's events as we entered the foggy, dark room. We were told to sit on the floor and wait until the doors were shut. As soon as they were, the music started and so did the slide show in the back. It kept flashing the most common sins we commit every day without us realizing it.. At the peak of the song, a young man in chains could be seen in the strobe light. Around him were the sins labeled as anger, lies, and so on. Like us, the he was struggling. With quick flash of the room lights, "Jesus" appeared in front of the strobe lights. As he walked forward, more flashes of light came on and one by one the chains of sins let the struggling young man free. Soon all the lights came on and the performers were replaced with Tita Grace who was soon cut off by a loud bang on the door. Of course her automatic response was that no one was to be allowed in the door past 8 but let him in anyway. He said someone had sent him to give her "this"--"this" being a closed package. There was a letter for everyone. The lights came down again and this time a booming voice read to us the contents of the letter; it was from the Devil claiming that with each of our sins he grew stronger and his hold on our souls with it...that's when it all started. A trashcan was placed in front of the cross standing in the room. We had to make a choice --God or the Devil? I remember feeling the letter burning in my hands. Was that really what I wanted? Had I been blocking God all this time without knowing it? Everyone got up and destroyed the letter immediately. As I dropped the letter in the trash, I knew that would not be enough. For what felt like the next few hours, I knelt in front of the cross and prayed for God's forgiveness. Soon I felt people around me start to shuffle but I stayed kneeling and started talking to God like any friend I had. I lifted everything up to him -- my stresses, my happiness, my whole being. When I finally opened my eyes, I noticed a change in the room. It was lighter and everyone, despite the tears, was smiling too. We spent the rest of the session in the dim room dancing, jumping, and singing to the top of our lungs knowing that we each felt

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God's presence in the short time we were together and still remained there. Many of the youth had to leave that evening but no one wanted to go. The bond created there by the day's events couldn't be loosened. With a heavy heart, we hugged and many of us parted ways. The following morning as the Mass was coming to an end and with it the two years worth of preparation we each put into it, I was filled with grief. But the feeling was soon overshadowed by the realization that God would always be there helping me at each hurdle. He would help me in whatever problems I face. Each face I passed mimicked mine of joy and relief. And so with that, as I walked with the altar servers that Sunday afternoon, I could truly say that the Spirit of the Lord was upon everyone gathered there, including me. (Anna is 16 years old).

### ***Gardiana Prosper***

Pater Noster Youth Ministry

Hello and good afternoon. My name is *Gardiana Prosper* and I am 15 years old. I've been in the Pater Noster Youth Ministry for more than 5 years. I started with PNYM at about 9 years old. I remember when Tita Grace invited my brothers and me to PNYM. At the time I wasn't sure if I wanted to join but I went to see how it was. The first day I got here they were so welcoming. I listened to the gospel and prayers that were being said and I knew that these people had dedicated their lives to God. Later, I knew that God had put me here. I came to have a close connection with God in prayer through meetings and events. I was 11 when I attended my first Life in the Spirit Seminar retreat and it was the first time that I had spoken to God in my heart. The feeling was amazing and I felt loved so much more by God. After that, I consulted God about every decision I made, asking if they are apart of His plan for me. This group has also helped me learn that Sunday is not the only day to praise God but everyday and every moment we have is for God. Before, I knew that God was always there but I had trouble feeling and seeing His presence. During one meeting at PNYM, we were praising and worshiping, and then it seemed that God took me to a different place and showed all of His beautiful creation. I felt the wind as if God was using it to talk to me and the heat of the sun was how warm his love is and I saw the trees and plants as if they were us continuing to grow. Being in this group, I see the image of God in each and every one of us. What I mean by seeing the image of God is that we are able to forgive, love, and care for each other. We hear each others experiences and are amazed at what God can do. Now when I pray to God, I would begin to say words of love, wisdom, and tell how awesome he is. Then I realized later in the prayer that I was saying words I never said before. I thought that I would never be able to pray like this but God helps me pray. God's love never fails and this helps my faith grow stronger. We at times either feel like giving up but God will con-

tinue to work in us. Here we talk about the true vocation that we must live. It's not just going to church every Sunday. We also have to spread the gospel and live it. PNYM has helped me see this. We sing songs of praise, worship, and more. When I actually listen to a song, the lyrics help me realize what I want to say to God. I feel the words of the songs are in my head like the words were always in my heart. If I hadn't been invited to PNYM I would not be here standing today or wouldn't be interested in what God has in store for me. I want everybody to have the chance to experience what I experienced. Today I can see that we are one big family not only growing in number but in love. I have no regrets being in this group. I'm happy and thankful for being chosen by God to **break free** from the world and **break in** to His kingdom.



ANIKA AQUINO



JESSICA UY

### ***Anika Aquino***

BLD Washington Youth

*"I have the strength for everything through Him who empowers me."* Philippians 4:13

The weekend of the AFCCPC Baltimore Convention opened my eyes and strengthened my faith to a whole new level. The countless lessons learned there had the common theme of relating to that one unforgettable Bible verse. This verse, Philippians 4:13, was one direct teaching that somehow spoke to me. God called me by name to that convention for that to be imprinted in my heart, and through that one verse, all my doubts, fears, and questions were answered.

Saturday morning, BLD Washington Youth was in charge of leading morning praise. With all of the chaos and scrambling of songs, I somehow managed to listen to Father Leo Patalinghug as he reached out to not only me but all who were there. He mentioned the fact that not many can recognize the image of Holy. Naturally, numerous ideas of what could possibly define holiness ran through my mind. I realized that the more mysterious God seemed to be, the more I strived to know Him. That day made me rethink my understanding of my Lord and Savior. As each lesson became instilled in us, so too was the Holy Spirit in our hearts.

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After mass a few of the BLD Youth kids decided to stay and attend a special activity led by the Pater Noster youth group. Never in my wildest dreams did I expect that one night to be so overwhelming and profound. Their group did an amazing and inspiring performance that left my peers and I in awe. We saw Christ through them. We witnessed kids our age interpreting and displaying God's love to inexplicable proportions. I saw exactly what He wanted and probably needed me to see. That night was empowering, wonderful, eye-opening—baffling. That night was a glimpse of His love, and all I want is to see more of it.

After that night I felt that nothing could top such an experience; that there was probably no point in going back on Sunday because all that was left was the closing. Fortunately BLD Youth returned that day, for I learned that there is nothing more important than closure to such an amazing experience. Brother Bob Canton led us into a healing session, having us say "Abba Alleluia." Eventually this slurred, as I slowly began to speak what he called the "language of the Holy Spirit." I cannot even begin to describe what receiving the gift of tongues feels like. Although there were others louder than I, it felt as if I were alone with God. All of my feelings that even I myself struggled to put to words were poured out that day, and for the first time, I was sure God was listening. Without this closure I believe that all the teachings and inspiring experiences would have been left incomplete. I felt like I finally understood God; even if it was for just a brief moment.

*Heavenly Father, thank You for calling me to this convention. I ask that you instill in me all the lessons that I have learned over this weekend and help me to apply them to my daily life. Continue to be my saving grace, and grant unto me the wisdom of Your ways so that I may serve You to my fullest potential. All this I pray in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit Amen.*

By making the sign of the cross, I learned that we make ourselves targets of Christ. Yes, I realize that after this moment with God it will be hard to resist temptations. They say the closer one comes to the light, the bigger their shadow becomes. I, however, am ready to make myself an open target to God, regardless of the trials. Why? Philippians 4:13. That's why.

### **Jessica Uy**

BLD Washington Youth

I found God in an unexpected place. I found Him in the middle of Baltimore, Maryland. I found Him, and I had no idea that I would. I was caught off guard. It was in the Baltimore Convention Center on the days of June 27 and 28 of 2009 where I fell in love with something so far beyond myself—God.

BLD Youth of Washington D.C. was invited to facilitate a session on Saturday morning at the Baltimore Convention Center for a weekend retreat hosted by AFCCPC, the Alliance of Filipino Catholic Charismatic Prayer Communities. We all honestly thought that we would simply stay for the morning to sing and then leave at one o'clock. However, after the morning session, I found that none of us had the desire to leave. We all wanted to stay. That's exactly what we did, and I couldn't be happier that we made that choice.

That Saturday night and Sunday morning were profound experiences for all of us. I could speak for ages about these experiences, and I still wouldn't even begin to scratch the surface. On these two days, I found myself overwhelmed with an unexplainable feeling. I felt free, liberated. I felt like I finally belonged, and God was telling me that I was good enough. In Him, I found joy, peace, and comfort that went beyond words.

Sunday was an especially powerful day. Brother Bob Canton led a session of healing.

## **OFFICERS**

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In this session, the power of the Holy Spirit fell upon each one of us, though in unique and different ways. Some were granted the gift of tongues, and others were slain. Afterwards, I heard some people had even more unique experiences, such as visions, supernatural warmth, and bright lights.

As for my experience, at first I felt nothing. Then all of a sudden, I felt a wave of emotion that I couldn't understand. I started sobbing uncontrollably, but for some reason, I felt like a part of me was at peace. Brother Bob Canton went over to me, and he touched my forehead. I fell backwards. I remember someone telling me, "You need to forgive someone." And at that moment, I was so confused; I had no idea what she was talking about, no idea what she was trying to tell me. I don't hold grudges, and there's no one in my life that I really needed to forgive -or so I thought.

It wasn't until after the weekend when I asked my mom about my experience, did I fully understand who I needed to forgive - myself. For the longest time, I have felt like God's been trying to tell me to forgive, because I constantly put myself down. It is I who always tells myself that I'm not good enough. Now, I'm finally feel free from my sense of inadequacy. I feel secure in who I am and in the fact that God loves me with such a love that He would never forsake me. All in all, the AFCCPC was the answer to my prayers. Through the conference, God revealed to me love for my friends, my family, myself, and God.

**REGIONAL REPORTS****Mid Pacific Region** (*Ted Lim, Lead Coordinator*):

Bro. Bob conducted a spirited Healing Workshop last July 10, at St. Clara Parish Hall, Oxnard, CA. Assisted by Leo Lacbain,1 and his wife, Fe Lacbain (both AFCCPC Officers). Another workshop was held on July 11, at St. Joseph the Worker Parish Hall, Winnetka, CA. His talk comprises of reports, healing testimonies from several attendees, teaching, guidelines how to pray over, and the actual workshop. About 70-80 people attended at Oxnard, and about 40-50 attendees at Winnetka. The Filipino-American Catholic Renewal Communities based in Los Angeles (FACRC), is the umbrella organization of Charismatic groups under the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. Among the 4 regions, namely: Los Angeles Archdiocese (Our Lady of the Angels), San Gabriel, San Pedro, and San Fernando. The Mission Statement reads: "We, the people of God, called to serve, to give praise and glory to God, empowered by the Holy Spirit and nourished by Word and Eucharist, commit ourselves to proclaim the gospel and to share the gifts of the Holy Spirit." Its members and leaders headed by the Overall Coordinator and Spiritual Adviser, Fr. Ramon Valera, meets every 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month. Located at St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Church (Parish Hall) in Los Angeles, members and leaders of the different prayer groups are nourished by worship time, teaching, fellowship, and a regular meeting. Diana de Guzman, Regional Coordinator, reports on a recently concluded Growth Series of the SJW-Charismatic Prayer Group, Winnetka last July 31. It was well attended by both LSS participants and other prayer group members. Fr. Kevin Rettig, our Parish Pastor fully supports the PG's activities. A parish-based Bible study class has been initiated at SJW, with Bro. Gus Mora as one of two Coordinators. To date, 30 people have enlisted and are attending. Several of the PG's leaders are currently on their second year in the Catholic Bible Institute, LMU. We likewise hosted the SCRC Volunteer Day orientation last August 8. As part of a new Outreach Program, the SJWCPC has embarked on a project called, Angel's Way Maternity Home, in support of unwed mothers (majority are teenagers) who otherwise would resort to abortion or a life on the streets. Our PG and its leaders continue to avail of many opportunities to help spread the Good News. **Reported by: Michael Tupaz.**

**SOUTHERN REGION**

The Servants of God (SOG) Prayer Group at Holy Infant Church in Durham, N C. is af-

filiated with the Southern Region of the AFCCPC. Our prayer group has been in existence since 1993. I became the Servant Leader of the SOG three years ago. The SOG Prayer Group meets every Saturday at 7:00 PM at church or at individual homes. Currently we have 25 active members composed mostly of Filipinos with a few Chinese, Caucasians, blacks, South Americans, and Costa Rican. Our spiritual adviser is Rev. Joseph Brennan. O.S.F.S. Our prayer group sponsors Regional Conferences, Healing and Evangelization Workshops, Life in the Spirit Seminars, Growth in the Spirit Seminars, and participates in the Diocesan (NSC-sponsored) charismatic activities and attend National and Regional conferences. Our members serve Holy Infant parish as Eucharistic ministers, greeters, Eucharistic minister to the sick, lecturers, and hosts. I organized a Youth Prayer Group in the parish in 1999. At that time we had a crop of talented musicians. The group sponsored a Festival of Praise each month. People from other parishes attended this joyous, spirit-filled event. The members of the group are all grown-ups now and are scattered to wherever their jobs brought them. We pray the Lord will send us again a Music Ministry just like them. Last July, six of us proceeded from the Regional Conference at Baltimore to a DeSales Service Works Retreat in Camden, NJ. Here we had the opportunity to interact one-on-one with the poor, the homeless, and drug-addicts. We made and served food, distributed flyers, visited some homes and painted rooms in the schoolhouse. The Retreat included a time to reflect on our service with daily Mass, shared meals, prayers and social teachings by the Oblates.

Bro. Bob has been in Durham four times to conduct Healing and Evangelization workshops for us. In April 2007 we helped Joe Calicdan in Charlotte, NC, conduct a LSS and Healing Rally. Members of the AFCCPC Speakers' Bureau (Bob Canton, Al Albarracin, Gus Mora and yours truly) conducted the event. In response to our Mission, I believe that through our Prayer Meetings, Healing and Evangelization Workshops, Baptism in the Holy Spirit, and seminars, we have brought physical, spiritual, and emotional healing to a lot of people. We touched the hearts of many as they witnessed the healings and believed that Jesus is truly present in our midst. They became empowered by the Holy Spirit to spread the Good News. Our Festival of Praise and Prayer Meetings brought people to a vibrant and Spirit-filled worship. By our shining example we led them closer to the Lord and how to live Jesus. *(Reported by Greg Acedo)*

#### **NORTH CENTRAL REGION**

A Bob Canton Healing Crusade was held on July 31-August 1, 2009, at the St. Peter's Catholic Church in Worthington, OH, sponsored by the Catholic Charismatic Renewal of the Diocese of Columbus, OH, and hosted by the Jesus and Mary Prayer Group and the Marians of Theophilus Prayer Group. The Crusade started on Friday evening, preceded by Praise and Worship and Mass cele-

brated by Fr. Justin Reis. It continued on the following Saturday with teaching and healing from 9 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Some 250 people attended the Mass and the Healing service. Music ministry for the evening was provided by Mar Albarracin-Frommeyer and Lyssa Albaracin-Brown with support from the members of the Marians of Theophilus Prayer Group. Several healings occurred. A man was able to walk, discarding his cane. Another person regained his hearing and found no further use of his hearing aid. Bro. Bob's usual program of proclaiming the Word and calling the sick according to his word of knowledge was curtailed by the insistence of some people wanting to be attended to first. His call for general healing came earlier than he had anticipated. This resulted in a massive move of people towards the sanctuary presenting themselves for prayer. Bro. Bob prayed over all the people giving them personal attention according to their respective needs. The session ended close to midnight. There was no time to witness on instantaneous physical cures, but there is no doubt that many or all experienced personal healing. Attendance during the Saturday whole-day session exceeded expectations. People kept coming in and additional chairs were put out. Bro. Bob talked about *How to pray for Healing and Achieve Results* and later in the day conducted a brief workshop on prayer for healing. His call for people oppressed by memories of sexual abuse, suicidal attempts, and abortion resulted in people coming up to him for prayers. There was a report of disappearance of a tumor in the neck. There was also a report of a victim of an accident prayed over by proxy, being released from the ER after application of stitches. Like the previous evening, people wanted personal prayers and Bro. Bob gave each one a time for personal prayer. The main thrust of this Crusade was in individualized prayer given to attendees by Bro. Bob. It seems like people's burdens were less on physical ailments than on spiritual, psychological, emotional, financial burdens. Bro. Bob addressed them all. *(Reported by Terri Albarracin)*

#### **EASTERN CANADA**

We are happy to inform you that our community here is really on fire in the Holy Spirit! Our formation programs such as; CLSS, GSS, Discipleship, Leadership, Speakership, Healing Seminars, Equipping the Saints formation program and conferences are continuous and growing. Actually this year, on June 26, 27, 28 & 29, we had a big National Charismatic Conference for all charismatics in Canada, including all the ethnic groups such as Portuguese, Spanish, Chinese, Indonesian, Italian, French — and Clergy — with simultaneous live language translations. With utmost humility, our Filipino community, the FCCCPC, has been blessed with me as the Chairman of this Conference. We also have quarterly General Assembly where all our member communities gather together in Praise and Worship with Spiritual Deepening Talks and highlighted/concluded by the Holy Mass with AGAPE fellowship after. We've been doing this General Assembly for almost 4 years now and it's continuously growing. For more information about our community — the FCCCPC — please visit our website at [www.fcccpc.com](http://www.fcccpc.com). *(Reported by Don Quilao)*

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*(Elected 11-9-08)*

**Ging Mangaliman**

*(Re-elected 11-9-08)*

**Gus Mora**

*(Elected 11-9-08)*

**Agnes Nepomuceno**

*(Re-elected 11-9-08)*

**Purita Vazquez**

*(Re-elected 11-9-08)*

◆

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## EDITORIAL:

### *Giving Thanks and Moving Forward*

As this is my last issue as editor of our Newsletter, I would like to express my appreciation and gratitude to the people who helped and supported me in the publication of The Trumpet during the past 7 years, especially to those whose names are listed in the Editorial Staff box on the bottom left of this page. My especial thanks go to Teresa Gerlinger whose expertise as a photo-journalist blessed our newsletter with so many interesting reports of Alliance events. I cannot thank enough our Distribution Managers, Sonny and Mae Mendoza. Sonny passed on to the Lord's embrace on September 15, 2007, but Mae continued doing the task of mailing out the newsletters. To take to the Post Office so many pieces of mail is a daunting task that needs care and dedication and Sonny and Mae executed that task with love for the Alliance and the Lord. We owe them a debt of gratitude and appreciation. Deacon Dean Lopata, Fr. Perry Kenaston, and, more recently, Fr. Ramon Valera have provided as with teaching articles on our faith and religion providing the necessary balance to our more secular reporting. Adding to the balance are our Youth editors, Grace Bernardo and Mario Vierneza, whose activities on the Atlantic and Pacific coasts, respectively, kept us mindful of the fact that there is a youthful dimension to the charismatic renewal that assures its continuing existence.

The AFCCPC is a networking organization and communication among members is most important. In addition to our newsletter, we have a website. Both the printed word and the Internet keep us all informed, above and beyond our regular gatherings in regional conferences and national conventions. At this time I would like the Alliance to recognize the contributions of two people who have worked behind the scenes. Prime Abiado, who works at the Information Technology section of The Ohio State University Medical Center, was instrumental in getting our website off the ground and serves AFCCPC as System Administrator. Jesse Cabungcal designed our website home page, including the AFCCPC logo and the *Crown of Thorns* which is an original creation by him. Jesse used to be director of the graphics and photography section of Nationwide Insurance. He now lives in Tampa, Florida, where he is a leader in the Couples for Christ community.

The Trumpet moves forward with the appointment of Ramon Mescallado as Editor. Bro. Ramon lives in Cape Coral, FL, a place which comes close to being "paradise" during the winter months. He and wife Noemi, an RN, are active with the CFC community in FL. Now retired, Bro. Ramon devotes his time to the business of the Lord. In addition to his Couples for Christ activities, he is a Commissioner on the Charismatic Renewal Commission of the Diocese of Venice (FL). He is a member of the Parish Council of the Saint Katharine Drexel Parish in Cape Coral and is a member of the choir in this parish. He is one of the leaders that organize the annual celebration of the Feast of Santo Nino among Filipinos in the Cape Coral/Ft. Myers area. He has written articles for The Trumpet. You can learn more of his activities and intimate thoughts in his website/blogsite: [www.lcor1347.com](http://www.lcor1347.com).

It has been a privilege and a blessing to edit and produce The Trumpet. It is time however to transfer the responsibility to other hands who can move this function farther and further forward.

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

**CONVENTION NOTES** *continued from Page 1*

- ◆ I enjoyed the terrific Spirit-filled convention. It was truly a joy to be there and I long for another one soon. You all did a wonderful job and all the speakers were excellent. One of my favorites is Fr. Bill Halbing. Bishop Tagle is awesome. Bob Canton is phenomenal. Fr. Ramon Valera and Fr. Leo Patalinghug are incredible as well. Steve Kuban was great as well as the rest of the singing ministries. Wow! What an event! I felt the Holy Spirit's presence during the entire event. (JV Pica)
- ◆ The sleepless nights, tiredness, much stress and concern, still have brought to everyone in the convention the great message of our Lord: *"I have called and anointed you, my people of the Mid-Atlantic Region, to serve in my Vineyard. You have harvested the fruits of my work, and brought my chosen ones back to me. I am well-pleased and happy with what you all do for my Kingdom. Because of this I will continue to pour blessings and providence to you, with my love and peace and joy."* Thus says the Lord. And all people said, Amen. (Mike Tupaz, VNC, Logistics and Resources).
- ◆ Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Joy in the Spirit of the Lord Prayer Group: I wish to express my appreciation and gratitude for your hospitality and welcome to me. It was indeed a truly Spirit-filled event for all our participants, and you all made it happen. This was also another opportunity for Filipinos involved in the Renewal to come together and meet. I enjoyed my short visit to Baltimore. I enjoyed meeting with everyone in the convention. We were lucky that the weather was only 80 degrees (it was over 100 in LA). As the Spirit of the Lord continue to guide us, let us be filled with God's love and guidance. Again thank you for all your hard work in bringing about the Spirit of the Lord upon all who attended the National Convention. (Fr. Ramon Valera, Head Shepherd).
- ◆ The conference speakers were outstanding. I learned a lot. The music was great – I liked the words that were projected on the big screen because I could sing without holding a song sheet. I purchased lots of books, CDs, and religious items from the vendors. Thank you for organizing such a beautiful conference. (Sharon Pollock)
- ◆ We praise and thank the Lord Jesus for blessing us with a very successful National Convention. I congratulate Sister Agnes and Bro. Joe Nepomuceno and all the members of "God's Squad" who hosted the Convention. Baltimore will never be the same again. Many lives have been touched for the glory of God through this Convention. (Bob Canton, National Coordinator)

## THE TRUMPET

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