



And in that day a great
Trumpet will sound..
Isaiah 27:13.

The Trumpet

Alliance of Filipino Catholic Charismatic Prayer Communities

DECEMBER 2002



Bishop Sam Jacobs, chairman of the US Bishops Ad Hoc Committee on Catholic Charismatic Renewal, addresses the Alliance during its Mini-Conference held in conjunction with the 2002 National Catholic Charismatic Renewal Conference held in Pittsburgh.

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ALLIANCE PARTICIPATES IN 2002 NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC CONFERENCE

They came. They gathered. They participated. At the invitation of the National Service Committee and in recognition of the giftedness and strong faith and organizational cohesiveness of Catholic Filipinos, the Alliance of Filipino Catholic Charismatic Prayer Communities (AFCCPC) was given several important roles in the National Catholic Charismatic Renewal Conference held September 13-15, 2002, in Pittsburgh, to celebrate the 35th anniversary of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the USA. The Alliance supplied the music ministry that led the praise and worship during the first general session held on Friday evening and again during the Sunday mass. The Filipino Pastoral Music Ministry of the Diocese of Brooklyn led by Butch Nunez had the honor to do this role. They did a superb job. Another "first" is Bob Canton's role in leading a healing service during the Convention. This allowed Brother Bob to share his gifts of knowledge and healing and extend his ministry to all participants of this national conference.

The Filipino Mini-Conference accorded the AFCCPC even greater recognition as an ethnic constituency alongside more established charismatic organizations. Held the entire day of Saturday, this conference was organized by the Alliance leaders of the East Atlantic Region spearheaded by Purita Vasquez, over-all chair of the upcoming Alliance National Convention to be held in New Jersey in June of 2003. Bob Canton, national coordinator of AFCCPC, tasked the group to organize this conference as a "trial run" for the 2003 National Convention and Sister Purita and her group indeed did an excellent job. The Mini-Conference theme was "Holy Spirit, the Consuming Fire." Father Bill Halbing, pastor of St. Antoninus Church in New Jersey and Alliance spiritual adviser, spoke on "Let's Keep the Fire of the Holy Spirit Burning in Our Hearts." This was followed by Bishop Sam Jacobs talk on "Let's Go Out into the Deep with the Power of the Holy Spirit." Father Ed Abano, Alliance Head Shepherd, spoke on "Let's Walk in Holiness and Righteousness." Bob Canton opened the afternoon session with his talk on "We Are More than Conquerors." Following a charismatic mass celebrated by Father Perry Kenaston, Alliance spiritual adviser from Juneau, Alaska, Bob Canton conducted a healing service which brought blessings to many attendees.

Of significance was the presence and participation of Bishop Sam Jacobs, chairman of the US Bishops Ad Hoc Committee on



The general session opened Friday night with praise and worship music led by the Filipino Pastoral Music Ministry of the Diocese of Brooklyn. On guitar is Butch Nunez.



Praising was joyous and charismatic. There was singing and dancing on the floor.



A contingent from Cape Coral, FL. Members of St. Andrew Prayer Group, from left to right: Ann Pezzano, Linda Dumlao, Josie Gonzales, and Cory Ramos. Bob Canton will minister to their group and the Fort Myers area on January 24-25, 2003.



The Alliance officers and board meeting was held at the Westin Hotel Friday night. The major item discussed was the status report on the preparations for next year's National Convention. Shown in the top photo, from left to right: Dave Armesto, Fr. Perry Kenaston, Deacon Dean Lopata, Ray and Gonette Caparros, Fr. Ed Abano, and Bob Canton chairing the meeting. In the bottom photo, around the conference table, from left to right: May Virata, Joy Tatlonghari, Greg Acedo, Letty Ramos, Nena Grandea, Agnes and Joe Nepomuceno, Jim Blubaugh, and Fr. Bill Halbing.

Alliance Participates (cont'd from page 1)

Charismatic Renewal. In the words of Bob Canton, Bishop Sam "could hardly wait to meet all of us and to minister to us as he has heard nothing but good things about the AFCCPC and the Spirit-filled Filipinos who are actively involved in the Charismatic Renewal." The Alliance welcomed him warmly and listened intently to both his introductory jokes and his message and challenge of venturing out into the deep in the power of the Holy Spirit. <>



From left to right, standing: Rose Lontok, Flor Batuigas, Gaye Felismino. Sitting: Ruth Sa-Onoy, Siony Flores, Gilda Dalman.

The Alliance Mini-Conference in Pittsburgh was a project of the East Atlantic Region under the coordination and servant leadership of Purita Vasquez (St. John's Prayer Community) and was a "trial run" for the much bigger National Biennial Convention to be held in New Jersey in June of 2003. Attendance was close to 500. Liza and Bob Jablonski took care of the the Liturgy Ministry and prepared all the requirements for the mass. Nenett Barbilla volunteered to supply manpower for the liturgy including greeters and ushers. The registration chores for the Mini-Conference was done by a group from the St. John's Prayer Community under the servant leadership of Rose Lontok. The Filipino Pastoral Music Ministry of the Diocese of Brooklyn, under the leadership of Butch Nunez and Patti Isaac, volunteered to sing for the mass.



Father Bill Halbing Father Ed Abano

Personal testimonies, interspersed between conference speakers, were delivered by Terri Albarracin (Columbus, OH), Butch Nunez (music director of the Filipino Pastoral Music Ministry of the Diocese of Brooklyn), Ray Caparros (Baltimore, MD), and Rose Lontok (Jersey City, NJ).



From L to R: Belle Maria Arizala, Susan Quinola, Mila Rayos, Cynthia Custodio, Marivie Rillas, Det-Det Teofisto, Dave Armesto, Nanding Molina, Butch Nunez.

The music ministries that participated in the Mini-Conference included the Filipino Pastoral Music Ministry of Brooklyn and Queens, NY; San Sebastian Music Ministry, NY; Most Precious Blood Ministry, NY; Filipino Pastoral Music Ministry of San Francisco, CA; Holy Family Music Ministry of Orlando, FL.

Serving in the Liturgy Ministry were the following individuals. Arlene Cepillo, Iris Himbing, and Medy dela Rosa served as greeters. Ushers/collectors were Pat Barbilla, Patrick and Floring dela Paz, and Erly Shu. Glenn Camacho was the altar server. Lectors were Mario Vasquez and Robert Jablonski. The Eucharistic ministers were Melba Barrameda, Rosalinda Enriquez, and Fleur Gutierrez. Patti Isaac and Edwin Angeles brought up the bread and wine during offertory. Grace Bernardo and Dave Armesto took care of the collection baskets. Max Gutierrez took care of the petition box.



Bob Canton conducting a healing service.

The Mini-Conference appropriately concluded with Bob Canton's healing service. By this time, the attendees were "soaked" in teachings and were filled with the Holy Spirit. Bob facilitated the outpouring of grace and blessings and many were healed.

It was a successful conference. It's success bids well for the Big Conference next year and was the result of the Lord working through many hands, feet, skills, and talents. Thus the many names mentioned in this page, all offering themselves for God's glory. To all of them go our gratitude and the Lord's. <>

PERSONAL TESTIMONY

Agnes Nepomuceno

Regional Coordinator, Mid-Atlantic Region

Ask and you shall receive ... (Luke 11:5-10)

I am a cradle Catholic. I was educated in private all-girls Catholic schools (St. Paul's college, Malate Catholic School, University of Santo Tomas where I obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Medical Technology in 1967). I came to the US in 1967. I passed the Boards of the American Society of Clinical Pathologists and met my husband Joe (now a practicing gastroenterologist) at St. Joseph's Hospital where we were both interns. I got married in 1969 at age 21. We have four wonderful, healthy, loving children, 3 unmarried gentlemen ages 31, 29, and 27, and a blooming young lady who turned 25 in August. I am employed at North Arundel Hospital in Glen Burnie, Maryland, a 325-bed facility fifteen minutes from our home in Severna Park. I work in the laboratory department as a part-time Blood Banker.

I would say that my life is like any other married person. I went through a rough marital relationship where deep feelings of regret, failure and hopelessness lurked. Friends and relatives knew what was going on and I asked for intercessory prayers, novenas, etc. I prayed and prayed for sixteen years asking for Divine intervention.

My Dad's passing in 1986, of lung cancer, played an important role in my changed life. He asked to be brought home to the Philippines. I could not deal with it. I prayed harder for his healing, but it was in vain. From the moment he took his last breath, I could no longer pray. I was disappointed in God. My prayers for an improvement in my marital relationship were not answered and now He took my Dad away despite my fervent plea.

I was taken to an LSS given by Fr. Sonny Ramirez in Quezon City. It was already the second day of the seminar; the Baptism of the Holy Spirit was going on. I felt warmth but ignored it. I told all my relatives that a new sect had invaded them and it was not Catholic at all. Looking back, I now realize that one brief exposure to the charismatic movement was the spark (that bodily warmth) that ignited my whole body and soul. Since then I hungered for the word of God. Through my prayerful cousin, Grace Bernardo (she is God-sent) I was led to start a prayer group. She introduced me to Brother Bob Canton. One thing led to another. Brother Bob came to Maryland to conduct a healing service, invited us to join a Holy Land pilgrimage, appointed us coordinators for the Mid-Atlantic region of the AFCCPC which led us to attend the National Convention in Canada and a first experience in setting up a mini-conference in Columbia, Maryland. I know and I know in the recesses of my heart that only the Holy Spirit could do all these works. Through the powerful intercession of Brother Bob's prayers, my life is now a completely different scenario. I am on fire for the Lord!

A miracle in the Holy Land in 1997 is the cream of the blessings bestowed on me. Joe and I are now a team, wanting to serve the Lord all the more by utilizing the charismatic gifts of the Holy Spirit. Since 1997, we look for ways to serve the Lord. He sends us people to minister to. I am now active in the pastoral ministry of our church by giving communion to the elderly, visiting the sick at home. Much to my amazement, I always get phone calls to lead their family in prayer when there is a death even to the point of looking for a priest to be in the cemetery. I ask the Lord if this is one of the ministries He really wants me to do. (Honestly, I don't care much for it because when I am doing the prayers I identify myself with those very old wrinkly women in the Philippines who go wherever there is a "lamay sa patay"). Another blessing that come our way are visiting Pilipino priests from the Philippines, Rome and Europe. Even bishops like Bishop Bacani and Bishop Gregorio celebrated Mass in our home. God is loving! I ask the Lord to guide me any which way so I can serve Him.

In conclusion, I survived very trying times. God is faithful. We now have an empty nest. My children call and they are true witnesses to my story. We don't hang up the phone until we say "I love you" knowing it comes from the bottom of our hearts. They say we are crazy but I interject "Crazy for the Lord, sweetheart!" Also, I am no longer a spiritual widow (though this summer I was a golf widow). It is very OK. We still argue but that is a very tiny cross to carry. For now we have the Lord as part of our married life. I now know how to offer up any suffering and consider it as blessings.

It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to your name, O most high, to proclaim your grace in the morning, to declare your faithfulness at night.
Ps 92-1-4.



Bob Canton shares his gifts of knowledge and healing in the Pittsburgh conference to both the Filipino Alliance community and the National Conference at large.



THE POPE'S TORONTO VISIT

Miracle during the Papal Mass

By Joy Osuna *(The Lord's Flock Prayer Group, Toronto)*

Toronto, Ontario, Canada hosted the World Youth Day 2002 Conference, July 18 – 28, 2002. The theme of the Conference was “*You are the salt of the earth. You are the light of the world*” (Mt. 5:13-14).

The highlight of the Pope's visit to Toronto was the Papal Mass on Sunday, July 28, 2002. It was attended by approximately 800,000 people. That day, 800,000 people saw a miracle. Together with the music ministry of the Lord's Flock Prayer Group of St. Peter's, Mario and I were there to witness it.

The Papal Mass was preceded by an all-night vigil on Saturday, July 27 at Downsview Park. Downsview Park is an open field that is used as an airport by military and private aircrafts. Pilgrims and volunteers stayed there overnight in tents and other makeshift shelters in anticipation of the Papal Mass on Sunday. It was hot and humid (32 degrees C) on Saturday and the pilgrims walked for 3 to 4 hours to get to Downsview Park. We joined them on Sunday morning.

The moment we got off the bus, we saw a sea of people. It had rained around 6:30 a.m. but no one left their spots. It was a sight to behold! When we finally found our group (through the wonderful technology of cell phones), we settled with them right in front of a big TV screen. The mass was to start at 9:30 a.m. Around 8:00 a.m., it started to rain again. It was like the heavens opened up.

Torrential rain and wind shook the big TV screen. When the papal helicopter circled around for landing, we felt the wind lashing its fury as if the spiritual enemy were saying, “No, I will not let you deliver your message.” Our group felt the presence of the evil one in our midst and we held hands and started to pray and sing praise songs (*More Precious Than Silver*). I was reminded of Luke 8:24 when Jesus was in the boat with his disciples and a storm came and the boat was buffeted by the winds. “And they went and woke him, saying, ‘Master, Master, we are perishing!’ And He awoke and rebuked the wind and the raging waves; and they ceased, and there was a calm.” With this scripture in mind, we rebuked the winds and the rain and called on Jesus to calm the storm. By this time, the big screen TV in front of us had “died” so we could not see the stage anymore. Our prayers were more of spiritual warfare – casting, rebuking and binding the enemy. At one point, I said “Lord, in faith, I am giving away my umbrella because I know when the mass starts, the rain will stop.” Well, as soon as I said that, the wind blew even harder and the rain was dropping by bucketfuls. At this time, the Pope was already on stage. As soon as he spoke, there was one more big blast of rain and wind and then – suddenly -- it stopped raining! The Pope said the rain was “an act of natural baptism.” It was indeed a sight to behold -- the sky opened up and the clouds moved away and the sun came out. I have never experienced anything like this where one moment, there was torrential rain and in a matter of seconds, it was like it never rained at all. All throughout the mass, it was nice and sunny and my clothes dried up by the time we had communion.

It was a very uplifting experience for all, both young and old. It was an experience of a lifetime. The Pope's visit is the revival that the Catholic church needs in the midst of the scandals in the clergy. He also told the young to stand by “the few whose only desire is to serve God.” He added, “We (the church) are not the sum of our weakness and failures.” I still have goose bumps every time I remember these phrases. The Pope rekindled the hearts of people here in Toronto. We met a lot of people who are not Catholics but were touched by his speech and are now asking about the Catholic faith.

JOURNALING FOR BETTER “LISTENING” TO THE LORD’S MESSAGE

by Doreen McCullough

(Excerpted from the May 2002 issue of *Telis*, the newsletter of the Columbus Catholic Charismatic Renewal, Inc)

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“The word of God is living and effective, sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating even between soul and spirit, joints and marrow, and able to discern reflections and thoughts of the heart.” Heb 4:12

God speaks to us through His word. He gives us life. He speaks to us also in our hearts and through prophetic words.

Praying, Scripture reading, listening, and journaling daily.

It’s very important when doing this to be disciplined in spending time with God. Be available. During this time of availability we can give God time to speak to us by taking time to listen as we would when one of our close friends speaks to us.

Listening is letting God love us. Our response to His love is to be available. We need to make a plan to be available. That’s where discipline comes in. It’s like building a house. You start with a plan. We are temples of the Holy Spirit. We are God’s houses. So we need to have a plan to be available.

Decide to give God a special time of the day to be available to Him, such as fifteen minutes to one hour in the morning before starting your day or a half hour in the evening before or after dinner. Just pick a time and become committed. Be disciplined. Discipline will enable availability to happen.

After committing your availability to the Lord, the next thing is to remember to always pray first before reading the

daily scripture. It’s very good to use the readings as prescribed by the Church. After each reading, pray and reflect on the scripture, then ask yourself the following questions: (1) *What did I hear?* (2) *How does it affect me? Or, what does this mean to me personally?* (3) *What is my prayer?*

Record your response in a daily journal. After completing the readings for the day, ask the Lord, “What do you want to say to me today?” Be quiet and listen. When God gives His word to you, write it in your journal. Keep track of all God’s words to you by marking them with a cross or highlighting them or using a different color pen.

When listening to God’s word you can pray in tongues or just be silent and wait for His response. God will speak to you in a very short time. If you haven’t heard anything in three to five minutes then praise the Lord and go about your day. Be open throughout the day – God may speak to you later. Through listening you will come to know God’s direction for you. By journaling, you will remember. Always respond to God with a thankful heart. God’s grace enters a thankful heart.

At the end of every month you can look over your prophetic words and summarize them into a “Now Word.” This will give you the direction God wants you to follow for that month. This “Now Word” will be something easy to remember so you can have clear focus and direction for yourself.

Every month go back through your journal and discern each prophecy into your “Now Word”

by separating it into six groupings or columns. They would be as follows: (1) **Scripture** (the scripture God spoke to you); (2) **The Call** (a very direct invitation such as – Come to me or I have called you); (3) **Proclamation** (God proclaiming who He is; a statement of position such as – I love you or I am the Light of the world); (4) **The Promise** (What God will do for us); (5) **The Directive** (What God wants us to do; how we are to take action); (6) **Vision/Dreams** (through dreams and visions, God speaks to us; this is the place where you record that dream or vision).

Summarize the main idea into a sentence in each column and then summarize all columns into one overall idea. Put that into a single sentence. You will then have the “Now Word” of God, which you can put into action. You can put it into action by placing it before you in your daily prayer time and reflecting on what God is saying to you. This will give your life true direction and meaning. It will help you to be confident of the call God has on your life and the direction He wants you to walk.

Honor the Word. Let it do its work. Do what it takes to bring it forth. Let the Word accomplish what it was sent to do. Do not be afraid to claim the Word. Teach, teach, teach. Do not assume that people know the Word. It is better they hear it in many ways and have practical teachings than assume that they know.

CHRIST COMES

Christ comes –
 The promised peace of God,
 His hands with healing filled,
 In him are severed bonds rejoined
 And love from hate distilled.
 And when he comes, for whom we long,
 Then will all rage be stilled.

Christ comes –
 The promised hand of God,
 To cast the veil aside
 That shrouds the world in bitter grief,
 Where none from death can hide.
 And when he comes, for whom we long,
 Then will all tears be dried.

Christ comes –
 The promise kept by God,
 The faithful One, and true.
 In him is ev'ry hope confirmed
 And ev'ry fear subdued.
 And he comes, for whom we long,
 Then all will be made new.

(Hymn. *Magnificat*, December 2002)

ANTIDOTE TO ADVENT BLUES

Why do I feel sad every time I hear Christmas carols? Is it because I remember Christmases past when my family gathered together for the *buena noche*? Is it because another year will soon be gone and I will be a year older? Is it because I'd like to give so much to my children and grandchildren but can only afford so little?

I found an antidote to Christmas sadness. As a member of the San Diego Scripps Lions Club, I suggested to our Valley Zone Chair, Lion Blessie Trott, that we collect toys and give them to children with developmental disabilities. We dubbed our project "Toys from a Lion's Heart." This afternoon we joined the Christmas party of the Filipino American Association of Developmentally Disabled and distributed the toys. The toys we distributed were just symbols of caring hearts and we felt so blest sharing the little that we have to make children happy. Sadness turned to gladness and the blues turned to Advent green.

Aurora Soriano-Cudal, *San Diego, CA*

Advent Reflections

Dear Friends in Jesus and Mary,

As I reflect upon Advent, I realize that it first of all is a spiritual adventure to prepare ourselves for the birth of Christ.

How do we accomplish this? Perhaps the first thing we can do is to first ask the Holy Spirit what this special season means to us. Perhaps it would mean doing something extra around the house for the family - - in other words being of "service" to the rest of the family.

Advent in a very real sense means preparing our hearts, minds, and souls for Jesus and in doing this, letting this experience take a real hold on our every-day life.

Sometimes during this Season, we become too involved in the commercialization of Christmas and lose sight of who or what this season is all about. The Knights of Columbus have a saying that goes like this: Jesus is the Reason for the Season.

As we continue to enjoy the rest of the Advent season, let us always remember that Advent is truly a preparation for the "Birth" of Christ on Christmas day and in doing this, reflect upon on this and ask for the graces so that we can "give" away Jesus to the rest of the world.

I also might add that in all this preparation, we should ask our Blessed Mother what she would want us to do doing this time of preparation.

May God continue to bless you and yours,

Fr. Perry M. Kenaston



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FROM BOB CANTON'S DESK

Happy Advent Season to all! This is indeed a time for us to be alert and to be ready for the coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This is also a time for us to start planning for our activities for this coming year 2003. I believe that 2003 will be another year full of blessings from the Lord. I could hardly wait. Allow me to mention to you the following which are forthcoming in the first 6 months of 2003:

1. AFCCPC Leaders' Meeting

in Phoenix, Arizona on Feb.7-9, 2003. We will start on Friday evening, Feb. 7, with dinner and fellowship to be hosted by Sis. Mila Bautista, Sis. Mayette Ravasco, and their prayer group. The meeting will conclude on Sunday, Feb. 9 at noon. It is imperative that we shall all attend this important meeting. Remember, we pledged to attend meetings of the Alliance before we committed ourselves to serve the Lord through the AFCCPC. I pray that all of us will come to this meeting in Phoenix.

2. Committee of 5 Meeting

(involving the Bishops' Ad Hoc Committee for Charismatic Renewal, chaired by Bishop Sam Jacobs, National Association of Diocesan Liaison represented by Fr. Richard Loch, the National Service Committee represented by Aggie Neck, Covenant Communities in the Charismatic Renewal and the Catholic Fraternity of Communities headed by Dale Clark, and the Ethnic Groups in which the Alliance is under its umbrella). The meeting will be held on Jan. 20-22, 2003 in Atlanta, Georgia. In the past 4 years, the AFCCPC has been represented by various officers. The meeting is very informative and we will also have an opportunity to learn from each other and to listen and discern together as to what the Lord is saying to the Renewal as a whole. If you like, you can invite a member of your prayer group or even your spouse to go with you. Come and you will not regret it. On the contrary, you will be blessed. I would like also to encourage our Spiritual Advisers to participate. In the past, Fr. Joe Cadusale and Fr. Perry Kenaston had participated in this meeting.

3. The Alliance 12th National Convention

will be held on June 27-29, 2003, in East Brunswick, NJ, at the Hilton Tower, Three Tower Center Boulevard. Mark your calendars for this big event. A registration form is inserted in this newsletter.

Have a very Blessed Advent and may the Lord Jesus bless you and your loved ones tremendously this season. God bless you all!

Bob Canton

The Trumpet

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