



The Trumpet

Alliance of Filipino Catholic Charismatic Prayer Communities

JUNE 2002

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THE ALLIANCE GATHERS AT THE PITTSBURGH CONFERENCE

The 35th anniversary of Catholic Charismatic Renewal will be celebrated in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on September 13-15, 2002, with a Conference that will bring together leadership groups, ministries, ethnic constituencies, and anointed speakers. Of great interest to Filipinos is the Alliance Mini-Conference that will be held concurrently on Saturday, September 14, 2002, with Bishop Sam Jacobs, Fr. Bill Halbing, Fr. Ed Abano, and Bob Canton as the featured speakers. A healing service conducted by Bob Canton will be held at the conclusion of the mini-conference.

It should be reason for praise and thanksgiving for us to see that our Alliance of Filipino Catholic Charismatic Prayer Communities (AFCCPC) has been given recognition by the National Service Committee (NSC) as a legitimate "ethnic constituency" alongside such charismatic organizations as the Hispanic Service Committee and the Haitian Committee.

A MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL COORDINATOR

To All Alliance Members: *I am elated to inform you that the NSC, through Walter Matthews, has extended the early bird registration fees for the National Conference in Pittsburgh until June 30, 2002, provided you register through the AFCCPC. You can mail in your registration form with your payment to AFCCPC, P.O. Box 20147, Columbus, OH 43220, to avail yourself of the early bird registration fee of \$59 for adults. Please do not forget to indicate in your registration that you are attending the Filipino Mini Conference on Saturday, September 14. Lou Canlas, our national treasurer, is handling the registrations and you may call her in Columbus at (614) 846-1431 if you have questions regarding payments. For other questions about the conference please call sister Purita Vasquez at 1-800-559-1540 (Access Code: #28). May the Lord be glorified in everything that we do in His name.* Brother Bob Canton.

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Echoes for Holiness and Unity

By: Lou Canlas

Every year the Committee of Five gather to pray and discern God's direction for the Catholic Charismatic Renewal and to discuss areas of common concern. The group was formed in 1995 in response to a call for unity among all the streams within the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. The pillars of the group are:

Bishop Sam Jacobs who represents the Bishop's Ad Hoc Committee for the Charismatic Renewal

Judy Hughes who represents the National Association of Diocesan Liaisons

Father Patsy Laquinta who represents the National Service Committee

Bobby Cavnar who represents the Covenant Communities in the Charismatic Renewal and the Catholic Fraternity of Communities, and

Monsignor Joseph Malagreca who represents the Haitians, Hispanics, Korean and Filipino Catholic Charismatic Communities

The committee does not claim authority over the entire Charismatic Renewal. It merely hopes to serve as a bridge so that many brothers and sisters who have experienced the wonderful outpouring of God's Spirit in the Church may come to know each other and give united witness.

The group gathered on January 21 through January 23 at the Oblate Renewal Center in San Antonio, Texas. About forty people attended, representing a mix of culture, race, color, language and styles of worship. Seven youth group leaders from the different streams were present. They quickly became everyone's source of hope for the future of the Renewal as they manifested their very vigorous and zealous love for the Lord Jesus Christ. Two bishops, five priests and a few deacons were there, providing spiritual nurturing through the Eucharistic celebrations and Holy Hour.

I attended the gathering as one of the representatives of the Alliance of Filipino Catholic Charismatic Prayer Communities. Father Perry Kenaston, Ben Del Puerto, and Betty Gounah were also present to represent the Alliance. I cannot describe the joy and wonder of worshiping God with brothers and sister in the Charismatic Renewal and was grateful that the Lord has allowed me to be there. I am sure Father Perry, Ben and Betty felt the same way.

The format of the gathering was very simple. Every session started with praise and worship, followed by listening to God's word spoken through prophecy or scriptures, and then discernment. Discernment was done individually as well as within small groups. After two days of bombarding the heavens with praise and prayer the Lord responded with echoes of the same message He has given the Holy Father, which is *a call for deeper holiness and unity*. The Lord also impressed upon the group that He was doing a New Thing in the Charismatic Renewal.

The Unity Statement was revisited and a statement for 2002 was formal-

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

ized. These are shown on the following.

UNITY STATEMENT

To fulfill our call to bring the grace of Pentecost into the life of all to whom God sends us, we recommit ourselves to appropriate the prayer of Jesus for unity, "May they all be one", by:

- i) responding to the call for deeper unity with Jesus through prayer
- ii) working for unity in all relationships through repentance, reconciliation and friendship
- iii) fostering unity with the church through loyalty and obedience to our Bishops, the Magisterium and the Holy Father, specially in his pastoral vision for the new millennium, *Novo Millennio Ineunte*. We entrust ourselves, and this commitment to Mary our mother and invoke her intercession and that of all the saints to help us remain faithful to this call.

Statement for 2002

Following the will of God and responding to the Holy Father to go deeper:

- i) We commit ourselves to grow in personal holiness and to encourage people to who we minister to a greater holiness by providing proper teaching and example.
- ii) To renew our commitment to "communio" by promoting and living out the various points in our unity statement and seeking ways to strive for the unity God desires within the Catholic Charismatic Renewal
- iii) We will continue to seek in prayer and discernment the "New thing" God is doing in the present grace moment and to follow the lead of His anointing
- iv) To continue to set aside Friday before Lent of every year (in 2002 it is February 8th) as a day of prayer and fasting for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the Church
- v) To continue to set aside the 7 weeks of the Easter season every year as a time when Life in the Spirit Seminars would be encouraged and given throughout all the strains of Charismatic Renewal, and
- vi) To encourage Growth in the Spirit Seminars in every prayer group during the Fall of every year.

*I tell them what I want is to be a Filipino woman, for all of them I know who are practicing Catholics seem lifted by their faith; it infuses them. I see them at Mass or doing the Stations, and they are of Jesus, in Jesus, with Jesus; they're lit with him. They are what the Irish used to be. I want to be like that again. Peggy Noonan in *A Catholic in the World*.*

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MEET YOUR SPIRITUAL ADVISERS

(Second in a series)

by Narciso S. Albarracin, Jr.

Reverend Leoncio Sucre Santiago

Assistant Head Shepherd

Born in Calape, Bohol. Inspired by a priest uncle, the late Reverend Gaudioso Sucre, to become a priest. Encouraged to become a physician by a seminary classmate, the late Rev. Msgr. Juan Corpuz, who also became a priest-physician. Licentiate in Philosophy degree obtained at the University of Santo Tomas (*magna cum laude*). Master of Arts degree in Counseling Psychology obtained at Loyola University (Chicago). Doctor of Medicine degree (MD) obtained at Southwestern University (Cebu) in 1986.

Ordained to the priesthood on January 26, 1973, by His Excellency Most Reverend Carmine Rocco, then Papal Nuncio to the Philippines. Incardinated to the Archdiocese of Chicago on December 8, 1995, by the late Joseph Cardinal Bernardin. Has served as Pastor of Saint Genevieve Parish in the Archdiocese of Chicago since 1997, appointed in that position by Francis Cardinal George.

Brings to the Alliance a unique perspective on the Spirit-filled life and the charismatic renewal. "Medical knowledge has helped me realize more the importance of the human body. We are after all 'embodied spirits' and St. Thomas Aquinas clearly taught that in this life the soul is greatly dependent on the body. 'Nothing is in the intellect unless it first passes through the senses (body)' and 'the soul is wholly present in the whole body as well as in every part of the body.' Jesus, the Incarnate (Embodied) Word, took flesh, our human body, to become our Redeemer. He spent His ministry preaching and healing not just spiritual but bodily illnesses. Many of the afflictions of the spirit are to a greater extent influenced by the body."

In an Alliance meeting of officers, regional coordinators, and Board convened in Chicago in 1997 to hammer out a new set of By-Laws, tempers were beginning to fly and *Roberts Rules of Court* were ignored in typical Filipino fashion. Father Leoncio's presence and peaceful words were clearly the stabilizing factor that put the meeting back on track. The group was the fortunate beneficiary of the expertise of one who not only has a medical degree but also a Master's degree in Counseling Psychology. "In my Anger Management Seminars I demonstrate how the amygdala in our brain's limbic system can hijack the function of the frontal cortex, said to be the seat of reasoning, in moments of extreme anger. Definitely, so much of unforgiveness, so

much of family problems are influenced by anger styles, hormonal imbalance, mild depressions, etc. Taking care of the spirit certainly involves caring for the body in ways that we have always neglected." Lately, because of terminal illness among members of the Filipino community, he has incorporated in his talks and seminars concepts on death, dying, and the eternal life. He also notes with dismay that an Ateneo de Manila survey found recently that 79% of Filipino youth no longer believe in an afterlife, a shocking anomaly in a country reputedly 85% Catholic.

His introduction to the charismatic renewal? "Some parishioners invited me to attend a Life in the Spirit Seminar in Downers Grove, Illinois. Nothing extraordinary happened during my baptism in the Holy Spirit. My experience of this baptism came later when I was preaching at my priest uncle's funeral a month after the seminar. It was then that I experienced the outpouring of the Holy Spirit which was an embracing Presence during that time of sorrow and mourning. I was subsequently invited to give the LSS at Saint Michael's Church in Wheaton by a fellow Boholano priest. I had no difficulty in giving the seminar but was alarmed when people started falling down during the Baptism. I asked some people to call 911 but some knowledgeable charismatics reassured me that being 'slain in the Spirit' is 'natural' in these occasions."

Giving Life in the Spirit Seminars has become part of Father Leoncio's ministry and has taken him to many places. He has founded devotional groups (Society of the Beloved Disciple – promotes the First Friday Holy Hours; Society of Mary Immaculate – promotes devotion to Mary by carrying her image from house to house; Santo Nino de Agosto – brings together many Santo Nino groups for a grand celebration in August). He also supports in his predominantly Hispanic parish Spanish-speaking adult and youth charismatic groups. @

ERRATA:

In my piece on Deacon Bob Rosales in the February 2002 issue of *The Trumpet*, the following corrections need to be made: he is still pursuing the theology degrees mentioned and his brother retired as Chief of Police of Quezon City, not Metro Manila. N. Albarracin, Jr.

On the weekend of March 22-23, 2002, the AFCCPC held its semi-annual leadership planning meeting at St. Antoninus Roman Catholic Church in Newark, NJ. The meeting was warmly hosted by Fr. Bill Halbing (Pastor of St. Antoninus), Fr. Ed Abano (Alliance Head Shepherd), and the Alliance East Atlantic Region. The joy and peace of the Lord was evidenced throughout the meeting. All who attended from across the U.S. and Canada were united in mind and heart. The many enthusiastic discussions during the weekend were a wonderful sign that the Alliance leaders across North America are energized and determined, by God's grace, to continue to bear fruit more abundantly in their local churches and communities. Fr. Halbing and Fr. Perry Kenaston celebrated beautiful and powerful Eucharistic liturgies during the weekend and to them we are very thankful.

The officers and regional coordinators of the East Atlantic region deserve special accolades for their loving and extensive efforts to support the meeting so unselfishly. Without their commitment to serve in any way necessary, the meeting could never have been the success that it was. Their support included pre-meeting coordination and documentation for all attendees, providing rides to and from the airport, preparation of all meals and snacks for the entire weekend, provision of music ministries to lead praise and worship during meetings and at masses helping us make Jesus the focus of our entire weekend, cleaning up after meals and business sessions, and much, much more. They were the unsung heroes of the weekend and they clearly demonstrated "servant leadership" at its best.

Among the many business items covered during the meetings were: final reports from the leaders of the 2001 National Convention held in Los Angeles; progress report on the planning and preparation for the National Convention to be held in New Jersey in 2003; the Alliance mini-conference to be held in conjunction with the National Charismatic Conference in Pittsburgh on September 13-15, 2002; the treasurer's report and matters about funding and fund-raising. Each session began with praise and worship and prayer as all sought to exalt the name of our Savior throughout the weekend.

Special note should be made of the opening presentation by Fr. Ed Abano. He passionately called on all of the AFCCPC prayer groups to move into the "Heart of the Church." He asked that each

Report on the New Jersey national leadership meeting:
**AFCCPC LEADERS GATHER TO BEAR
FRUIT ABUNDANTLY**

by Deacon Dean Lopata

prayer group be properly registered as an approved activity in a local Catholic parish and that the leadership of each prayer group be in full submission to the Pastor of that Parish. He warned against the dangers of operating a prayer group outside the protection of Mother Church and asked that all AFCCPC prayer group leaders and members reconsecrate themselves to "servant leadership" within the Roman Catholic Church. He pointed out that this move into the Heart of the Church was critical for AFCCPC groups in order to receive proper respect, recognition, and attention from their local clergy. Fr. Abano also asked each of the AFCCPC prayer group members to become more involved in the various ministries of the local church so that the Pastors could more clearly see the spiritual impact the prayer groups were having on their members.

Another major action completed at the meeting was the drafting of an official AFCCPC-sponsored letter to be sent to each of the Bishops in the United States. The letter – approved by our Head Shepherd, Fr. Abano – expresses the Alliance's strong, unqualified support of the work of the vast majority of our Roman Catholic clergy in each of the dioceses across America. The letter expresses the high value, respect, and love the Alliance has for our Church's clergy and commits all AFCCPC members to pray for the renewal of our clergy with a new intensity. It was thought that in the midst of our Church's current clergy crisis, this letter would be a wonderful way to encourage our Bishops, and to let them know that the people of God have not lost their faith in God or His Church because of the actions of a few.

By the merits of the Cross and the power of the Holy Spirit, much was accomplished during the weekend. Unity, camaraderie, peace and joy prevailed throughout the weekend, even in the midst of the most difficult discussions. Much fruit has already been borne by the Alliance and the commitment and zeal remains for even more fruitful times ahead. We pray that future AFCCPC leaders' meetings will be similarly blessed.

REGIONAL REPORTS

East Atlantic Region: *Planning and preparation for the Alliance Biennial Convention to be held in New Jersey in 2003 is what is taking much of the time and effort of the regional coordinators. With assistance from Oscar Fernandez and Edwin Angeles, **Mario and Purita Vasquez** are over-all coordinators of this big event. Sister Purita reports:*

2003 CONVENTION: WITH GOD'S GUIDANCE, WE ARE GETTING THERE

by *Purita Vasquez*

Praise God for all His goodness to all of us in the East Atlantic Region for giving us the spirit of unity and love as we go forward with preparations for the 2003 AFCCPC Biennial Convention. Yes, the Lord is so good to all of us! We know that He has been with us from the time we accepted the major responsibility to host the Convention and accept the exciting challenge of putting together, in His name, a Conference that will enrich and empower our Alliance members and glorify Him.

The first big step in this project is defining the operating ministries and assigning responsibilities. We are proud to report the names of the following brothers and sisters in Christ who said "Yes" to Jesus when presented with the need for leadership and commitment in the various ministries:

Edwin Angeles, assisted by Jimmy Malimban (administration and program coordination); Vic Lausin (liturgy); Patti Isaac (finance); Oscar Fernandez (external affairs; over-all regional coordinator); Grace Bernardo (youth); Romi Verdera (information); Dave Armesto (community affairs); Rose Lontok (funding); Butch Nunez (music); Nenette Barbilla (auxiliary ministry); Joe Cura (registration); Efren Mapa, assisted by Lynn Angeles (communication); Max and Fleur Gutierrez (gifts); Bob and Liza Jablonski (vigil); Gaye Felismino (recruitment).

On Pentecost Sunday, May 19, we all gathered together, as Jesus' disciples did 2000 years ago, and the Holy Spirit enabled us to accomplish several important tasks including visiting the Convention venue, organizing the ministry of Finance (Patty Isaac) and the ministry of Recruitment (Gaye Felismino) and the ministry of Funding (Rose Lontok), planning the souvenir program, discussing hotel accommodations, pledging not only the two "t's" (time and talent) but also the third "t" (our treasures). Fr. Cadusale added a fourth "t" – "thysself" which was our commitment to the Lord's project.

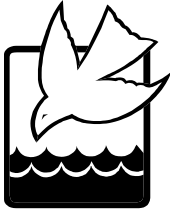
The hotel requires the selling of at least 150 rooms before the Alliance gets a break on the rental of the Convention space. To date, 65 rooms have already been sold leaving a balance of only 85 rooms and more than a year to go.

I am confident that with all the Spirit-inspired team work being put into the planning and preparation, the 2003 Alliance Convention will be a big success. Praise God for He is always good to us all the time!

TESTIMONIAL

Sister Marie Geraldine Therese, *Little Sisters of the Poor*, Indianapolis

I attended the charismatic mass and the healing rally conducted by Bob Canton on April 12, 2000, at St. Augustine's Home for the Aged in Indianapolis. I really had not intended to ask for healing. Then I thought, why not ask Jesus for the grace needed to accept the cross he was giving me — a broken arm on the left side and an injured right shoulder of 7 years for which nothing could be done to relieve pain. I went up and explained to Bob Canton my complaints. He prayed over me. I went to the floor. When I was lying there I began to thank Jesus. When I got up my left arm seemed all right. I could move it well. I removed the sling and gave it to Bob. Thank you Jesus! There was no pain in my right shoulder. The next morning I was able to put on my regular religious habit which I hadn't worn in 4 weeks. Praise Jesus!



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Westhill, CA

SPIRITUAL REFLECTIONS

by Fr. Perry Kenaston

Dear Friend,

I just had to write to tell you how much I love you and care for you. Yesterday I saw you walking and laughing with your friends. I hoped that soon you would want me to walk along with you too. So I painted you a sunset to close your day and whispered a cool breeze to refresh you. I waited. You never called. I just kept on loving you.

As I watched you fall asleep last night, I wanted so much to touch you. I spilled moonlight onto your face – trickling down your cheeks as so many tears have. You didn't even think of me. I wanted so much to comfort you.

The next day I exploded a brilliant sunrise into glorious morning for you. But you woke up late and rushed off to work. You didn't even notice. My sky became cloudy and my tears were the rain.

I love you, oh if you'd only listen. I really love you. I try to say it in the quiet of the green meadows and in the blue sky. The wind whispers my love throughout the tree-tops and spills it into the vibrant colors of all the flowers. I shout it to you in the thunder of the great waterfalls and compose love songs for birds to sing for you. I warm you with the clothing of my sunshine and perfume the air with nature's sweet scent. My love for you is deeper than any ocean and greater than any need in your heart. If you would only realize how I care.

My Dad sends His love. I want you to meet Him – He cares too. Fathers are just that way. So please call on me soon. Ask me – talk with me. I have so much to share with you. But I won't hassle you. I'll wait because I love you.

*Your friend,
Jesus*

BUTTERFLIES

*Oh! What a gift it would be to fly like a butterfly
to soar in the sky ever so high.
Help me dear Jesus to let me realize not to criticize.
Help me to see the ever lasting sea.
Help me Mary not to be so weary.
Show me Dear Jesus the Way so I will not stray.
Help me pray in the proper way.
Wrap me in that protective cocoon where there is
always room.
Let me grow and sow in that heavenly row and not
be tossed to and fro.
Oh! How I want to be that butterfly so I can fly ever
so high.
For when I do there is no room to deny this gift
from above
is truly a gift of heavenly Love.*

RESURRECTION

*What a joy it is to see Jesus Risen.
It helps us all to be heavenly Driven.
Soon there will be another which will come
in a form of a Dove.
What wonder gift of Heavenly Love.
Let us Hope and Pray dear brothers and
sisters in Jesus
That God will always be there
and give us the courage to bear
that cross which is tossed at us because
of our heavenly loss.
Arise! and be Healed for now is the time
to stroll and to claim our heavenly role.
Let us all sing and chant
for we have been given another chance.*

the ALLIANCE @ a glance

Our mission: *to serve, unify, bring together, and represent Filipino Catholic charismatic prayer groups and prayer communities; promote national, regional, and local conferences; bring the charismatic renewal to the heart of the Church and to individuals through baptism in the Holy Spirit.*

Our geographic scope: *the Alliance encompasses 12 regions in the USA and Canada.*

Our major convention: *A biennial event. 1997 in Toronto, 1999 in Washington DC, 2001 in Los Angeles, 2003 in New Jersey. Attendance in the 1000s.*

Our newsletter: *The Trumpet. Address queries, letters, and contributions to: P.O. Box 20147, Columbus, OH 43220. You may also use this e-mail address: nalbarra@columbus.rr.com.*

Additional contacts: *The National Coordinator at e-mail address: rccanton@aol.com.*

Our website: *http://www.skyfamily.com/join_alliance; undergoing update revision.*

Our recent accomplishment: *recognition by the National Service Committee as an ethnic constituency and granted mini-conference time during the National Catholic Charismatic Renewal Conference to be held in Pittsburgh September 13-15, 2002.*

Upcoming events:

- *Alliance Mini-Conference (Pittsburgh, September 14, 2002)*
- *Alliance Leadership Meeting (Pittsburgh, September 15, 2002)*
- *National Biennial Convention (New Jersey, June 27-29, 2003)*

Recent events:

- *Alliance Leadership Meeting hosted by Fr. Bill Halbing at the St. Antoninus Church in Newark, NJ, March 22-23, 2002. Please read Deacon Dean Lopata's report on page 5.*
- *Bob Canton healing rally held April 13, 2002, at St. Augustine Home for the Aged in Indianapolis, IN, hosted by Len Bielski's prayer group and the archdiocese of Indianapolis. The Jesus and Mary Family Bible Study and Prayer Groups of Columbus, Ohio, and Indianapolis assisted in this ministry..*
- *Evangelization and healing crusade in Bangkok, Thailand, 5/7-9, 2002, conducted by Bob Canton. Alliance members Jim Blubaugh, Dr. Ray Caparros, Dr. Joe Nepomuceno and Vickie Montesa were there to assist.*
- *Bob Canton healing crusade in New Jersey in St. Frances Cabrini Parish pastored by Fr. Ed Abano. Brother Edwin Angeles and his prayer group hosted the event.*
- *Marian Pilgrimage, June 9-18, 2002, led by Bob Canton with some 99 participants, some active Alliance members. The pilgrimage will cover Fatima, Lourdes, Lisieux, Nevers, Madrid, and Paris.*

I will bring health and healing to it; I will heal my people and will let them enjoy abundant peace and security. *Jeremiah 33:6.*

The Trumpet

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TO: