



THE TRUMPET

Alliance of Filipino Catholic Charismatic Prayer Communities
www.afccpc.org

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NOVEMBER 2003

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Narciso S. Albarracin, Jr.
Columbus, OH

Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:6,7).

In America, when Fall and its images of harvest and abundance comes, Thanksgiving, the national holiday, is not far behind. Much more than the city dweller, the farmer gives thanks to the blessings that surround him. The skyscraper builder and the crop planter both celebrate their achievements, but the farmer more readily attributes his success to the bounty of Nature and to the Providence of an Almighty, rather than to his individual efforts.

Dr. Juan Flavier, former Philippine Health Secretary and now a Senator, in his book on rural Philippines (My Friends in the Barrios, New Day Publishers, Quezon City, 1974) tells of Tata Poloniong, a Filipino farmer who was a most thankful soul. A typhoon damaged his crop. He did not complain. Instead he said, "Thank the Lord our house still stands." A son was seriously ill. The farmer said, "I thank God that the rest of the family are all well." In his deathbed, he was calm. "Death may come any minute now, but I thank God for giving me seventy-two years of wonderful and bountiful life."

What is the secret of this farmer's optimistic heart? "You know," Tata Poloniong said, "I play a game every day. Each morning I close my eyes and pretend that I lost someone or something of value. I think of the misfortune until I have convinced myself of its reality. Then I meditate on the consequences. When I open my eyes and find that I still have what I thought I'd lost, my heart sings with joy and thanksgiving to God."

It is a secret we can use. Close your eyes. Pretend you lost a loved one through death, or your eyesight because of an accident, or your house by fire, or your job because of layoff or disability. Convince yourself of the event's reality. Feel the consequences. Wouldn't you exult with joy and thanksgiving when you open your eyes and find that your children are all sleeping peacefully in bed, your eyes can see your backyard blanketed with leaves begging to be raked, you still have a roof over your head with gutters backed up by UFOs that turn out to be tennis balls, and (praise the Lord!) you have an 8 o'clock conference to attend in the morning.

Next time we feel the urge to curse and complain, it might help to think of the man who said: "I complained to God because I had no shoes – until I saw a man who had no feet."

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. (1 Thessalonians 5:16).

Praise the Lord for all your blessings and *Happy Thanksgiving!*

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AFCCPC UPDATE

• MID-ATLANTIC REGIONAL CONFERENCE

The Baltimore Convention Center is the venue for the Regional Conference to be held on April 23-25, 2004. The conference theme is "*Stir into flame the gift of God*" (2 Tim 1:6). Among the featured speakers are Fr. Leo Patalinghug, Robert J. Valiente and Fr. Rene A. Mangahas. Registration fee is \$25 for adults and \$10 for youth (age 13- 18). For further information, you may call 1-888-213-5263. Deadline for advance registration is April 1, 2004. Mail checks to 462 Blackshire Road, Severna Park, MD 21146, payable to AFCCPC Mid Atlantic Region.

Fr. Patalinghug is Associate Pastor of St. John Catholic Church, Westminster, MD, and is the spiritual director of the Cursillo Movement of Baltimore appointed by Cardinal William Keeler. He is a graduate of the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome (magna cum laude, 1997) and the Pontifical Institute Marianum in Rome (summa cum laude, 2000). A recipient of various public speaking and oratory awards, he is a popular guest speaker and retreat master and has taken his unique ministry to places like Texas, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Michigan.

Mr. Robert Valiente is the founder and coordinator of the Annual Catholic Charismatic Conference of the Diocese of Scranton, PA, and has been involved in the Charismatic Renewal Movement of the Catholic Church for 21 years. He has a special ministry to the people of Ghana, West Africa. Blessed with the gift of exhortation and a dynamic speaker, he is the associate liaison to the Bishop for charismatic renewal.

Fr. Rene Mangahas is Associate Pastor of St. John the Apostle Parish in Milford, DE, and is the spiritual director-adviser-teacher to several prayer groups including the Joy in the Spirit Prayer Group, Birhen ng Antipolo, Mother Butler, Legion of Mary, all in the Washington DC area and the El Shaddai Catholic Charismatic Prayer Community of St. Stephen Church in Virginia.

Also speaking are Alliance favorites Fr. Bill Halbing, Deacon Dean Lopata, and Brother Bob Canton. The coordinator and contact person for the conference is Sister Agnes Nepomuceno (410-987-1694).

• 2nd NORTH PACIFIC REGIONAL CONFERENCE

The second North Pacific Regional Conference will be held in San Francisco, CA, on March 5-7, 2004, at St. Mary's Cathedral Conference Center located at Gough Street and Geary Boulevard. The conference theme is a message from Revelation: "*Behold, I make all things new*" (Rev. 21: 5). The goal of the organizers is to bring all charismatic prayer group and communities into a renewal of commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit. The contact persons for this Conference are Brother Mario Vierneza (415-468-1346) and Brother Bob Canton (209-473-8213) who both extend their invitation to all Alliance folks not only to be filled with and be blessed by the Holy Spirit but to also experience "our year-round good weather, our genuine hospitality and love and service to all in the name and glory of Jesus Christ."

Discounted registration fee is \$30 before February 1, 2004. The registration contact person is Sister Delia Tabasa (415-467-7951 or 707-631-1250). Discounted hotel rate is \$90 before February 20, 2004. Please call direct the Radisson Miyako Hotel San

Francisco at 415-922-3200 (1-800-533-4557) and be sure to mention “AFCCPC” or “Alliance Regional Conference.” Submission deadline for souvenir program ads is February 1, 2004; for information please call Brother Irni Tabasa at 415-467-7951. Here is an 800 number for general information on the conference: 1-800-700-1849.

- **PLANNING FOR THE 2005 NATIONAL CONVENTION**

As a tribute to and recognition of the success of the 2003 National Convention and the zeal and dedicated work that the leadership and prayer groups of the East Atlantic Region put into that endeavor, the Alliance Board gave its unanimous vote to the East Atlantic Region to host the National Convention again in 2005. Brother Mario and Sister Purita Vazquez will again Overall-Chair this big event and in their typical zeal for the Lord, they file this report with The Trumpet:

The launching of the 2003 Alliance National Convention took place on November 1, 2003, at St. Antoninus Church, Newark, NJ, where Fr. Bill Halbing, our spiritual adviser, serves as Pastor. It was announced during this meeting that the 2003 13th Alliance National Convention will be held on July 8, 9, and 10, 2005, at the Sheraton Meadowlands Hotel and Convention Center, East Rutherford, New Jersey. The Convention theme will be based on Matthew 13: 1-23 and will be discerned by Fr. Bill Halbing and Brother Bob Canton. After prayers and discernment, the following were named as head of their own ministries: Nenett Barbilla, Convention Secretariat; Rose Lontok, Finance; Max and Fler Gutierrez, Liturgy; Lulu Villava, Word Gift; Bob and Liza Jablonski, Intercessory and Vigil; Terry and Andrea Mahiya, Recruitment; Flor Batuigas and Linda Moreno, Registration; Grace Bernardo, Music; Melba Barrameda, Auxiliary; Rowena (Weng) Yaptangco, Communication; Gonnette Caparros, Children Ministry; Mario and Purita Vazquez, Convention Chair; Fr. Bill Halbing, Spiritual Adviser. Other spiritual advisers are Fr. Ed Abano, Fr. Joe Cadusale, Deacon Manny Acosta, Deacon Ernest Abad, and Deacon Rolando Nolasco. We are still praying for the head of the Youth Ministry.

Good news for everybody – we will have three conferences during this Convention: Adult, Youth, and Children. Also, the rate of the rooms for single and double occupancy will be at \$99 per night. The hotel offers 2 arenas, 6 workshop rooms, a hospitality room, a vigil room, a reconciliation room, and utility and dressing room.

It was a very exciting meeting with Fr. Bill Halbing who gave the opening and closing prayers and much food for thought in between that motivated and encouraged us all. Everyone in the meeting felt that the opportunity to host the 13th Alliance National Convention is a gift from God and not a burden. We humbly accepted the privilege and the challenge with a big cheer and much joy coming from our hearts. As Fr. Halbing stressed during the meeting, we have to begin working now to make the 13th Convention even more delightful than the 12th. Alleluia, Lord!

We ask that all Alliance leaders in the US and Canada will begin praying along with us for the success of the 2005 National Convention for none other than the Lord’s glory. In our lives and in what we do, Lord, be glorified!

- **WELCOME ABOARD TO THE ALLIANCE BOARD**

The resignation of Brother Oscar Fernandez from the Alliance Board of Directors created a vacancy that needed to be filled. Upon prayers and discernment, the Board voted unanimously to offer the position to Sister Purita Vazquez. With typical enthusiasm to serve the Alliance and her Lord, Sister Purita accepted the position. Her very first contribution to the Board catapulted the Board to the age of modern technology – holding Board meetings by conference call. She offered her expertise and existing facilities to the Board for holding meetings by telephone rather than in person. The latest Board meeting linked by conference call Brother Bob Canton in Stanton, CA, Sister Letty Ramos in San Francisco, Sister Greg Acedo in North Carolina, Brother Joe Nepomuceno in Maryland, Sister Purita Vazquez in New Jersey, and Bro. Al Albarracin in Ohio. Brother Oscar, who recently moved to Florida, served the Board since 1999. The Board thanks him for his dedicated services and wish him well in his new location.

REMEMBERING THE FIRST THANKSGIVING

Fr. Perry Kenaston
Juneau, AK

When Al asked me to write something on Thanksgiving I immediately began to think of the first pilgrims that graced these shores. Here they were stepping out in faith and at the same time taking a huge risk regarding their own personal safety as well as their financial means. When they first started out they did not know what they were going to experience. Here they were a small group of men, women, and children traveling to an unknown world. One can just imagine the many hardships they encountered while traveling to this “new” world. Then when they arrived, they faced the many tasks of just basic survival.

As history notes, some people befriended these “Pilgrims” and as a result they were able to survive the many hardships that came their way. The Pilgrims of yesterday had, as their common stronghold, their belief in God and it was through this faith they continued to survive and as a result our nation was born.

Jesus calls us to be pilgrims also. He asks us to be travelers here on earth and while doing so put out trust in His message of Faith, Hope and Love.

In one of the latest papal writings the Pope calls us “to go out into the deep.” This means that as Roman Catholic Christians we are called to reach out and deliver God’s message to all. Jesus’ message has not changed over the last 2000 years. Jesus asks us to be his witnesses and in some cases to be his foot soldiers.

A perfect example of this is the way different missionaries accomplish their God-given mission. By proclaiming the “Good News” they demonstrated to the rest of the world what a great treasure we have as followers of Jesus Christ.

The pilgrims of yesterday were people of prayer and because of their devout prayer life they expressed a thankful spirit. As modern-day pilgrims we too should be able to demonstrate that same thankfulness for everything God has entrusted to each of us. As we do this let us also recognize that what we have been given we should also share with those who are less fortunate than us.

May God continue to bless each of you abundantly.

<p>THANKSGIVING Fr. Perry M. Kenaston Juneau, AK</p> <p>What is this day called Thanksgiving? Is it a day of misgiving? I think not! For surely this is not our lot, Instead we should be grateful, Instead of being wasteful. Then we will have no misgiving About this day called, Thanksgiving.</p>	<p>LIVING WITHOUT YOU Mary Kathleen Graham Columbus, OH</p> <p>If I had to live without you, I don’t know what I’d do. So I’m glad you’re in my life so I can love you.</p> <p>I wish you were still around so I could tell you I love you But since you’re not around I say “I love you” in my prayers.</p> <p>And I ask God to watch over you And keep you safe from harm</p> <p>If I have loved you then, I am not without you now.</p>
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MEET YOUR SERVANT LEADERS



PURITA COMIA-VAZQUEZ

Board of Directors

Sister Purita is the embodiment of that terse verse in the first chapter of Luke: *With God, nothing is impossible*. All her life, she's been driven to improve self and to serve the Lord. And in the Lord's service, she has tackled seemingly impossible tasks and came out succeeding for the Lord's glory.

Born in Oriental Mindoro and educated in Manila, her career began in the field of Education. She finished a BS degree in Elementary Education at the Philippine Normal College and followed this up with a Master of Arts degree in Elementary Education, Science and Mathematics obtained at the University of Santo Tomas. Still driven with the desire to achieve, she obtained a Ph.D degree in Educational Management in UST. Her work experience has been varied. She had been a school principal in Mindoro and a college instructor in several colleges in Metro Manila.

She has resided in Jersey City for 23 years. She has been office manager and accounting manager of several offices in Jersey City and NY City. She is currently in the real estate business and is Realtor Associate of Murphy Realty, Coldwell Banker, and currently connected with Remax Villa Realtors.

Sister Purita has been with the Charismatic Renewal since 1989. She founded and is an Elder of the St. John Prayer Community (Jersey City) and is a Eucharistic Minister of Our Lady of Victories Church in Jersey City. She has served in the Board of Servants of the Koinonia Foundation and has been a speaker on "God's Love" in several of the Foundation's Life in the Spirit seminars. She is the New Jersey coordinator of the Lord's Flock Ministry Foundation. She is married to Mario Vazquez, Jr. with whom she shares involvement in prayer group activities like sponsoring LSS, Healing Rallies, Recollections, Conferences, and Pilgrimages. Brother Mario complements and enhances these involvements with his gift of music – playing the church organ. Their latest project was jointly chairing the 2003 12th Alliance National Convention.

LOURDES PATRICIA ISAAC

Regional Coordinator, East Atlantic Region

Co-Chair, Inter-Catholic Renewal Service Relations

Sister Patti Isaac was born and educated in Manila. She graduated from the University of the East with a BA degree in Accounting. She immigrated with her family to the US in 1969 and married husband Roberto Osera Isaac in New York two years later. The Isaacs have two sons.

Her involvement in the Charismatic Renewal Movement began with her baptism in the Holy Spirit in May of 1990. She was instrumental in the formation of the Mary Mother of the Divine Healer Prayer Community and served as the Community's first servant leader. She attended the St. Paul of the Cross Spiritual School under Father Owen Lally for two years "to help me know myself in service to God, to know my weakness, my strengths, and where I can best serve Him." Heeding St. Augustine's claim that when one sings to God one prays twice, she initiated the formation of the Pastoral Music Ministry to evangelize and reach out to others through music under the directorship of Brother Butch Nunez. This ministry has served not only prayer groups but has represented the Filipinos on Tri-Di, Diocesan gatherings and conferences like the 2003 Alliance National Conference. The Pastoral Team also started two years ago the General Prayer Assembly which is held quarterly to have fellowship with other groups and to have oneness in praising and worshipping God. *(Continued on next page)*

Sister Patti was appointed by Father Eugene Soriano of the Filipino Diocesan Apostolate as liaison to all Filipino prayer groups in the Diocese of Brooklyn in March, 1994. As member of the Charismatic Tri-Di Committee, Sister Patti works closely with Msgr. Joe Malagrecia, Josphine Cachia, Sister Pauline and other leaders of ethnic groups. She is the coordinator of the Filipino Charismatic Pastoral Team of the Diocese of Brooklyn.

She is active in her parish, the Holy Family, where she serves as Eucharistic Minister. She is very much involved in conducting LSS, Healing Masses, and Growth Seminars.

(This *Meet Your Servant Leaders* series will continue in future issues of *The Trumpet*)

HEALING TESTIMONY

... talked on the cell phone for an hour; no props; no hearing aid ...

My wife has had a hearing problem and has had hearing aids for many years. When we got the cell phone she could not hear on it. For the past year we have been looking for a device to help her and had not had any success finding anything. We attended the Bob Canton Healing Service held in Fort Myers in January, 2003. She went up to stand in for some one else but the prayer team suggested that they pray for her problems first. As she was standing there she got the feeling that if she could just touch Bob Canton she would be healed. Then she went to the back of the church and another man and woman came up to her to pray over her. The man said that she was being healed at that time. Babe, my wife, had a hard time with this but also felt that if it was to be it will happen. This all occurred on Friday during the healing service after the Mass. On Saturday morning when she woke and started her prayers she got a message again from God that if she could touch Bob Canton she would be healed. During the Saturday morning healing service she got the message again for the third time. Babe went up to Bob after the break for lunch and touched his hands. Bob asked her what she was prayed for on Friday night and she told Bob that she stood in for another person with cancer. Bob replied, "God be with you." On Sunday morning Babe realized that she could hear better out of her left ear without a hearing aid. She felt so good about that and she picked up the cell phone and called her sister and talked for an hour. No props. No hearing aid. She has not had to wear her left hearing aid since. By the way, her hearing was only 25% of normal before the healing.

I also attended the healing Mass and the Saturday healing seminar. To my surprise this same man that had attended three of our prayer meetings in the last two years and a woman I had never met before came up to me and started to pray with me both Friday night and Saturday. Both times they prayed for me and told me that I was to have a healing ministry coming. This kind of took me by surprise and I guess the doubting Thomas that I am took this with a grain of salt. I checked him out and he has been around for years and goes on Sunday from place to place to pray with people. So I asked God to guide me in this matter. On Sunday night my wife and I were in bed and I got a message to pray for her face cancer. She already had been operated on twice for three cancerous lumps on her face. She had three more lumps to be treated the next Wednesday. So I made the sign of the cross on these three spots and asked God to remove them. She asked me what I was doing and I told her "I asked the Lord to remove your cancer." She kept her appointment on Wednesday. The doctor checked her over and said, "I will see you in six months." "What about the three other spots on my face ?," Babe asked. The doctor replied that she had no more cancer on her face and for her to come back for a checkup in six months.

Bill and Babe Schirtzinger

Moran, MI

Ft. Myers, FL

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**TRUMPET MAIL****From Romy Baptista, Community of God's Glory, Dallas TX:**

Hope you'll continue to serve God's people by "The Trumpet" that you and your staff have been writing all these years. This newsletter is indispensable in linking the different prayer groups/communities here in the USA, Canada, and elsewhere. This is one way of reaching out to people and keeping them updated with what is going on in other places. So keep up the good work. God will reward you for this assignment.

From Sister Agnes Nepomuceno, Severna Park, MD:

An excellent job you are doing indeed for the glory of God. Thank you for your kind generosity. Isn't it a refreshing feeling to serve the Lord with all the deadlines and time constraints because of our other worldly duties? A humongous challenge I might say. But with God we can do all things.

From Sister Nenett Barbilla, Long Island City, NY

The more copies you send me, the better. This way we can give more copies to different prayer communities for the update and especially for those who are not in the Renewal or not Charismatic yet, as part of evangelization that we are doing now. "The Trumpet" is one of the strong proof to convince people to join us without hesitation because they will read more and see more what God is doing to his people. We have a lot of people who are at the end of the tunnel; they need a SAVIOR and that is Jesus. Jesus Christ always works in mysterious ways.

From Deacon Dean Lopata, Severna Park, MD

It is my recommendation to change the name "National Convention" to "North American Convention" to embrace both countries in North America. The designation "National Convention" implies a strictly USA constituency to the exclusion of Canada which is part of the geographic scope of the Alliance.

Our Mission Statement

The mission statement of AFCCPC is not concise and not easy to memorize or remember. Deacon Dean Lopata offers this version: ***To strengthen the Catholic Charismatic Renewal among the Filipinos of North America and to regularly extend that light into a darkened world by the fire of the Holy Spirit.*** (In today's marketing and business world, we talk about Mission, Vision, and Goals. There is probably nothing wrong in applying marketing techniques to the business of winning and saving souls. NSA)

Christ in our Culture



Jed Santa Maria
Student
UCLA School of Medicine

There's an old Filipino saying that goes "*Ang hindi lumingon sa pinanggalingan ay hindi makararating sa paroroonan,*" which translates into "Those who don't look back at where they came from will never arrive at their destination." For me this can be read two different ways. 1) Those who don't explore their cultural heritage will never discover their true personal identity. 2) Those who don't search for the God who created them will never arrive at their ultimate destination, heaven.

But I think for many of us younger Filipino-Americans, the two are actually intertwined. For example, when we look back at the country we came from, we find an island nation, named after a Spanish king by a 16th century explorer named Magellan, who upon "discovering" the place, brought his Spanish language, customs, class system, and Catholicism. Five centuries later you might find someone like me attending mass, possessing a mix of eastern and western features (i.e. a flat nose and eyes too large to be Asian) and the last name Santa Maria, as opposed to something more authentic like Alitagtag or Manalansan.

But these traits are nothing to be ashamed of. In fact, I think we second-generation Fil-Am's have the best of both worlds. We can enjoy the comforts of being American and at the same time savor the heavenly flavors of *adobo* and *sinigang*. But besides the food, our culture boasts a rich and beautiful language that has its roots in Sanskrit, Malay, and Spanish—what other language says "I love you" more elegantly than "*mahal kita*"? Our culture also boasts amazing talent and creativity—from inventing the yo-yo and the fluorescent lightbulb, to providing the voice behind Disney characters Mulan and Princess Jasmine. And have you ever read the masterpiece *Noli me Tangere* or watched anyone dance the *tinikling*? Finally, our culture places an extraordinary emphasis on education—how many of your parents are nurses, doctors, or med-techs? Indeed, when we study Filipino history or simply ask our parents to tell us their stories of growing up in the Philippines and coming to America, we actually learn a great deal about ourselves and realize how blessed we are to come from such a unique heritage. We also realize how blessed we are to be living here in the States, for we can only imagine all the things that needed to fall into place for our parents be able to immigrate here and support a family. Praise God for arranging all the details. So truly, we as Fil-Am's are tremendously blessed, but none of these blessings, however, compare with our gift of Christianity.

Remember how Magellan and the other fleets that followed him had also brought along with them their religion—Roman Catholicism. They sent out priests to try to Christianize the whole archipelago and even named our islands after their king, King Philip II of Spain, whom many historians consider to have been "the most Catholic of kings." Over the centuries, the religion became tightly interwoven with Filipino culture, and eventually the Philippines became known as the only predominantly Christian country in Asia. Today, as children of the Philippine diaspora, we see that our parents carried that tradition with them and have passed it onto us. And though we are grateful to receive it, we shouldn't stop there.

Religion is too serious of a thing to receive passively, since placing our faith and trust in the Lord our God is an *active* process that involves more than just going to mass or making the sign of the cross. It involves building a personal relationship with Jesus—how can we trust somebody if we don't have a personal relationship with that person, right? This means getting to know this God of ours on a daily basis by talking to Him—we get to know our friends by talking to them, right? With God, we do this mainly through prayer and reading the Word He's handed down to us. Then we start to realize that our God is bigger than religion—that our devotion is, primarily, to a person rather than to a religion, for we are Christians, that is, followers of Christ.

Indeed, when we look back in time to where we came from—before our parents, before Magellan landed in the Philippines, before the first Filipinos even set foot there, and even before the first man or the planet Earth or the Universe was created, we find a God who knew us and chose us even before all that, who sent His only son to die for our sins, who knit us together in our mother's wombs, and who continues to love us, to keep us alive, and to forgive us for the things we do that disappoint Him. How cool is that? How cool and awesome is our God?!

So whether it's a turkey or a *lechon* on your Thanksgiving table, remember to thank the Lord for everything He's given us, and everything wonderful that He is to us—a *creator* who brought us into existence, a *father* who constantly provides for us, a *savior* who has destined us for Heaven, and finally a *friend* we can always lean on and enjoy the presence of... forever.

"So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness." ~Colossians 2:6-7



From Death into Life

Joy C. Tatlonghari
Holy Family Prayer Group of
St. Isaac Jogues, Orlando, FL

“Truly I say to you, he who hears my word and believes in Him who sent me has eternal life; and there is no judgment for him because he has passed from death to life. Truly the hour is coming and has indeed come, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and hearing it, will live.” John 5:24-25

Looking back to the memories that were left behind when my father passed away on the 21st day of February, 2003 I came to realize the true meaning and depth of the scripture passage written above. I witnessed how my father did not only hear and believe in God’s Word but he lived according to it. All his life he had instilled his strong belief and faith in God to each and everyone of his twelve children. I recall him saying “if not for the help that God had given me, I would not have been able to support all my children and my family.”

My father worked as a mechanic at a bus company in the Philippines. He had four daughters from his first wife of which I am the second child. He remarried after my mother died at a young age and had eight more children, four girls and four boys. When we were little he faithfully took us to school in his bicycle on his way to work. After my oldest sister and I finished college and found jobs he was so proud and happy. He never forgot to thank God and acknowledge Him for all the good things that He bestowed upon all his children.

A few years later my oldest sister who had been living in Canada for quite sometime had petitioned my father and all his dependents to immigrate to Canada. I on the other hand joined my husband in the U.S and landed in New York. Although we were apart, my father kept in touch and on special occasions he would call for all his children to gather and be together. This was the one thing that truly made him happy. Whenever his children and grandchildren were together he felt complete and you would see that big smile on his face. Whenever he greeted me at the door upon my arrival and embraced me, I felt the tremendous love he had for each of us. Whether it was for a happy gathering or a troubled situation he would always be there to give his good advice and lend a helping hand. In him I saw the wisdom of a loving father, his gentleness, compassion and generosity. These wonderful traits were not only manifested within the realms of his family circle but also overflowed in very person he came to know and who knew him.

On his 80th birthday he wanted to have a big celebration. He made it known to all his children and extended the invitation to all his friends. We prepared songs and dances for him. He was so happy to see everyone there. When he blew the candles on his birthday cake he was so excited, he not only extinguished the light but he blew the whole candle down. When he delivered his thank you speech he expressed his desire to be able to celebrate his birthday again when he turns 85.

Two years later my father had bouts of chest pains and shortness of breath. After undergoing a series of tests and angioplasty the doctors found several blockages in his heart. They were adamant to operate on him because at his age and his condition they said it was too high of a risk. My youngest sister who was residing in Boca Raton, Florida at that time with her family offered to fly him there to rest and take it easy for a while and to avoid the cold weather. He came to spend sometime with us in Orlando after that. Occasionally, he would experience dizziness, shortness of breath and chest pains. He would spray nitroglycerin in his mouth to soothe the pain and we would pray to God for healing. I believe through those prayers he was spared from emergency trips to the hospital while he was vacationing with us until he made it safely back home to Canada. Within a year his health went downhill. The attacks were becoming more frequent and he had to be admitted to the hospital. He

was in and out of the hospital that year. I flew three times to visit him and spend time with him. Another complication developed and after a series of tests he was diagnosed with mild leukemia. His bone marrow was no longer producing the cells that supply the blood his body needed. He had to get blood transfusions in order to gain strength. My brothers and sisters never prayed so hard. We would take turns at the hospital watching him and tending to him. Every morning I would read the Gospel to him and he would listen intently. One day he said, “You know what I hear when I am in pain? I hear the words of Jesus...[come follow me all you who are weary and I will give you rest]” and he said he would feel better.

One morning when he woke up he told me he had a dream...that there was a crowd of people eating and he was there with them. When I read him the Gospel that morning it was about Jesus feeding the multitude of people... about five thousand of them. **John 6:2-11**

Everyday was a miracle. Even the doctors were amazed that my father was still alive after they had predicted that he would go in three days. We knew the time was near but we were still paying that God would spare his life and grant his wish for another celebration when he turns 85 years old. We were glad to see him when he opened his eyes in the morning. After the last blood transfusion he had a sudden surge of energy. That night he called for all his children and grandchildren to gather around by his bedside. I remember him saying: “last night I died but now I am alive! I have already told you everything and I am now ready if God wants to take me.” And so it happened. February 21, 2003 my father went home to the Lord. During the 3 days of viewing there was a tremendous outpouring of sympathy from all the people that my father had known through the years. In spite of the heavy snow they came to pay their last respects to him and offer condolences to his family. Three prayer groups came to offer their services in songs and prayers for the deceased. Thanks to the Magnificat Prayer Group, Community of Love Prayer Group and Couples for Christ and to the three priests, Fr. Breen, Fr. Macalipay and Fr. Ibkas, who administered the last rites to him, each of them blessing his casket with Holy Water...so soothing, so refreshing...so beautiful and uplifting to the soul. His children, grandchildren and in-laws delivered eulogies for him. The day for the funeral came. Snow was still falling from the sky. There was a long line of cars trailing behind the Hearst and the motorcade of policemen leading the way. As we entered the cemetery there was a huge gate and a big cross at the entrance. It felt and looked like heaven to me. All the cars had to circle around the cemetery to get to the space where he was to be buried. The whole vast land was covered with snow...so white...so soft...it was a glorious site to behold. After the priest said the final prayers and given the final blessing we each threw a rose as they laid down his casket to the ground. It was then that I felt very cold and I cried. It was hard to let go but we knew God did not want him to suffer anymore and that he had reserved a much better place for him to celebrate big time!

[Jesus, facing the specter of the Cross, cried out to his Father, “Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, for this purpose I have come to this hour. Father, glorify they name!”]
John 12:27-28

He called upon the Lord in the day of trouble and was delivered, not in the way we would expect but in a vastly transcendent way. Conventional wisdom says “Deliverance = rescue from experiencing pain and death.” God says to his Son, “It is too small a thing to merely keep you from pain and prolong earthly life. I shall deliver you by destroying death from the inside. And in delivering you I will deliver the world with you.” And so Jesus bore the Cross and received the Crown, to the glory of God the Father. Today, glorify God with our cross. He will deliver us.

Call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me. Psalm 50:15

It is in loving memory of my father, **Miguel Javier, Sr.** that I share this testimony with you.



L to R: Terri Albarracin, Cora Reece, Fr. Perry, Morris Carrillo

REGIONAL REPORT

Juneau, AK

Alliance is Truly Networking

N. Albarracin, Jr.

My wife, Terri, and I took the Norwegian Wind Alaskan cruise in mid-September. Juneau was one of the cruise stops. I remembered that Fr. Perry Kenaston and Bro. Morris Carrillo, whom I met in several Alliance meetings, lived in Juneau. Fr. Perry kindly and generously accepted my “self-invitation” to see him when we docked at Juneau. He was at the dock waiting for us when we got “tendered” into the port of Juneau. What a grand welcome from a busy priest! Father drove us to see Brother Morris, an AFCCPC Regional Coordinator, who decided to leave his work early

to join us. We then dropped by the office of Sister Cora Reece, another active prayer group and Alliance member. From there we were toured by Fr. Perry and Bro. Morris to see the highlights of Juneau including a visit to the Mendenhall Glacier and Juneau’s salmon hatchery company where we got an education on the interesting life cycle of salmon. We also dropped by the St. Therese Shrine, a holy place for prayer and meditation set in a stunning environment blessed with tall trees and a view of the sea. After a period of prayer in the Shrine, Fr. Perry gave us communion, which was the highlight of our day, envied by our friends back in the cruise ship.

Juneau is part of the Alliance’s Pacific Northwest Region. There are three prayer groups in Juneau: Twin Hearts of Jesus and Mary Prayer Community (servant leader: Bro. Morris Carrillo), Holy Trinity Prayer Group (servant leader: Naida James), and the Good Shepherd Community (servant leader: Sister Virginia Malalang)

The prayer groups meet every Sunday in the two churches in the area at different times. The activities of the prayer communities include: Fatima Crusade, Novena and Feast of the Divine Mercy, Novena and Feast to St. Lorenzo Ruiz. Fr. Leonardo Polinar and Brother Bob Canton have been to this area to conduct LSS, Growth Seminars, and healing rallies. The prayer groups are also involved in the activities of the Filipino organizations in Juneau.

PRAYER GROUP PROFILE:

The Community of God’s Glory

Dallas, TX

Head Servant: Romy Baptista

The Community of God’s Glory was formed in 1982 at Bishop Lynch High School in Dallas, Texas. The weekend LSS Basic Seminar conducted by Fr. Leonardo Polinar led to the formation of four prayer groups. In a span of three years, 14 prayer groups were formed and these became the Community of God’s Glory. A coordinator, two assistant coordinators, a secretary/recorder, a treasurer, and different Ministries such as hospitality, music, special events, youth, and teaching are the main components of this Community. Brother Tony Azores was the coordinator from 1982 to 1987 before he moved to Washington, DC, to accept a new assignment.

Each prayer group meets once a week from house to house. Each has its own cell group leader and secretary. Once a month all the different prayer groups meet as a Community. The meetings last at the most 2-1/2 hours and are followed by fellowship.

The First National Filipino Catholic Conference was held in Dallas at St. Mount Carmel on November 21-23, 1986 and was hosted by the Community of God’s Glory under the servant leadership of Bro. Tony Azores.

A PRAYER FOR THE FILIPINO COMMUNITY

My vision:

I see an old wooden wheel, wide and heavy. As it moves slowly forward, it crushes little devils beneath it.

The wheels are carrying an old wagon with high sides. As it goes over the bumps (devils) no one falls out.

The people in the wagon are singing and praising God and loving one another as a family.

My understanding of this vision:

- *Keep on doing what you are doing as a people.*
- *Be old fashioned, traditional, as a family.*
- *This crushes the head of satan.*
- *It is done with praise, singing, joy, and unity in the Spirit.*
- *In the midst of the “modern world” you are moving according to the will of God.*
- *Keep it up!*

It has been a privilege to be a Filipino for a very short time. I miss being with you all. Keep together in prayer for each other and God willing I will pray with you again soon.

With love and affection,

Trish McCarthy

The Trumpet

P.O. Box 20147

Columbus, OH 43220

TO:

