



PARISH BULLETIN



December 27, 2015

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Forbes Park, Makati



Earl Leonard Sebastian with parish priest Fr. Reu Jose C. Galoy, OFM

“The Call and Passion to Serve”

By: Earl Leonard Sebastian

“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.” 1 Peter 4:10

This article is in dedication with the grace of St. Martha, the patroness of service. A saint who I look up to, most especially in my calling to serve the church in whatever capacity.

My name may not ring a bell to the parishioners. I am part of the Single Young Adults community and serve in every “SYA Weekend” mass which welcomes the participants. Some of the members of the SYA community are also on board the newly reformed Editorial team of the Parish Bulletin, which will promise everyone a touch of the classic and modern look.

Everyone asks me the same question. Where do I get the passion and desire to serve and volunteer in my ministry when I do not get anything in return? They say it’s a calling. The same way our names were discerned and got the calling to serve and facilitate for the SYA Faith Community. All members of the Editorial team are also part of other ministries of the Parish, which serve in the community.

God gave us talents for us not to bury under the grounds, but rather to use it wisely and glorify His name and serve His people. The more blessed we are with God-given gifts,

the more we are responsible and power we have to do good for the benefit of others. Christmas is also the best time to share our gifts with each other. And mine is to use the gift of writing and sharing my insights to the Parish Bulletin. Having had the opportunity to meet personalities in different fields, it’s about time I offer something related to my faith. This may not be financially rewarding although it may take a lot of commitment and devotion, but the impact it brings and creates to society creates a huge difference most especially the Heavenly rewards and being a blessing to others.

I’ve always believed that this devotion is a way of thanking God for everything He has given and sooner the seeds being planted shall finally bear fruit.

In behalf of your friendly neighborhood Parish Bulletin, this kind soul is sincerely requesting from you, from the adults to the kids of the parish community: to spend your time more with the community and learn more about how you can share your talents with us. You can join any organizations or ministries within the Parish – Worship, Social Services, Family Life, Education ministries and the different organizations under each ministry - and this can make your 2016 worth it.

The entire community of Santuario de San Antonio is always here to welcome you in whatever ministry you may want to take part with. We are one family.

**SUNDAY
GOSPEL REFLECTION**
by Fr. Jesús Galindo, OFM
FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY



Why were you looking for me?

The Christmas season is above all a family celebration. Overseas relatives and contract workers make it a point to come home at this time of the year to celebrate Christmas with the family. The most joyous moment of the season is definitely the Christmas midnight's *noche buena*, when all the family members gather at table. The Church has wisely placed the feast of the Holy Family in the context of the Christmas season in order to highlight the importance of the family. So important is the family that God himself entrusted his only Son, not to a monastery or to a seminary, but to a family.

The family was created by God to be the mirror of God himself and the expression of the Trinitarian life--unity and love despite differences: "God created man in his image... male and female he created them" (Gen. 1:27). The family provides all our basic needs: food, clothing, education, etc. In the bosom of the family we get our first experience of God's love through the love and care of our parents.

Indeed, we are the product of our family. If we experience love and affection in our childhood, we grow up to be loving individuals; but if we experience rejection, violence and abuse at home, we grow up to be violent and abusive ourselves. It is statistically proven that most cases of juvenile delinquency can be traced to an unhealthy family life.

Today, the Holy Family is presented to us as our model. Being a "holy" family and having God's only Son among its members, we might think that the Holy Family of Joseph, Mary and Jesus enjoyed a peaceful and blissful kind of life. Not at all. What we see is a family beset by problems and trials, bigger perhaps than those experienced by ordinary families. Being close to God and to God's Son doesn't mean being exempt from trials. On the contrary, the

RANDOM THOUGHTS
Voices from yesterday and today...
By: Peachy Maramba



ST. MELANIA the YOUNGER
383 – 439
December 31

Melania the Elder was a patrician lady married to Valerius Maximus who was probably the prefect of Rome in 362. When she was widowed at the early age of twenty-two she put her son Publicola in the hands of guardians and went to Palestine.

Then she built a monastery at Jerusalem for 50 maidens. She spent the rest of her life here living a life of austerity, prayer and good works.

In the meantime her son grew up to be a senator in Rome with his wife Albina. Their daughter Melania was named after her grandmother from whom she shared many similar traits. They lived

closer we are to the Lord, the greater our share in his sufferings.

Many families today are going through painful crises and broken relationships. Each family, of course, has a story of its own to tell. However, there are certain factors which are frequently observed in most broken marriages. For instance, many among the young no longer believe in life-long relationships. The expression "until death do us part" scares them. They rather make their commitment "until further notice." That's hardly the way to build a strong family life.

Economic or financial factors play also an important role in the deterioration of the family. Parents are forced to look for greener pastures abroad; but in the process they find, very often, greener partners. Besides, leaving small children to be raised by the *lola* or the *yaya* hardly contributes to the strengthening of family life. Material wellbeing is a legitimate pursuit for married couples, of course. However, it is no guarantee of happiness. Children need, and want, more than money. They look for care, affection and

in a luxurious villa owned by Melania's religious but ambitious father.

To ensure his great wealth and family reputation he needed a male heir which he hoped to get from his daughter Melania. Unfortunately, like her grandmother Melania was very religious and preferred a religious vocation devoting herself only to God in a state of maidenhood.

Against her will she was forced to marry at the early age of fourteen to Pinian, a young Roman noble who was only 17 years old. Deeply shocked by all the sensual license of marriage the pure Melania requested her husband to live in continence, but he would not agree. Eventually an heir was born but it was a girl who unfortunately died in infancy.

A second child was born – this time a boy. Unfortunately it was born prematurely probably because she had spent the whole night before the feast of St. Lawrence on her knees in prayer and then spent the next day assisting in the church for the feast.

The next day the infant died. Because Melania lay between life and death Pinian who sincerely loved her swore to grant her her wish of henceforth living in continence and let her serve God as she wished.

Although her father bitterly disapproved for five years he still insisted that they conform to live at least exteriorly to the life of her status.

It was only when he lay dying that he asked his daughter's forgiveness because "fearing the ridicule of evil tongue, I have grieved you by opposing

turn to page 3

quality time from their parents.

Little or no communication is another weakening factor in the family. The intrusion of communication gadgets into our homes has paradoxically weakened or lessened communication among the family members; each member has his/her own TV set, laptop, tablet, cellphone, i-pad, etc., and is busy talking to somebody from outside the family.

Most importantly, there is no time for prayer in common. Gone are the days when the family members gathered around the altar in the evening to pray the rosary. Now, leaving God out of family affairs can only result in loss of family values. Parents should learn from Mary and Joseph to lead their children to the Lord.

In this year of the Family and the Holy Eucharist, let's commend to the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph all our families, in particular those that are going through difficulties and trials, that they may draw strength and inspiration from the Holy Family of Nazareth and from Jesus, the living bread.

Random Thoughts...from page 2

your heavenly vocation." Then he willed all his considerable estates to her.

Having won the consent of her husband and her widowed mother to follow her vocation and to even adopt her life of prayer and pious work she gradually divested themselves of their fabulous wealth. Beside distributing the proceeds of the sales of some of their estates they even set free eight thousand slaves.

Then all three left their mansion in Rome for a villa in the country. However Pinian still insisted on wearing the rich dress of his rank. It took Melania a long time to get him to lay aside the more expensive for the less expensive clothes by making them herself.

Because they treated their help with courtesy and respect many asked to be employed by them. Their house became the village's center of hospitality, charity and religious life.

As they still had so much property left she asked and received the consent of her husband for her to sell more of her considerable property to help the needy. To prevent her greedy relatives from getting hold of them Melania had to seek the emperor's help in the equitable sale and distribution of the proceeds.

In 406 Melania and her followers had to flee the invading the Goths by going to Messina, then to Carthage. After being shipwrecked on the island of Lipari they finally settled at Tagaste in Numidia in 410.

Here she founded a monastery for men and another for women where she lived most austere.

It was seven years later that she, her mother and husband made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. She finally settled in Jerusalem where she met the group led by St. Jerome who became her fast friend.

Her mother died fourteen years after their arrival in Jerusalem. Her husband died the following year.

To be near her loved ones she built a cell near their tombs. When she attracted a lot of disciples she built a convent for them and became their superior until her death on December 31. She was fifty –six years old. Her final words were, "As the Lord willed, so it is done."

Although she has long been venerated by the Eastern Church there was no cult in the West. It was not until 1905 when Cardinal Mariano Rampolla published a monumental work on her that she began to gain a following in the West.

SOURCES of REFERENCE: Butler's Lives of the Saints – Vol. IV – pp 646-649; Pocket Dictionary – pp 351 – 352; All Saints – pp 570 – 571; Voices of the Saints – pp 164 – 165.

**The ABC's of Catholic
Doctrine**
by Lianne Tiu



L to R: Audrey, Andrea, Steffi, Angela, Stuart Sy

The Beauty of a Strong Sibling Relationship

One day, a young hungry beggar received a hamburger from a priest. He happily ate half of it, wrapped the other half, and told the priest that he was reserving it for his starving sister. Stories about the care and affection among brothers and sisters in a family always touch our hearts. Often times, we hear about sibling discords due to competition for parental love and attention, differences in personalities, gender, life events, experiences outside the family, etc. Occasional disagreement is normal, as long as sibling relationship does not lead to resentment and hatred.

In the Bible, we read about the murder of Cain by his brother Abel, and about Joseph being sold as a slave by his brothers. When sibling bond breaks, the road is open to painful experiences of conflict and hatred. Pope Francis remarked, "In the family ...how many siblings quarrel over little things, or over an inheritance, and then they no longer speak to each other, they no longer greet one another. This is terrible!"

When there are strained relationships among brothers or sisters, let us take the initiative to change. It may be a phone call, an invitation to spend time together, or a gesture to offer help. We remember happy memories together. We accept sibling differences and love them anyway. It is not necessary to be the same or to like everything that the other one does in order to love each other. We also consider our sibling's point of view instead of being defensive. They may be right; and we may be

wrong. Of course, we apologize when we are at fault; and forgive when they hurt us. Lastly, we always pray for a loving sibling relationship and for the conversion of any sibling who may be rebelling against God.

Having brothers and sisters who love us is a precious and irreplaceable experience. They are always there to guide and help us in every stage of life. They are there to share laughter and wipe away tears. They make the best of friends. Siblings are one of the best gifts our parents have brought into our lives. That is why the psalmist sang, "Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!" (Ps 133:1)

(Reference: Catechesis on the Family: "Siblings" - General Audience, February 18, 2015 by Pope Francis; "Sibling Rivalry Grows Up" by Elizabeth Bernstein)



L to R- Cara, Sophie, Thea, Sabino Padilla

Christmas is....
By Letty Jacinto-Lopez

"Come see my tree," said my friend Cora Florencio and that made me smile. To me, once the Christmas tree is up, the most beautiful and well-revered season is definitely upon us. My mother would play Christmas carols and sweet lullabies that were both soft and calming. She'd gather us around the console radio and relate the first-ever hotel overbooking that resulted in no vacancy for Joseph and Mother Mary. My sisters took turns in hanging tree ornaments with new ones that they added every year. My Lola would stock up our pantry with native desserts and home-brewed refreshments as reminders that the body as well as the spirit must be well nourished. Christmas was the only time in the year when children were allowed to stay up late. Sometimes, my sisters even took me to the early dawn mass (*Simbang Gabi*) that made me feel really grown up. I wonder whether the fact that I was the resident, always-on-call chaperon limited any alternative choices opened to them? These images brought home the message that we can practice the virtues of faith, hope, charity and love in small and simple ways. My top favorite remains the Christmas tree because I can see, touch, and smell it. If I sit under its leafy canopy, I end up climbing it, to the highest branch, to see what was over the fence and over the horizon.

(In decorating the Christmas tree, follow one rule of thumb: Use ornaments that you have collected through the years. From Russian matryoshkas or nesting dolls to Spanish fans and native anahaw fans, Danish blue and white Christmas plates, piglets in ballet tutus and pointe shoes, butterflies, happy faces, miniature perfume bottles, silk flowers, sachets stuffed with lavender seeds, cinnamon sticks, dried orange rinds, Venetian masks, garden tools, photo frames, miniature books, baking tools or kitchen magnets, even pieces of jewelry and fun watches). For my

first grandson, a nursery theme of Noah's ark and the parade of animals in twos. What about a musical theme with miniature notes and instruments including the colorful jackets of music CDs? Indulge your hobby too by using that as a theme. For my son, that would be automobiles while daughter would go for the constellation, the moon and stars. The ideas are as endless as your imagination).

Our parents and elders spent time to pass on the traditional symbols of Christmas so why not make room to embrace the wonder and beauty of what they each represent?

The tree. If you're lucky to find a fully-grown fresh pine tree - like in cool and picturesque Baguio of yore - the green color represents the everlasting hope of mankind. The needles pointing upward symbolize man's thoughts turning toward heaven.



The star is the celestial sign of promises made long ago, the shining hope of mankind. It is a time to rejoice and to celebrate the birthday of a precious baby. When he grows up, he will fulfill his mission that will cost him his dear life in ransom for ours.



The wreath is the eternal nature of love, never ceasing, forming one continuous circle and having no end, like the round wedding band that signifies the precious covenant between husband and wife.



The candy cane represents the shepherd's crook or staff used to bring lost sheep back to the fold. That no matter where you stand, whether as a simple folk or a scion, each one has a place in the grand plan of the Maker. The gifts are symbolic of the gold, myrrh, and frankincense that three wise men brought to the Christ child. In gift-giving, remember that there is a part of you that you wrap with the item, in praise of friendship and brotherly love.

turn to page 5



SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO PARISH
2015 New Year's Eve and 2016 New Year's Day
Consolidated Schedules

Main Church					Urdaneta Village
DATE	CHOIR	MASS SCHEDULES	LECTOR	COMMENTATOR	LECTOR / COMMENTATOR
Dec 31, Thursday	Canto Cinco	8:00 P.M.	RELLIE LIWAG	BETH FAUSTINO	
Dec 31, Thursday	Canto Cinco	10:00 P.M.	ISA GUTIERREZ	ELEANORE GUTIERREZ	MANOLO CARMONA
Jan 1, Friday	Minguita P./Meldy C.	7:45 A.M.	AMELOU REYES	MARI LINA	
Jan 1, Friday	Vocalismo	9:00 A.M.	CLARISSE GOMEZ	MONETTE GOMEZ	
Jan 1, Friday	Millette Zamora	10:30 A.M.	CYNTHIA MENCHACA	THERESE NECIO	
Jan 1, Friday		12:00 P.M.	TONI GARCIA	ADEL REYES	
Jan 1, Friday	Lulu Castaneda/Mary Ann Baclao	4:30 P.M.	JONA CRUZ	JUN RODRIGUEZ	
Jan 1, Friday	Edmund Lim/Jerry Fullido	6:00 P.M.	JUN ALVENDIA	DEE CHAN	

NOTE:

1. For December 31, 2015, Thursday, there will be NO 6:00 P.M. mass in the Main Church.
2. For December 31, 2015, Thursday, there will be NO MASSES IN THE VILLAGES EXCEPT for Urdaneta Village.
3. For January 1, 2016, Friday, masses in the Main Church will follow the REGULAR SUNDAY SCHEDULE but there will be NO 6:30 A.M. mass.
4. For January 1, 2016, Friday, there will be NO MASSES IN THE VILLAGES.

Christmas...from page 4



The bells ringing out are to guide lost sheep back to their fold. A fitting reminder that Jesus will look for any lost sheep and that each of us is so precious to him that he will never leave anyone in a lurch.



The satin bow is used to tie the gift to symbolize the intimacy of being tied together in bonds of goodwill and kinship.



These symbols are not limited to the Christmas season. In summer, during the wet season or if you live abroad where there is winter, spring and autumn, the flowers gathered in a bouquet would remind us of the giving nature of true love.

The sound of distant bells, or the wind chime hanging in your garden trellis, can resonate and make tingling sounds to lead you back to the right path.

Lastly, the star, in any season and wherever you are, can light and guide us safely back to our hearth and home.

If you are still searching for the heart of the season, just remember that **without Christ, there is no Christmas.** May you don a generous spirit and like a child, fill yourself with wonder and awe.

Tell me again, Who alone can make a tree?

Please Pray for the Sick

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Meldy Cojuangco | Ron Jacobs |
| Connie Gomez | Nancy Imperial |
| Marilou Arteficio | Johnny Lopez |
| Ma. Pilar Oledan | Lisa Alvendia |
| Iggy Clavecilla | Letty Ligon |
| Africa and Cecile Reynoso | Norma J. Carlos |
| Maxima 'Amah' Sy | Sony Lopez Gonzalez |
| Aurora Gonzalez | Shaina Budhrani |
| Tommy Dy Buncio | Gia Gonzalez |
| Naning Bagabaldo | Orlando Bernardo |
| Remedios Maceda Berris | Rolando Sotaso |
| Cedric Castro | Cecilio Hidalgo |
| Pilar del Gallego | Victorina Leus |
| Nena Jalandoni | Iya Ocampo |
| Victoriano Chung | Bernadette Gozali |
| Erlinda Miranda-Oledan | Guillermo Profeta |
| Zwei Lopez Gadi | Dra. Ofelia Adapon |
| Shallouh Bancil Swinnerton | Soledad T. Consing |
| Francisco Tankiang | David Lu |
| Cynthia Arms | Leonardo Rodriguez |
| Felicisimo Alcantara | Fr. Hugh Zurat OFM |
| Rosario de Leon Tobias | |
| Gloria Syjuco | <i>If you want a name added or deleted, contact Bernadette at the Parish office tel. nos. 8438830-32.</i> |
| Raffy Chan | |
| Edric Co | |
| Peter Soo | |
| Chito San Jose | |

CALENDAR OF MINISTRIES FOR THE WEEK

There will be no scheduled activities from Sunday Dec. 27, 2015 to Saturday Jan. 2, 2016.



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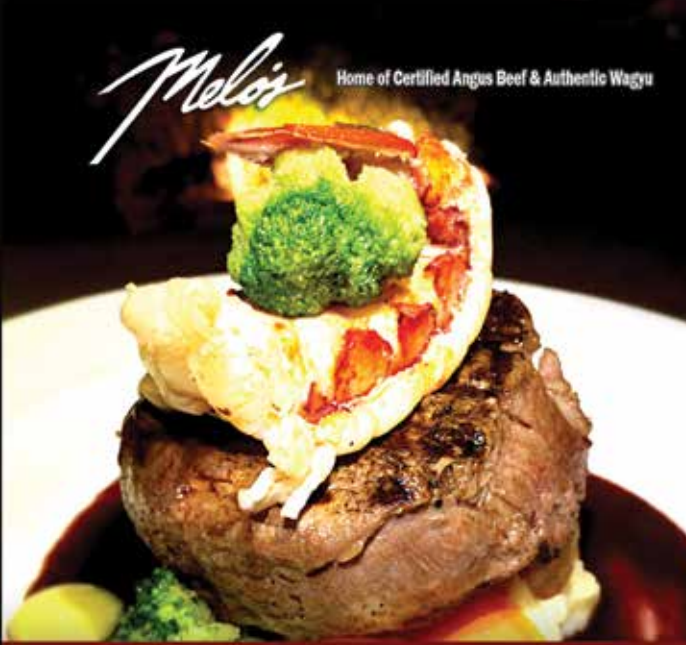


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PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS



Santuario de San Antonio Parish Pre-Cana

SSAP Pre-Cana Seminar will be every First Saturday of the month from 8AM to 7PM.

Next Pre-Cana: January 9, 2016

Engaged couples interested to register may visit or call Susan at the Parish Office: 843-8830 to 31, local 4 or inquire at 09164402829.

Married couples who would like to volunteer as facilitators may contact the same numbers.

Santuario de San Antonio Parish

Social Services Ministry

Relief and Rehabilitation Ministry



Donations

for Typhoon Nona Victims

(Rice, Canned goods, Clothes & Cash)

are now being accepted at the Parish Office.

Wishing You
HAPPY NEW YEAR
2016

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Payment transactions will be up to 12:00 nn only.

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