



St. Therese Parish  
**BULLETIN**

Issue No. 07-09

JULY 2009



## With Our Voice, We Build Our Church

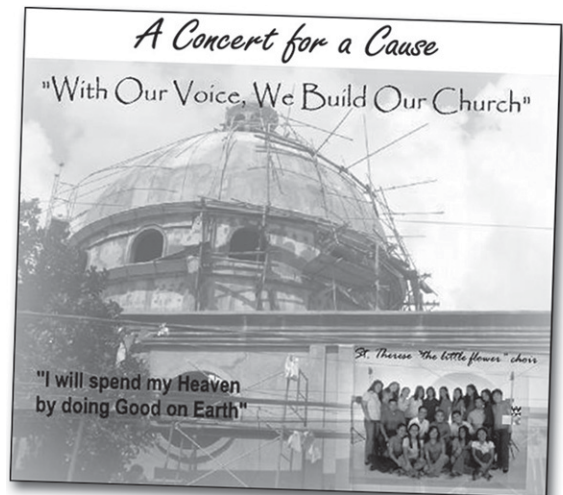
By Lorina Lepon

**Little Flower Choir  
headed by Ms. Mabel  
Abella has started  
their singing career  
way back 1997.**

I was even one of the pioneer members of this group with our Instructress, Ma'am Tess. I could remember our first singing exposure -- it was a flop because everybody were all nervous. But now we have grown up. Jennelyn Clamor was second to our youngest before Inee Villa and now she's the main trainer of the group.

Who could tell that this group would be the first organization in the Parish who came up with this great activity, a fundraising project for the church? It is a first in the history of our parish, and it is a very beautiful gesture from people who love our church so much, singing to raise funds, straight from the heart.

It was a good performance from the choir while they sung songs of Bukas Palad. Even the Parish Pastoral Council commended this group for a job well done. Those who were not there really missed something! Two of our talented priests joined the concert. Fr. Jonie sung a beautiful song composed by David Haas, "Now We Remain," together with the choir. Fr. John



All proceeds will be for the construction of the church. Please support our CD for only P150.

did an acapella of his very own song composition entitled "Abide in God."

Astounding was the prowess of the guest sopranos, Gianni Capili, Mika Capili and Kara Salimbangon, singing the opening prayer "Pie Jesu" as if Sarah Brightman and Charlotte Church were really there as well as the soloist Izarzuri Vidal, for the breathtaking "Ave Maria."

The Parish Youth Coordinating Council also made their special participation in the Handmime for the song, "In My Heart" with some creative choreography done by Ms. Susan Santinor.

Everything was well-prepared and well-done. The Little Flower Choir is not very

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# STPYCC Elects New Set of Officers

Last June 17, 2009 the St. Therese Parish Youth Coordinating Council (STPYCC) elected their new set of officers for 2009-2011. Present were 17 youths who represented their different organizations in the Parish. Before the election, held at the Parish Social Hall, was done, Certificates of Appreciation signed by the Team of Pastors were given to the outgoing officers for their 2 years of service in the Parish.

The two years term of the officers is practiced by our own PYCC since 2005 as per mandate of the Commission on Youth of the Archdiocese of Cebu handbook for PYCCs. Past PYCC Presidents were Lorina Lepon (2005-2007) followed by Susan Santinor (2007-2009).

The election was done through ballots. And the new set of officers are:

## EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

**President:** Lorina Lepon

**Vice-President (Internal):** Clyde Rose Pios

**Vice President (External):** Anabel Dinglasa



**Secretary:** Sharalyn Ramirez

**Treasurer:** Cyril Tanael

**Auditor:** Jolly Ann Maghanoy

## WESTS COORDINATORS

**Worship:** Frederick Yongco

**Education:** Sarah Cañete

**Service:** Kim Bryan Baring

**Temporalities:** Mary Joy Zaspas

**Social Communication:** Jessa Charisma Tecson

Although some officers were reelected for the same position, we hope and pray that God will shower the new officers the Spirit of Perseverance and Faith during their 2-year term. ■

By Jess Charisma Tecson, STPYCC

## With our voice... (cont'd.)

little at all. They have done so much for our parish aside from singing regularly in our 9 a.m. Sunday Masses. Seeing them perform that night was so inspiring. Hopefully, it would inspire others too to think of ways to earn for the benefit of the St. Therese Church construction. We really need that!

While admission to the concert was free, the sales of the concert CD all went to the church construction fund. Help our Church and get your CD now! It is not only a donation, you will also have a memento for years to come, and songs to play whenever you feel like listening for music divinely sung!

To the choir, Keep it up! ■

## In Defense of Life



Last May 20, 2009 at the Fuente Osmena rotunda, CWL President Sonia Babarin and her members, parish youth reps, and Fr. John joined the Pro-Life Rally led by Human Life International Director Dr. Rene Josef Bullecer. Speaking before the crowd, Fr. John said, "They are not teaching about virtue anymore, not about chastity anymore. They are not teaching Christian values anymore. The issue is about morality. They want to legalize what is wrong."

**Defend Life against those who seek to destroy it.  
For love of God.**

## Not Just With Us But In Us

*Who we are and what we are to do is supposed to be very clear to us!*

What do you mean?

*You see, from the very beginning, we were made in the image and likeness of God. That presupposes many things. To be sure, as his images we are “to image” him in our lives. Nothing can be as clear as that.*

I agree with you in that.

*That is Old Testament, remember. Our first parents destroyed that image by disobedience. Thus, they were expelled from paradise and from the presence of God. Actually, this is really what happens when we sin. We get expelled from paradise and from his presence.*

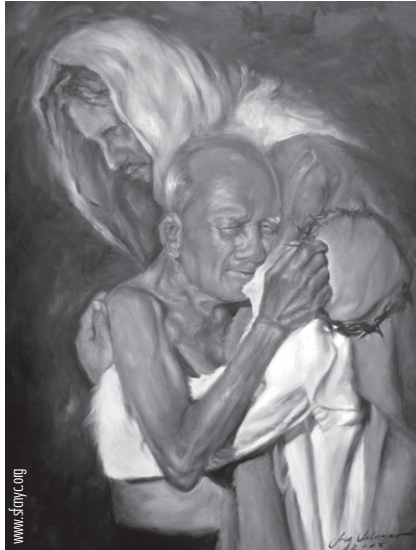
Yep. Paradise is a metaphor for intimacy with God. You are in paradise if you are in the presence of God. Man disobeyed God and lost that intimacy.

*Exactly. When he lost God, he lost everything. He lost his happiness as well as his dominion over all the earth!*

They wouldn't have sinned if they knew the consequences!

*My dear chap, they knew. God told them they would die if they ate the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden, and ate they did anyway.*

But they were deceived! The devil deceived them.



***He gives us the greatest commandment of loving others the way He loves us...***

*Yes. Yes. That is true. And that is so sad. The devil continues to deceive, can you not see? Adam and Eve knew that fruit was forbidden. All the devil needed to do was to nudge them a little. “Eat of the fruit and you will be like God!” Now, don't we know what God forbids? Thou shalt not steal. Not shalt not kill. Thou shalt not commit adultery.”*

Oh, my gosh! How can man be so stupid?

*With full knowledge that it is wrong, people steal and kill and commit adultery. No one can say when he commits sin that he did not know it was wrong. They know it is*

*wrong and yet they still commit it!*

And by continuously sinning, we continue destroying ourselves as “images” of God.

*You are right and you are wrong, my dear friend?*

So explain it to me?

*In the beginning, man was an image of God. It did not take long. He destroyed that image and he could not do anything to restore it. It was beyond his capacity. Consequently, all the descendants of our first parents were “destroyed images” of God!*

It is very easy to see where you are going. Somebody has to come and restore our intimacy with God, to restore the paradise we lost! We needed a Savior! Somebody with the

*Continued on page 4*



**Chit-chat** (cont'd.)

power to repair the damage our first parents have done.

*Our Deliverer, Jesus Christ! He came and saved us in a manner totally different from the way they expected. Our Savior did not just repair the “destroyed images” that we were! He came to totally change us. He gives us his body to eat and his blood to drink so that we will truly be one with him in flesh and blood. And he gives us the greatest commandment of loving others the way He loves us because love unites us with him and one another in a very special way!*

He tells us: “If anyone loves me... then my Father will love him and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him!”

*I am paraphrasing St. Clare of Assisi. “The heavens cannot contain the Creator but the faithful human soul is the mansion of God and the throne of Jesus Christ. And this only through love- which the ungodly lack.”*

Now I see how God truly makes us a new creation!

*We cannot enter paradise by ourselves but Jesus Christ makes sure that we can because he is not just with us. He is “in us.” Can you not see how wonderful that is! He made sure that he is inseparable from us!*

And the portals of heaven open for us. The angels cannot close it. Our Father awaits. Heaven is our home! We are his children and we are returning home. Paradise is once again ours!

*Alleluia!* ■

**Caprice**

Rosario Alviola Orat

Let us be young, my love  
Before the dawn is past  
Shy sunbeams flicker  
Through the shades  
Like shadows in a mast.

Now is the time, so come  
Tarry not nor look behind  
Pull hard upon the strings  
Of fate that someday we may wind.

Steps must never falter  
Push onward to the goal  
See for there out yonder  
Are promises, thrills and splendor

Breathe in the virgin breeze  
Mildly rushing in thy face  
Open your heart, spread wide  
Arms to feel the beckoning space.

Dearest we are young though in all  
Things else we differ  
What of the rest when hand in hand  
We'll waft the wind together.

Time is short and wary  
Stingy youth dies young  
Let's drink our fill of  
Of springs efflorescence  
Poet's long have sang.

Let's go where beauty bids us  
Away from pains and fears  
Let's be young my love so  
We'll be young forever  
Ah! You hear and now you  
Fling your cloak of cares  
Into the vast vale of tears  
Where flows the wasted wanton years.



**Holy Father's Prayer Intentions for July 2009**

**General:** That the Christians of the Middle East may live their faith in full freedom and be an instrument of peace and reconciliation.

**Mission:** That the Church may be the seed and nucleus of a humanity reconciled and reunited in God's one and only family, thanks to the testimony of all the faithful in every country in the world.



## The Blog of God

After every long and exhausting day from work, I go straight home. I walk past all the smiling faces of my neighbors, enter the gate of our compound, get through the door and sit in front of my PC. I hurriedly browse my friendster, multiply, facebook, twitter and tagged accounts. While doing this, I click on my online messaging: YM, skype and MSN, type my account name and password and there you go - I'm all set for a few hours of browsing on my friends' sites, looking through latest pictures, and blogs and whatever are on their pages.

Today, those who don't have any know-how about blogs is not "in." Students, teachers, employees, even out-of-school youth, have their own friendster accounts. Undoubtedly, having a homepage makes it convenient to keep in touch with friends. In my case, since my high school and college graduation, it has been increasingly difficult for me to meet my classmates, so this is beneficial for me. Although blogging has become widely accepted and enjoyed especially among the young members of our society, it poses some danger.

For instance, since it is very easy to access a person's profile in the internet, privacy is at stake. Also, instead of meeting friends in person, comments and messages are just being posted. There is no eyeball to eyeball relationship, and in many instances one can never be sure if the person he is making friends with is really the person who he says he is. We just presume that the other party is telling the truth. And if they are lying, it doesn't matter because there are hundreds of them. Everything is shallow. There is no deep friendship. How much more genuine intimacy? What about enduring and lasting love?

What's inside your homepages, anyway? How many hundreds of pictures have you uploaded? Even the unimportant ones are there. Even pictures of people you do not know and places you cannot even remember where. And the ideas that you placed there,

are they not just mere spur-of-the-moment-I-feel-like-writing-something thoughts. And then I thought of Jesus. How many long hours have I spent surfing the net sacrificing my prayer time? What does Jesus have to say to me?

And then I thought of Jesus some more. How will his blogs look? What will it contain? And I answered those questions myself. It will contain pictures of his loved ones. It will contain pictures of me. Him watching over me. Him taking care of me. Going with me. Eating with me. Playing with me. He has been with me all the time and he has pictures to prove it. I may not have noticed it, but he was there. In my times of sadness and in my times of joy; in my times of testing and in my times of triumph; He was there. And his write-ups? Gosh! A profusion of overtures of love! How beautiful! How sweet! How romantic! Only someone so in love with me could write those. He is my greatest fan. He is my greatest lover. No doubt about it.

How about you? How will you feel when you browse Jesus' page? You should not be surprised to see that he has posted a lot of your pictures, too. And his blogs, believe it, they declare to the whole world without shame about His great love for you. Yes. They declare to the whole world His great love for all of us! No matter how many we are, his love is authentic. His love is deep. His love is enduring and lasting.

And then I woke up from my reverie, and I murmured a prayer to God, "Thank you God for loving me, and placing me in your blog!"

By Hazel Joy Celestial



His blogs declare to the whole world without shame about His great love for you.



## Teams Growing in Grace

Every year, the Church of Cebu forms a Pastoral thrust to achieve. This year's thrust is "At 75 the Archdiocese of Cebu: Growing Together in Grace as the Body of Christ". This is the mandate of the Cardinal to be disseminated to all parishes under the Archdiocese of Cebu. In response, the team of Pastors of St. Therese Parish initiated the Re-echo Seminar on this matter last April 15, 2009, participated by supportive parishioners who are active members of the different mandated organizations such as CCRM, BEC, Catechists, Lectors & Cantors, FLA, and Lay Ministers. Four Mission Teams (Teams A, B, C & D) were formed and led by Rev. Fr. Rolando Manayon, Rev. Fr. Jacinto Rama Jr, Rev. Fr. John Jonah Orat, and Rev. Fr. Vicente Tupas Jr. respectively.

Ready, set, go! Duaw Kapilya was the hit of the months of May & June 2009. Each Mission Team was assigned at least 13 chapels to visit or a total of 52 chapels to be given the "pastoral thrust" seminars. The teams themselves were a reflection of how it is to grow together in grace, as they planned ways and means by which people will know more about the teachings of the Church, have a deeper faith and love of God as well as how to have a harmonious relationship with family, friends and neighbors.

Different speakers were assigned to talk on the 3 different topics:

1. The Priestly function, which encouraged the people to live a holy life and to be a blessing to others.

2. The Prophetic function, which reminded the people to preach the good news of our salvation and be a living gospel to others by witnessing the gospel values in our lives.

3. The Kingly function, which means leadership by example. "If you want to be first in God's Kingdom put yourself at the last and serve them all" – Learn to be the servant of All.

Those three functions reflect who Jesus Christ is. As Christians we are therefore to emulate him in every way possible. "Growing in grace is about a little child, like Santino," Fr. John shares, "who talks to God in an intimate way, like a friend, like a brother. He has a personal relationship with God due to the example of his parents. Good Christian parents will have good Christian children and together they will grow in the grace of God!"

Bringing the pastoral thrust to every chapel needs conviction and affection of every Mission Group. "Madaling sabihin ngunit mahirap gawin." Many difficulties were encountered along the way such as problems on the budget, transportation, chapel distance, time and weather conditions, and the cooperation of chapel

officers. But as the saying goes, "Thorns matter not, if the rose is on the top (eternal perspective)". Rain or shine, bright path or dark to traverse, it doesn't matter. The mission group never gave up. We knew that we were on the right track with the Lord. "He is our Light and our Salvation. Whenever we go and wherever we are, whom shall we fear?" Moreover, with the grace of the Lord that inspired us, the Mission Team members felt deeply the camaraderie, the bonding, and teamwork in every chapel activity. Moreso, we felt the joy that only God gives to those who serve Him.

In every task that we undertake there's a beginning and an ending. Now almost all the teams are done. After braving the rains, the cold of the night and sometimes very difficult terrain, the enthusiastic missionaries were commensurated by the warm welcome and wholehearted support of the host chapels. They hope that the participants have inculcated the gospel values they heard from the "talks" and the "homilies" in their hearts and can propagate the seed of the pastoral thrust to their families and to their neighborhood. Hence, our Triune God – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be honored and be glorified. Alleluia, Amen! ■

By Sis. Aida G. Santinor and  
Bro. Frank Alaba

## A Charismatic 3-in-1 Celebration

the church ceiling and the ancient artifacts and religious icons displayed in the church museum were such magnificent sights making the place to remember indeed!

Next stop was at the Samboan church. We saw the excavated 10-foot statue of St. Joseph and 5-foot statue of Child Jesus believed to be buried during the world war. As usual, cameras were all over the place capturing photos and videos of the said statues and the plaza's scenic view.

The group proceeded to the very nice resthouse along the beach of Bro. Undo Pura in Ginatilan to relax. There, CCR's spiritual adviser Fr. John Jonah Orat, for his 18th sacerdotal anniversary, was given a surprise program. It was celebrated the way a girl celebrates her debut. Best wishes were given to him as well as candles, flowers and

gifts. It was so emotional on the part of the celebrant as well as so many of us.



*Ginatilan beach*

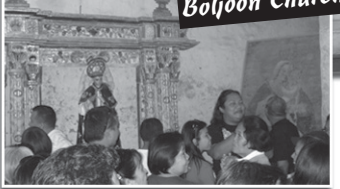


In view of the foregoing, I said to myself that I was blessed that I'm with the CCR, a religious group made by the Lord. I remember the saying of Joseph Addison that goes, "Three grand essentials to happiness in this life are: something to do, something to love, and something to hope for." ■

By **Bro. Boyet Alimurung**



*Boljoon Church*



As the country celebrated Independence Day last June 12, 2009, the Catholic Charismatic Renewal of St. Therese Parish had their pilgrimage, excursion and sacerdotal celebration of its spiritual adviser. The group headed south -- to the Theotokos Shrine in Carcar, Boljoon Heritage Church, and Samboan Church.

At the peaceful Theotokos shrine, the group led by Fr. John Jonah Orat and Fr. Jacinto Rama Jr. met Msgr. Binghay who was overwhelmed with the visit. After enjoying the breathtaking view of the sea from the shrine and taking pictures, the group visited the Boljoon heritage church. Centuries-old paintings on



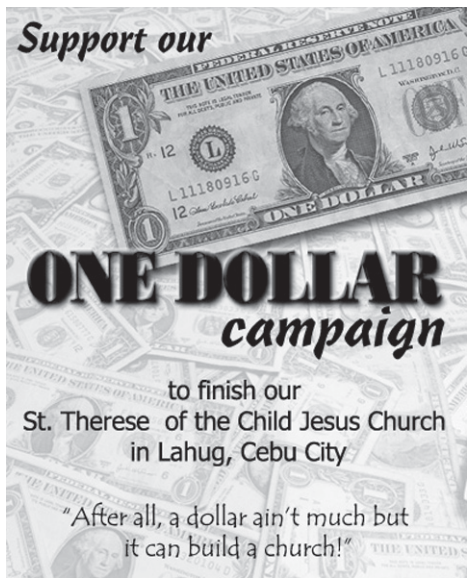
*Theotokos Shrine, Carcar*



*St. Joseph's Grotto, Samboan*

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

Support our



## ONE DOLLAR campaign

to finish our  
St. Therese of the Child Jesus Church  
in Lahug, Cebu City

"After all, a dollar ain't much but  
it can build a church!"

### In Defense of Life Rally

Everyone is invited to join the Pro-Life Rally on July 14, 2009 to be attended by the Cardinal and pro-life Congressmen, students from Catholic schools in Cebu, as well as all concerned pro-life and pro-family advocates. **Defend Life. For love of God.**

## CHURCH SERVICES

### Holy Mass

#### Weekdays:

6:00 am Cebuano  
12:00 mn English (except Saturday)  
6:00 pm English

#### Sundays:

5:30 am Cebuano  
7:00 am English  
9:00 am English  
10:30 am Cebuano (with baptism)  
4:00 pm English  
5:30 pm Cebuano  
7:00 pm Cebuano

### Special Services

Pre-Jordan Seminar Sunday morning  
Pre-Cana Seminar 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday 8:30 am  
Eucharistic Vigil 1st Friday  
Dawn Mass 1st Saturday 4:30 am  
General Bible Study/ 1st, 2nd, & 3rd  
Prayer Meeting Monday, 8 pm  
Healing Mass Last Monday, 8 pm  
Feeding Program Last Sunday  
Bible Study with Friday, 7:30 pm  
Msgr. Dakay

### STP Bulletin Available Online

If you want to receive the monthly STP Bulletin online, send your e-mail address to our Parish Office or to sarahcanete2004@yahoo.com. Salamat.

## FINANCIAL STATUS OF THE CHURCH PROJECT

(As of June 11, 2009)

Estimated project cost ..... P43,000,000.00  
Total cash donations received  
(6/11/09) ..... 16,356,762.41  
**Amount needed to complete  
the construction ..... P26,643,237.60**

Donations can be given to the parish office or deposited at our Chinabank Account No. 279-040901-6. Please make checks payable to St. Therese Parish Foundation, Inc.

Official Receipts will be given.

Do pray **1 Our Father, 1 Hail Mary, 1 Glory be...** each day at 8:00 in the evening for our church construction project.



### St. Therese of the Child Jesus Parish

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**Spiritual adviser:** Fr. John Jonah Orat.

The St. Therese Parish Bulletin is the official monthly publication of St. Therese Parish. It aims to foster unity and love among parishioners by providing schedules of services as well as articles that may upbuild the church through testimonies as well as other stories.

For comments and/or suggestions, please feel free to call the parish office at 231-4380 and look for Jeanna Villarante or Euvy Bascon Bucio during office hours.

