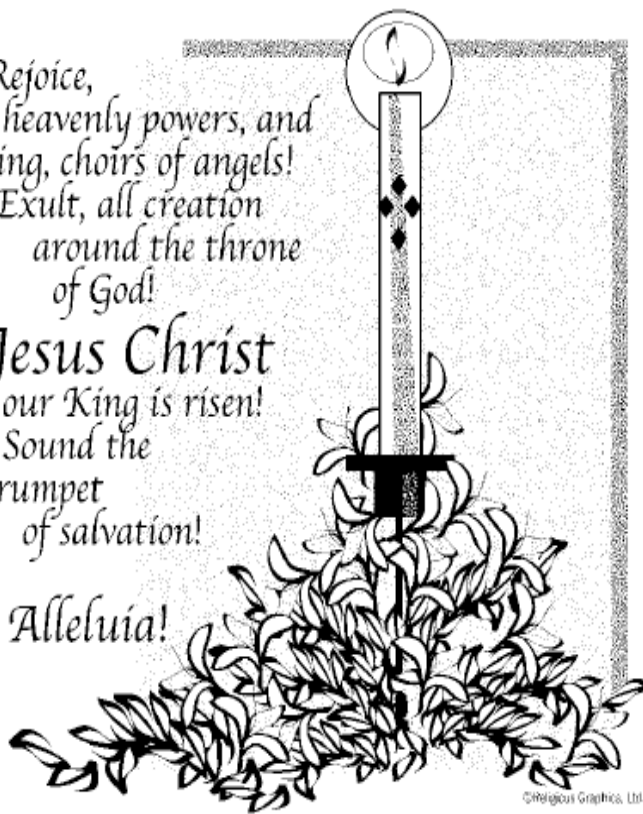


Rejoice,
heavenly powers, and
sing, choirs of angels!
Exult, all creation
around the throne
of God!

Jesus Christ
our King is risen!
Sound the
trumpet
of salvation!

Alleluia!



**24 APRIL 2011
EASTER
SUNDAY**

**The
Resurrection of
Our Lord**

"I know you are looking for Jesus the Crucified, but he is not here. He has been raised, exactly as he promised."

How simply put those words are—too simply, really, for the first revelation of a truth that was to change literally everything in human experience.

Christ died and was buried. By all that was reasonable to expect, by all that human beings knew to be true, that was the end of it.

But it wasn't. Nothing had ended. And because of that, everything had changed. Three days after his death a few of those who believed went to the place where Christ had been buried. They had expected to enter the tomb of Christ, and they had expected to find there what every tomb must hold ... death.

But it was not so. The tomb they found had been broken. It was empty, a hollow, powerless thing. It held no death at all, rather a messenger with a word of life.

"He is not here. He has risen."

And in those words, everything that Christ had promised was seen to be true. A life lived as was his, faithfully, lovingly, is a force so powerful that it can never be fruitless. Such a life can never be wasted. Love cannot be buried. Faithfulness cannot be shut up in a tomb. In the resurrection of Christ, everything has been transformed, everything has been made new.

Each one of us is called to be a witness to the fact that Christ is still alive. We are called by Christ to approach whatever it might be in our lives that seems to be a tomb; to boldly and confidently walk up to the mouth of it, look in, and see it for what it truly is ... hollow, powerless, empty.

In the gospel story, the messenger of life did not stop with telling those few believers that Christ was still alive. Rather, he told them to go out and tell the others what they had seen and heard. Tell the others that they too will meet the risen Christ, that he has gone on to find them as well.

May God bless you with Easter joy during this season of new life and new hearts!

ALLELUIA
ALLELUIA
ALLELUIA

Again our community has joyfully and competently celebrated the beautiful liturgical rituals of Lent, Holy Week and Easter. Through the generous efforts and talents of many people we can say that we have faithfully worshipped, prayed,

and journeyed to Easter. We are the Community of Our Lady of the Philippines Catholic Mission of Montreal. May we truly be an Easter people! Emboldened by our experience of sharing in Jesus Christ's Resurrection, let us go forth and share our Easter Faith. For fifty days we will live the Easter Season. Let us live it fully. We know that Christ is in our hearts. Now is the time to let Christ shine before us--- for all to see !



As we begin our fifty-day celebration of Easter, we would like to acknowledge and thank all of the people who worked so hard to make Holy Week and the whole fifty days of Easter the high point of our liturgical year.

First, our thanks go to the all who attended the Friday *Stations of the Cross* and to the **DIFFERENT MINISTRIES** who hosted and participated in the 5-night '*Pabasa*' and the '*Linis-Simbahan*'. Our special thanks to *Lorie Palisoc and Flor Acurantes* – our enduring '*Marthas*', together with *Mercy Padua, Mimi Tuvida, Elaiza Ventura and Baby Lynn Aracena*. They spend countless hours preparing, executing and maintaining the church environment not only during this most holy season but the whole year round. In addition, we thank all of you who so kindly donated the Flowers, Greens and Plants in honor of your loved ones. Thank you to *Louie San Juan, Francis Panday, Ray Foz, Peping Tolentino, Larry Panado* and the other men for providing the "MAN" power for the various tasks that need their skills. Many thanks to the **MUSIC MINISTERS** of the **Adult, Bagong Himig**, and the **Youth Choirs** who provide us with the very beautiful and inspiring music. Thanks also to *Rocky Unabia* and his **Altar Servers** who carry out their ministry with such grace. Thanks to *Fr. Frank Alvarez, pme* for assisting us in our reflection on Holy Monday & Holy Tuesday. Thank you to this year's "**12 Apostles**" - *Grant Richard Antonio, Bernardo Boloso, Glen Cabradilla, Victor Elamparo, Hermogenes Pavico, Marc Jasper Ruiz, Marijun Alvarez, Regina Ambayec, Jennifer Baldino, Vilma Calooy, Jeannette Galaura, Delia Geral* for representing the community and assisting efficiently in the services. Thanks to *Ohda Foz, Janice Tactaquin and Grace Valenzuela* for mentoring the '**FCMM Senior /Junior Youths and the Cuties**' in their animations. We are most grateful to the valiant **Knights of Columbus** ushers who welcome and assist everyone so cordially and their wholesome smiles during the 'collection'; and to our **Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers** who are truly word and sacrament for us. We thank our Director for Religious Education *Sr. Celia Piala* and her **Catechists and the PSG**, who so faithfully walk the journey with our CLEC students. Kudos to the children who performed beautifully an animation of the GLORIA and other liturgical dances and action. Thanks too to the **Pastoral Council** members and the **Administrators** for the numerous hours they put in. Our liturgies are glorious because of all of you! Finally, we thank **EVERYONE** for your prayers, your weekly financial contributions and special donations. Thank you for celebrating the Holy Days in your spiritual home here at the FCMM. May the Risen Lord bestow on you all the graces and blessings you need as we continue to journey with gusto these great fifty days of rejoicing!



• **HONORING MARY DURING THE MONTH OF MAY**



During the month of May, Catholics traditionally give special attention to the Blessed Virgin Mary. A great way to honor her is by praying the daily Rosary, on your own or in a group. Here at the FCMM, the Rosary is prayed before all the Liturgical services — with these prayers being offered for the intentions of the community.

On Sundays, aside from the Holy Rosary, Novena Prayers to the Virgin Mary are recited, followed by a Floral Offering ("**ALAY**") by children and devotees of the Blessed Virgin Mary... Everyone is invited to participate in the Mayflower Devotion.



❖ **PISTA'Y DAYAT 2010 - (Our Lady of Manaoag Fiesta)**

The FCMM will once again be the venue for this year's celebration of the Feast of Our Lady of The Rosary of Manaoag on **SUNDAY, MAY 8, 2011**. Sponsored by the Pangasinan Association of Quebec Inc., the celebration will start at **11:00 a.m.** with the Recitation of the Novena to Our Lady of Manaoag followed by the Holy Mass. The Mass will be highlighted by a Floral Offering to the Virgin. Come and join us !





Do You Know ? SALUBONG

One of the Easter practices unique to the Philippines and other countries influenced by Spanish conquistadores is the celebration of the salubong. The word **salubong** refers to the act of meeting someone who is arriving. As the word connotes, the celebration is a reenactment of the first meeting of Christ and his mother, Mary.

This is not written in the Bible, but the Filipinos' natural affinity to their mothers tell them that if there is someone to whom Christ will show himself first after his resurrection, it must be to his mother who loved him so much. This explanation is quite reasonable. St. Ignatius himself seems to have the same logic in his Spiritual Exercises (SpEx) when he highlighted this event by making it first among the contemplations of the Fourth week of the Exercises. He writes, "rising again, he appeared in body and soul to his Blessed Mother" (SpEx [219]). He explained that, "Although this is not stated in Scripture, still it is considered as understood by the statement that he appeared to many others." (SpEx [299]).

*Participating therefore in the **salubong**, is an actual contemplation of the consoling effect of Christ's Resurrection. And it is true, the grace that people get from this celebration is nothing but exuding joy - perhaps sharing the same joy that Mary had experienced when Christ appeared to him. In this celebration, one feels and experiences that Jesus is indeed alive and he is in our midst!*

"The celebration starts at dawn just before sunrise, with two different processions that start at different points. The first one consists of the icon of the risen Christ carried by men while the second consist of the Blessed Virgin Mary (covered with a black veil to denote her mourning) carried by women.

Precisely at first light of sunrise, the two processions meet at the church courtyard from different routes. At the center of the courtyard, the icon of Jesus is faced with the icon of Mary under a canopy (Palo). At this point, the ceremony of the meeting begins with the choir singing alleluias as Mary approaches Jesus. Under the canopy, an angel descends on top of the head of Mary and lifts the black veil from her, exposing a happy mother who is seeing her son.

Uproar of Jubilations is heard from the crowd and confetti fills the air and the choirs would hail the Risen Christ and sing songs of joy. Then the "Dawn Mass" is said to the crowd at the courtyard. At the end of the mass, various activities, like a fiesta begins, to celebrate the victory of our resurrection."



The **SANCTUARY LAMP** this week is burning for the **GLORY OF GOD** and **AS THANKSGIVING** offered by **TONY and NORMA FOZ**.



Our regular Hospitality Corner will be back on Sunday, May 1st. Thanks !

From The Editor