



YEAR OF FAITH 2013

20 January 2013 PHILIPPINE FEAST OF THE HOLY CHILD (SEÑOR SANTO NIÑO)

It is said that on the occasion of the baptism of Queen Juana of Cebu in 1521, Ferdinand Magellan gave her an image of the Child Jesus. That marked the beginning of the celebration of the Feast of Santo Niño. From there, it spread throughout the Philippines and became so dear to us that on the request of Filipino bishops, the Vatican granted special permission to the Philippines to celebrate this feast nationwide on the third Sunday of January.



During the feast of the Santo Niño we focus our celebration on the childhood of Jesus. It is the celebration of the childlike qualities of Jesus—such as his being simple, loving, humble, trusting, and open to surprises. Because the child is all these, he is also joyful and lovable. Jesus made these qualities as preconditions for membership in his Kingdom.

Talking about trust for example, just picture a father and child crossing a very busy street. As long as the child is holding the hand of his father, he feels absolutely safe for he is confident that his father would not allow any harm to befall him. This is the kind of trust we are to have in God.

Or let us take the quality of simplicity. How often have we heard the story of a parent—the father or mother—telling the child that if visitor so and so comes, to tell him that his father or mother is not in. When that visitor arrives looking for say, the father, the child would tell him: “My father has just told me to inform you now that he is not at home.” How amazing is the lack of malice in the child!

As to being open to surprises, just picture a child when he opens a gift. When he sees a gift he likes, he jumps up and down in joy. Should we not as adult Christians also be open to surprises from the Lord? This because how God deals with us is not announced beforehand.

Like any child, the Child Jesus went through the various growing-up experiences of children. He was *obedient to them [Mary and Joseph]* as St. Luke tells us. From this, we can infer that he helped in the household chores of his mother and in the carpentry shop of his foster father. It need not be said that he was also with them at prayer.

On his parents’ part, they gave him the proper love, care, respect and attention. Thus he continued to be simple, loving, humble, trusting, and open to surprises. And because of these qualities, he became not only lovable but also a model Child. He should not only be the model for every child but also the model of parents for their children to become.

Thus parents should bring up their children in such a way that they will grow up as God wants them to be. For after all they are only loaned to them by God. Among others, parents should work towards the development of the childlike qualities we have mentioned above. A precondition for this is to have these qualities in themselves for “one cannot give what he does not have.”

Finally, they should see to it that their children do not lose these qualities. Rather they should assist them in nurturing these to maturity! For such are those who “take part in the Kingdom!” This happens when the children are given by their parents the proper love, care, respect and attention as they grow up.

For our part as adults, we should also continue to nurture these childlike qualities if we still have them or to strive to re-acquire them if we have lost them. For as Jesus said, **Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.** Then we, together with our children, will be able to “take part in the Kingdom.”



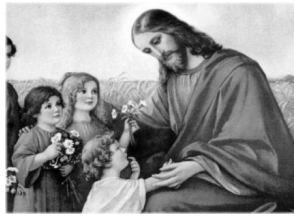
As we celebrate the Feast of the Santo Niño, let us all do our best to give our children the love, attention, care and respect that are their due so that they will be able to pattern their lives after the Santo Niño. Then the Kingdom will be theirs. As we pray it will be ours, too.

Fr. Alfonso E. Cariño, OMI



BLESSED BE THE MOST HOLY NAME OF JESUS !

*Lord, may we honor the Holy Name of Jesus,
enjoy His friendship in this life,
and be filled with eternal joy in His Kingdom,
where He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.*



UNLESS YOU BECOME A CHILD

By FR. BEL R. SAN LUIS, SVD

Once a mother was entertaining a priest in their house. She bragged how she instilled on her children the love of reading the Bible. She called her five-year-old daughter. "Dear, would you get the book that we all love so much to read?"

The child ran to the parents' bedroom and forthwith came bringing a book. "Here it is, Mama," the young girl said. When the mother saw it, she blushed with embarrassment. It was the catalogue of fashion wear! From the child's observation, that's the book her mother loved so much to read.

The story shows how naturally honest and innocent children are. This Sunday, we focus our attention on children as we celebrate the feast of the Sto. Niño (Holy Child) in the Philippines. Immensely popular among Filipinos, rich and poor, young and old alike maintain a strong, almost fanatical, devotion to the Holy Child. Fiestas and processions are held in His honor. The Sto. Niño is dressed as a Metro Aide, a fireman, or a policeman (hopefully not with a hand extended asking for tong!). There is also a Sto. Niño clothed in all-green attire, representing the green US dollar bill Filipinos want to have! While this is all fine for our piety – and our tourism industry! – let not our devotion remain only on the level of the ritual and external. Just as the Child Jesus grew up and mature, our faith should likewise grow.

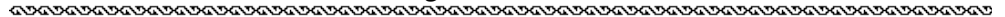
For instance, we read in the gospel the Lord saying: "Unless you become like little children, you cannot enter the kingdom of heaven" (Mk 10,15). What the Lord wants us to do is live those traits and characteristics that a child have. The first human quality which makes the child the symbol of a citizen of the kingdom is his HONESTY and sincerity. "Hindi plastic," we would say. The story cited at the beginning illustrates this. A second characteristic of a child is his HUMILITY. "Whoever humbles himself as this little child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven," Jesus said as He made a child stand in the middle of His disciples. Humility is instinctive in a child. He does not wish to push himself to the limelight, but would rather fade in the background. As he grows older, more often it's his parents who coax him to shine, excel, and compete.

A third characteristic of a child is his trust and DEPENDENCE. He is perfectly contented with his utter dependency on those who love and care for him. This is shown when a child puts his hand trustingly in the big hands of his parents when crossing a street.

The absence of dependence among adults is when a man has no more time for God and prayer. Work and money have taken his place. This is also shown when he believes that he can do everything all by himself without recognizing God's role in his achievements.

The feast of Sto. Niño challenges us to see things in the way God sees them, to value service rather than fame and glory, humility rather than power. To be, by choice, a child.

And the trade-off? No less than God's kingdom.



"To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit."

- 1 Corinthians

12:7

St. Paul tells us that God has blessed each of us for a reason. How has God blessed you? Are you using your gifts according to God's plan, helping to do His work here on earth? Remember that if you don't do the work God planned for you, no one else can do it.

Your Offerings for the



week ending January 13, 2013 totaled \$ 1,666. 50

Thank you for your

continuing generosity!

God bless you always!!!

WHAT IS A REASONABLE WEEKLY DONATION TO

One suggestion that we make is to consider donating equivalent of your "First Hour of Work" each week



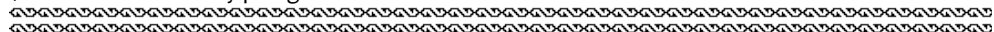
MY PARISH?

the to the Lord.



YEAR 2013 ENVELOPES – Year 2013 Envelope Boxes are still available from the Bookkeeper, Mr. Carmelo Villanueva and other FCMM Administrators after each Mass or at the FCMM Office.

NOTE :::We encourage you to follow the minimum donation of \$ 5.00 every Sunday and \$10.00 for the monthly pledge.



YOUR NEWS BULLETIN

We are always finding ways to refresh, revamp and revitalize the FCMM NEWS BULLETIN. We are alive and growing and it is ever more important now to make sure that we communicate best through the lines of common experience; the Good News is heard; and others are invited to join our vibrant community. We are committed to provide you with important information about our ministries and programs and help you find out when things are happening, and whom to contact, as well as give general information.

We thank all those who paid for advertisements at the back of this publication. You make our bulletin possible. Thank you for your support. And to our readers, please continue to patronize the advertised products or services our members offer you.

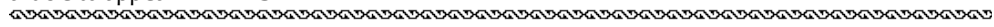
It would be good to mention that you read their ads in our Sunday Bulletin.

All articles, announcements and features you wish to be printed can be submitted to the FCMM Office a week in advance or e-mail the editor at jhnaracena@gmail.com

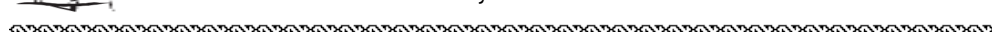
E-mailed articles should be done in Microsoft Word or Publisher. If you submit an article via e-mail, you should receive a confirmation e-mail. If you do not receive such confirmation, please contact the FCMM Office by phone(514-387 5292)

Any article can run for three consecutive weeks or two consecutive weeks, take a week break, then another two consecutive weeks. If the article is revised and resubmitted, it will be treated as a new article. All articles are subject to editing and will be published at the discretion of the Pastor. No guarantees can be made as to the size or placement of the article.

Articles are normally due the Wednesday (4:30 p.m.) before the Sunday that you want your article to appear. THANKS !



The **SANCTUARY LAMP** this week is burning for the **GLORY OF GOD** and **AS THANKSGIVING** offered by **MERCY PADUA**.



- ❖ To the **new arrivals** from the Philippines;
- ❖ To the **visitors** from other places;
- ❖ To those who have **been away and are back**;

❖ We join in the **Thanksgiving Intentions** of:

THE PATAG-MASAYA FAMILY, ARACELI AQUINO, ANALIZA DIMACULANGAN, ROSIE & DENNIS DE LOS REYES, JOHN NICHOLAS MEJIA, MR. & MRS. EFREN OLAES, OLIVER MARTINEZ, ERMINA DE LA CRUZ, MR. & MRS. CARMELO REYES BRILLANTES and FAMILY

❖ Please join in lifting up the Special Intentions of :

MINERVA KAHULUGAN

❖ Your prayers are humbly requested for all the sick and suffering members of our Mission community and their loved ones especially:

FR. ROGER BEGIN pme, SR. ELIZABETH RELACION mic, SR. LUZ PADERANGA op, ALFREDO PADERANGA SR., FE PADERANGA, ANNIE MOJADO, ELECITA ARACENA, BALDOMERA AMBAYEC, JULIA PERLAS-TAN, JOSEFINA BANGALAN, DAWN DELA PAZ, JOSIE LIMLENGCO, CARMENCITA TRIVINIO, BERNARDINO FERNANDO, IKE OSDON, TERESITA JALEA, WILFREDO DARIO, ANTONIO FOZ, JOHN NICHOLAS MEJIA, TERESITA PLAMENCO, OLIVER MARTINEZ, PATRIA FEDERIZO. May God bring them healing and peace.

❖ Remember also all of our **deceased relatives and friends**, especially: **ANTONIO BUTLIG, FR. LUCIEN MULHERN ofm, MABEL BENNETT, GENEROSA AQUINO, FRUCTUOSA VELASQUEZ, PIO & MARCIANA MANIGAO, CLAUDE JAMIESON, ZENaida ARAZA, JOVITO FLORES JR., ROBERTO FLORES, BUENA FLORES, CARMELO PAVICO, ROSARIO PASCUAL, FAUSTINO PASCUAL, PABLO QUEJA, HONORATA MANGUBAT, ADORACION PADUA LLARENAS, AVELINO GUILLERMO, BIBIANA SERASPE, RUBEN MANIO JR., MAURA LIM, ROBERT ELLASUS, VIRGINIA MANCE, ANTONINA GONZALES, ALEXANDER SANTOS JR., JOVAN SPASIC, ALICIA TAJANLANGIT, CESAR OCAMPO, EMILY VILLAFANIA, AIDA VILLANUEVA, ALL SOULS IN**



PURGATORY and those dying everyday in battles and calamities around the world. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

MASS INTENTIONS

Do you have a deceased relative for whom you wish all the Grace of God; or perhaps a dear friend who could use a bit of divine assistance in their lives, or simply if you have reason to offer thanksgiving for a new-born son, daughter, God-child, niece, nephew or the like? Well the Sacrifice of the Mass contains within it all of the graces of God and all that man can do to worship Him. Stop by or call the FCMM office (514 – 387 5292) during normal business hours and ask how you can have a Mass offered for your intention.

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