



We know that God is tremendously generous, but sometimes His generosity bewilders us as we realize that His priorities may be so different

from ours. Such is the warning that comes to us from today's First Reading and the Gospel. God has, indeed, His own way of evaluating our performance and of rewarding it. If sometimes He seems to show a special attention for "the last and the least," it is not for us to question His behavior. We should, rather, learn from Him to show a special love for the weak, "the losers," and the outcasts. God's generosity toward them should be our inspiration rather than the cause of our envy. Let the Eucharist encourage us to count our blessings. Let us not be devoured by jealousy at the sight of the blessings bestowed on others. The good that we receive from the Lord is always much more than what we deserve.

A PRAYER TO BE GRATEFUL
Help me, Lord, overcome the envy that makes me sad over my neighbor's success or good fortune. Remove from me this web of bitterness that poisons my heart and mind and leads me to complain about the blessings you have granted to those I should consider my brothers and sisters in Christ. Set me free from the moral blindness of envy and arrogance that lead me to question your wisdom and freedom in the distribution of your gifts or rewards. Remind me that in every case, you know best. Teach me to rejoice wholeheartedly with those who rejoice because of your blessings, for this is what real Christian love and solidarity means. Teach me to count my blessings – the numberless blessings you have showered and still shower on me, day after day, minute after minute. Teach me to rejoice in them with a grateful heart as Mary and all the saints did, knowing that all the good things in life are gifts that come from you. Teach me to use these gifts well, the very best way I can, with wisdom and creativity, for that will be my clearest thanks to you, the source of all my blessings, the source of all my joy.



LEARNING FROM GOD'S MAGNANIMITY

The "workers of the first hour" had been praiseworthy, available, hardworking, laboring the whole day in the

*scorching heat. Really, they had done their best to earn their wages. But their complaining at paytime tarnishes their image, for it reveals their weakness: **they are envious**. In spite of all our efforts to sympathize with their concern for a fair retribution, the truth of the matter is that **they do not know how to appreciate the magnanimity of their Master**. They feel envious when they see that others are offered a better deal. **Their jealousy clouds their vision**. They would be right if everything in life were to be reduced to proportional retribution – so much compensation for so much done or produced. But if this were the only rule in life, no one would have time and attention (and money!) for those who do not "produce" – the weak, the sick, the disabled, the babies, the aged **Even the strongest among us would have had a very short life**. For all of us, in fact, there was a time when we were weak, when we did not "produce" anything at all, and were totally dependent on the generous love of our parents and other people.*

***We live on borrowed life! We all are the fruit of God's generosity, not of God's retribution.** And He keeps being generous with us, even when we positively deserve His just punishment. Why react negatively, then,*

*at His "exceptional generosity" toward some of our brothers and sisters when we know that everyone will have to account in proportion to what one has received? Why be saddened by God's generosity toward others, and forget that we too, and more than once, have been the beneficiaries of His wonderful liberality? **Envy is a terrible woodworm. It devours us from within**. If left unchecked, **it can destroy so much good in us and around us**. Envy over the good fortune or achievements of our neighbor is like a plague that makes everybody's life miserable. Instead, **we should learn from God, who is ever so generous, ever so good**. We should learn to rejoice at His liberality toward all His creatures. We should learn to imitate Him, in our little way, by using His very gifts to do good to others.*

Today, on the Third Sunday of September, one of the Philippines' major fiesta traditions,



Our Lady of Peñafrancia

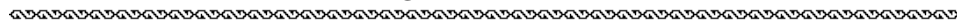
the Feast of Our Lady of Peñafrancia, is underway in Naga City. The nine-day series of devotions associated with this fiesta forms part of the cultural and religious traditions of the Bicol region. Our Lady of Peñafrancia, is the Patroness of the region and this fiesta will draw thousands of people to the fiesta masses today. Since the Spanish missionaries began their evangelizing work in the Bicol region, the people of Bicol have had a reputation for being faithful in their religious commitments. Today's Bicolanos are faithful in keeping this traditional devotion to their Ina Maria – Mama Mary. Thousands have made their annual pilgrimage to Naga City to take part in the nine days of religious devotions and social activities.

The first event of the celebration took place nine days ago. Known as the 'traslacion', the ritual involves a procession held on the second Friday of September in which barefooted voyadores bear the image of Our Lady of Peñafrancia and the Divino Rostro (an artist's rendering of the face of Jesus) from the Peñafrancia Shrine to the Metropolitan Cathedral. The 'traslacion' procession marks the call to celebrate nine days of prayer leading to the annual feast. Finally, at evening on the night before the feast, a three-mile fluvial procession is held to return the image of Our Lady of Peñafrancia via the Naga River, to the Minor Basilica of Our Lady of Peñafrancia. Thousands of residents and visitors line the riverbanks with lighted candles to watch and to pray as the image of Our Lady floats by on a pagoda towed by a flotilla of small boats. Bicolanos call Our Lady of Peñafrancia "Ina," the word for "mother" in Bicolano. They say that the Virgin Mother watches over them and protects them from all harm, especially from the floods and tropical storms that are always a threat to their lives, homes, and farms. Safety in times of life's storms and trials appears to be the symbolism of the "Ina" borne by a flotilla calm waters. It is good to remember that beyond the Bicol region, Filipino Catholics generally see Mary as their mother in faith. They believe that because of her faith in God, her unqualified "yes" to the Father, Jesus the Savior the world was born.



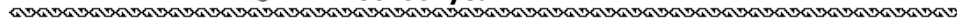
Greetings to all Bicolanos and Devotees as they celebrate the Feast of our Lady of Peñafrancia. May they all be drawn closer to Jesus, the Son of Mary and the Son of God.

VIVA LA VIRGEN DE PEÑAFRANCIA !



Welcome!

**to all our CLEC students and their parents !
May you have a fruitful and enjoyable school year !**



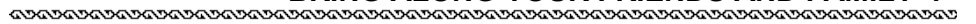
YOU ARE ALL CORDIALLY INVITED TO THE FESTIVITIES IN HONOR OF

SAN LORENZO RUIZ:



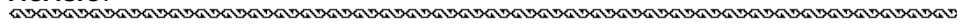
- ❖ **K of C San Lorenzo Ruiz Assembly Dinner- Dance**
 - **Saturday (Sept.24 @ 6:00 p.m.)**
 - **Tickets available from Mr. Jun Diaz**
- ❖ **Fiesta Mass – Sunday, Sept. 25 @ 3:00 p.m. followed by an Out-door Procession and Fellowship**
(NOTE: No 11:30 a.m. Mass)

BRING ALONG YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY !



The SANCTUARY LAMP this week is burning for the **GLORY OF GOD** and **AS THANKSGIVING** offered by **CORA, LITA, MAYETTE & JAMES**

ACASIO.



"You too go into my vineyard." - Matthew 20:4

In today's Gospel we see how much Our Lord wants us to be co-workers with Him. Just as the Master went out repeatedly to invite more workers into his vineyard, so Our Lord

continually calls us to participate more fully in the Church. Life on earth is short. How many times does God have to call us, before it is too late? Even the workers who entered the vineyard late were paid well. Do we want to be left standing alone in the marketplace for all eternity because we failed to fulfill our jobs as Christian stewards?

Your Offerings for the week ending September 11, 2011 totaled \$ 1, 419.00

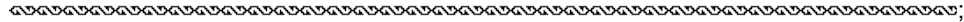


**Thank you for your continuing generosity !
God bless you always!!!**



Many of us have been away during the summer months. The parish has been operating each week during the Summer. Our expenses continue to escalate. Parishioners who have missed regular support of our parish during the summer are invited to "make up" donations for their missed Sundays.

Your continued and regular support enables the FCMM to continue to "sparkle".



- ❖ 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:

RYAN AMBAYEC SAMPANA, REGINA AMBAYEC, TESS AMBAYEC, DOMINADOR AMBAYEC SR., PET & WILLIE and FAMILY, THE ANTONIO FAMILY, FILOMENA & FELIMON TADEO.

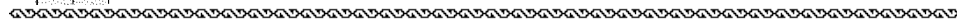
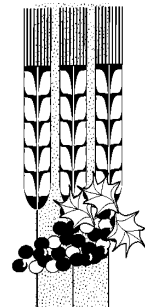


- ❖ Your prayers are humbly requested for all the **Sick and Suffering members** of our Mission community and their loved ones especially: FR. ROGER BEGIN pme, SR. ELIZABETH RELACION mic, ELECITA ARACENA, ALFREDO PADERANGA SR., FE PADERANGA, JESS ALCAIDE, EDITH VALENZUELA, WILFREDO QUIRAPAS, ANNIE MOJADO, JULIA PERLAS-TAN, JOSEFINA BANGALAN, NORA ESPIRITU, JOSIE LIMLENGCO, DAWN DELA PAZ, CARMENCITA TRIVINIO, WILFREDO DARIO, BALDOMERA AMBAYEC, ANITA CACHERO, MERCY BAUTISTA, LORENZO CERRADO, LEONILA DELA COSTA ROSALES. May God bring them healing and peace.

❖ Remember also all of our **Deceased Relatives and Friends**, especially DAMIANA BENERASCO, ROMAN BELDAD, LUIS FOZ BENITEZ, IGNACIO VALLE, CIPRIANO BACOSA, EMILIO AGUILA, PRISCILLA DIWA, PESCASIO DIWA SR., JOEL AGUILA, 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

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.



Thank you, Oh Father, for having revealed to me your Son and for having made me enter in his inheritance, in his vineyard. You have rendered me a branch, have rendered me a grape: now I only need to remain in Him, in you and allow myself to be taken as good fruit, ripe, to be placed in the press. Yes, Lord, I know it: this is the way, I am not afraid, because you are with me. I know that the only way to happiness is the gift of self to you, the gift to the brothers. That I may be a branch, that I may be good grapes, to be squeezed, as you wish! Amen.

