VOLUME 4 ISSUE 4 APRIL 2012

THE TRIUMPH OF EASTER

By Chato Zabarte

Easter comes to us in ordinary ways: no carols and lanterns, no huge trees, trimmings and colorful lights, no extravagant gifts and sweet sentiments. Yet, from swaddling clothes to loincloth, from the manger to the cross, from birth to death, the silent and holy night broke into the dawn of the fulfillment of God's salvific promise in the Risen Christ.

The triumph of Easter is anchored on the events that happened after Christ breathed his last on the cross. His soul separated from His dead body to signify the end of His life on earth as human, but on the same body, His soul reunited with His Divinity – the Word in the beginning. And He accomplished the last part of His messianic mission – He descended into hell and brought with Him the Gospel message of salvation: He Who is the Author of Life has power over death, as He delivered the souls of the just and holy who went before Him. *CCC, Art. 15, pp 155-162*

On the first Easter Sunday, there was guilt, grief, fear and doubt that Christ had really resurrected on the third day. The burden of proof was on Christ. He gave a crash course on Scriptures to two men down the road to Emmaus and re-enacted the breaking of bread. He showed His disciples His wounds upon entering the room through closed doors. He caught fish, cooked breakfast and ate with them on the shores of Galilee. Then, after He vanished from their sight, they recognized Him finally – it is the Lord!

The earthly body of Christ was "incorruptible" (Acts 2:27) as He is the Holy One. God raised it and transfigured it to reveal to us what awaits us at the end of our pilgrimage on earth. When someone dies, tears of sorrow blur our vision because our loss is permanent. Then, these become tears of selfishness or even anger with the one who died as we grieve about the insurmountable consequences of the loss, like having to take care of unresolved issues. Yet, as tears are natural manifestations of our grief, so too, can these be tears of joy at the thought that our dearly departed is already in the presence of God.

To know Christ is to have seen Him, to experience Him resurrected and alive. Let not our tears blur our vision of faith lest we miss seeing Christ walking about in the Liturgies of the Word and the Eucharist, or in our daily lives in the persons of our family, friends, officemates or people we may not know but who, nevertheless, need our charitable acts.

I have seen the Risen Lord! No, I always see the Risen Lord! Christ is truly risen!

Home for the Zabartes is a farm in Tuy, Batangas where Chato and husband, Chito, raise the organic lettuce served in the coffee shop & salad bar they manage within the farm along with a newly opened spa.



Xñéóôüò AvÝóôç! – Christos Anesti! Greek for Christ is risen!
Aëçèbò AvÝóôç! – Aleithos Anesti! Greek for Truly He is risen!

These are the oldest Paschal greetings exchanged during Easter Season. A person greets another with, "Christos Anesti!" to which the other replies, "Aleithos Anesti!"

Preferred by Orthodox Christians, some Catholics and Protestants to Happy Easter, which traces its origins to a pagan goddess of spring and rebirth, *Eostre (a.k.a. Eastre, Eastra, Eastur, etc.)*. These two greetings are deemed more faithful to the Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord, the greatest Sunday in Christian history.



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CHRIST'S RESURRECTION IN OUR LIFE

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PARISH PRIEST



"The story of Easter is the story of God's wonderful window of divine surprise." (Carl Knudsen)

I got a big surprise on Easter Monday when an old acquaintance came for a visit with his whole family (with several apos in tow). The last time we saw each other was during my misa cantada 22 years ago! Both he and his wife, now, gray-haired, were aglow with reminiscences of their contact with many Salesians of past years, including myself, when I used to handle their son as a member of the KOA. My friend narrated to me something inspiring: his near-fatal accident in 2000 when he miraculously survived a head-on collision in Quezon. At the moment of the crash, he thought he would never survive but until now, he still enjoys good health with only a damaged eye and a little limp. But the greatest "miracle" for him is his renewed faith in God and the daily admiration and gratitude for everything that is good in life.

Now that Lent and the Holy Week have concluded, we are basking in the glory of Easter. This most important period in our Christian calendar centers on the risen Jesus

and His triumph over sin and death. Seen from Easter's perspective, my friend's "death to life" experience is but a validation of the "paschal experience", eminently applied to Christ. He had to suffer grievously and suffer most cruelly. Not because that was what He really wanted or that He was simply enamored by suffering. The real passion of Jesus was His complete submission to the Father which enabled Him to totally give everything, including his own life. And God the Father lovingly accepted the selfoffering of His Son. With equal dedication and love, the Father now bestows everything on Jesus, complete dominion and power over everything. That's why Jesus has to rise from the dead, to receive once again the fullness of the divine power and glory He enjoyed with the Father. And this is what we call the resurrection.

From death to life, from suffering to glory, from sinfulness to the beauty of grace, from an ordinary human life to a divinely-inspired existence - these are what we are called to enjoy, thanks to the Resurrection of Jesus.

— Fr. Ting Miciano, SDB



by Mark Philip Ragos, KOA Animator

The Paschal Triduum is one of the celebrations, most awaited by the KOA (Knights of the Altar – boys and young men ages 9 to 25 who assist the celebrant during Masses) – because this is when as many as 18 members can participate together in each of the Eucharistic celebrations in the Triduum.

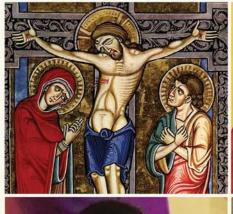
However, it is also a time of tension because the KOA's schedule of activities can be quite hectic. I will not elaborate on the rites that happen during the Paschal Triduum, as these were already discussed in the previous issue (Celebrating Holy Week the Holy Way by Frances Solinap, Simbahay, March 2012). Instead, I would like to share what happens "behind-the-scenes."

From Holy Thursday to Holy Saturday, the KOA

practice all morning, after which we clean the things we will use for the celebration: processional candleholders and crucifix, thuribles and incense boat. Then, after some rest and a quick shower, we assemble in the Church ahead of time for the day's celebration, and the "show" begins. After all our efforts have paid off, immediately after the *Salubong*, we get together to eat as a group or if there is a generous "sponsor" like last year, we even have sleepovers the night after the Triduum celebrations.

I think as KOA, we have found ways to spend a more meaningful Holy Week celebration and we did not find these in the beach or in the mall, but in the Church and in places where people remember the most significant act of our Lord, saving us from sin and evil.

A PASCHAL TRIDUUM RECOLLECTION by Fr. Ting Miciano, SDB













"CHRIST HAS DIED" Fr. Francis Gustilo, SDB

Passion for God

The Passion narrative according to the Gospel of St. John presents so many enigmas and ironies that can totally shake our faith as well as uplift it. Starting with the episode in the garden of Gethsemane, in John's Gospel unlike in the Synoptics*, Jesus did not undergo agony but rather freely and with full determination surrendered Himself to His betraver and the soldiers. His declaration that, "I AM HE whom they are looking for", was a clear admission of His divinity, at the same time His identification with sinful humanity. He was the good shepherd till the end, preferring to offer His life instead of that of His sheep. During His trials with Annas and Pilate, He reversed roles, from being the accused to being the accuser and judge of His tormentors. Against the indecision of Pilate, Jesus showed a steady resolve to reveal the Truth - none other than Himself. In the end, even the weak Pilate had to admit to all the Jews that Jesus, the Nazarene, is the King of the Jews. In Calvary, his mother and the beloved disciple stood for all who would be genuine believers. It is to them that he would breathe his last, thus offering to believers eternal life. In the dying Jesus on the cross, we will forever witness the power of the love of God for man, who up to the very end will offer His life for those who will open their hearts to God.

"CHRIST IS RISEN"
Bishop Teodoro Bacani, DD

The Newness of Life

The death and resurrection of Jesus must always go together. Death without the resurrection will never be good news and life-giving. Again, in the resurrection of Jesus, we find the greatest controversy and irony - that for such a fundamental tenet of our religion, no proof is available. There were no human witnesses to the resurrection. The only witnesses were the empty tomb and the burial cloths! These just tell us that "to understand" the resurrection, faith is all that is needed. The life of the resurrected Jesus, though He bears the same earthly body, is totally different. Now, His life is the life of God, fully possessed by the Spirit. Signs of this new existence are subtlety, agility and determinism. Jesus must rise from the dead because all His life, He kept nothing for Himself but completely gave everything to the Father. He obeyed unto death. And so, the Father's response is also total. He gave back everything to the Son who now enjoys the fullness of life. We share in the fullness of this life through Baptism and the Eucharist and we are challenged to witness to the resurrection by steadfast faith and good works.

"CHRIST WILL COME AGAIN"
Archbishop Luis Antonio Tagle, DD

The Presence of Christ is the Triumph of Love

We are living in new times. The challenge of the Holy Father to all Christians is a call for renewal of faith and new forms of faith expressions. Faith and truth suffer the greatest threat and challenge today. The ascension and the return of Jesus give us the answers in these challenging times. Before Jesus will come again, He has to ascend to heaven, which doesn't mean He has left us. Jesus' ascension to heaven means His return to the realm of the Father who has given Him absolute power and dominion over all. And because God is in all, Jesus, now that He has "gone back to the Father", is ever more present with us. This is a perennial lesson for us, the more we go to God, the more we become present to our brothers and sisters. Once again, we see a paradox: the more He goes away, the more He is present. His going away is His coming back! What's more, He offers His very experience to us. By His resurrection and ascension, He has opened a path for human beings to also enter into the very mystery of God in heaven. When Jesus left, the disciples rejoiced, which is but an indication of their conviction of His new presence, more powerful and abiding than before. And His coming back is longed for, "Come Lord Jesus", because it is the answer to all of mankind's ills and sufferings. That He sits at the right hand of the Father and will return in judgment are, again, moments of joy rather than of fear. For in the coming back of Christ, He will establish the eternal reign of God, a reign of love for all. Truly, in the ascension and coming again of Jesus, the triumph of love will be the last word in human history!

^{*}Synoptics The gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke are referred to specifically as the Synoptic Gospels because they include many of the same stories, often in the same sequence, and similar wording

SUNDAY MASS REFLECTIONS

Simbahay features the Sunday Mass Readings' themes from Fr. Sal Putzu's "Exploring God's Word".

These themes are part of a systematic approach to study and have a good knowledge of the Biblical passages which will be used in the coming Sunday Masses and to relate these readings to our lives.

Visit www.sjbmakati.com for more detailed excerpts of the study notes for each week.

Listen to Fr. Salvatore Putzu, SDB (General Manager and Editor, Word and Life) at Bisperas sa Veritas 846 AM, 5pm Saturday.



2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER (B)

Feast of Christ, King of Divine Mercy April 15, 2012 Readings

- *Acts 4:32-35 Exemplary life of the early Christian community
- *1 Jn 5:1-6 Belief in Christ and keeping God's commandments are the signs of real discipleship
- *Jn 20:19-31 The Risen Christ gives the Holy Spirit to his Apostles and confirms the faith of Thomas

Theme: CONVINCING PROOFS OF THE RESURRECTION

In his first appearances to his disciples, Jesus gave them numerous signs and proofs of his resurrection: his visible apparitions, his invitations to touch his body, and especially his wounds. And all this, in order to strengthen their faith and increase their joy.

But those signs were convincing only for those who could actually see, hear, and touch him. For those, like Thomas, who did not enjoy such privileges, the simple report was not enough. It was not sufficient for Thomas. Neither is it sufficient nowadays when people are more than ever eager for proofs. More is needed to help people become convinced that Christ truly is risen. This "more" are the faith and the witness of those who already believe.



3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER (B)

April 22, 2012 Readings

- *Acts 3:13-15.17-19 Peter proclaims the power and glory of Christ who had been rejected by the religious authorities.
- *1 Jn 2:1-5 Jesus is the expiation for our sins, and expects us to keep God's commandments.
- *Lk 24:35-48 Jesus appears to the Eleven and enlightens them about his destiny and mission.

Theme: JESUS CHRIST, THE HEART AND SOUL OF THE SCRIPTURES

Although Jesus had forewarned his disciples about what awaited him in Jerusalem, they just could not accept the idea that such a good Teacher would suffer a violent death. As to the hint that he would also rise from the dead, they simply were not able to understand what such an expression could mean. (See Mk 9:10.) That is why, when the first part of the prophecy came true, their faith was badly shaken and they found themselves confused and uncertain as to their own future.

After his resurrection, with immense patience, the Lord explained to them that both his death and resurrection were complementary aspects of a single saving event, and that both of them had already been foretold in *the Scriptures*. All that had happened to him was in fulfillment of God's plan to save mankind through His Son's death and resurrection - a plan that was "scripted" in the Bible for all

generations to know and be enlightened by. This is a fundamental truth which we should never lose sight of.



4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER (B)

Good Shepherd Sunday / World Day of Prayer for Priestly and Religious Vocations

April 29, 2012 Readings

- *Acts 4:8-12 Peter proclaims that Jesus is the only savior of the world.
- *1 Jn 3:1-2 We are called and are God's children.
- *Jn 10:11-18 Jesus declares himself to be the "Good Shepherd" who lays down his life for his sheep.

Theme: JUNIOR SHEPHERDS MOLDED AFTER THE GOOD SHEPHERD

The image of Jesus as the "Good Shepherd" is one of the most lovable. This was also the image used by the early Christians to portray Jesus' love for them. All Jews knew that a good shepherd is one who knows and loves his sheep, guides them to good pastures and fresh waters, and protects them from all dangers. Jesus brought this picture to a heroic degree when he stated that he was the "Good Shepherd" who would give his life for his sheep. (See v. 15 in today's Gospel passage.) And so he did.

He still remains the "Senior Good Shepherd" of all human beings, but he also wants to share his mission with many "junior good shepherds," chosen from among his own flock, to be the visible signs and instruments of his selfless shepherding

It is our duty to accept these "junior shepherds" with faith, love, and gratitude. We should also support them, and pray that many more may respond with generous faithfulness to the call of the Senior Good

Shepherd. In that way, the Church of God will constantly enjoy the care of loving "junior shepherds."



5[™] SUNDAY OF EASTER (B)

May 6, 2012 Readings

- *Acts 9:26-3 Saul is accepted by the Christian community, thanks to Barnabas, and begins his apostolate among the Greek-speaking Jews.
- *1 Jn 3:18-24 The keeping of God's commandments gives us peace of mind.
- *Jn 15:1-8 Jesus compares himself to a vine, and his disciples to branches which derive their life from him.

Theme: ONE IN CHRIST AND WITH CHRIST

We Christians are not just people who believe in Jesus Christ. We believe in him as the one with whom we form one mystical body. We do not exist along with him, but in him, since at our baptism we have been engrafted into him. "I am the vine, you are the branches," Jesus reminds us in today's Gospel. This is not a figure of speech, but a wonderful reality. It is thanks to our deep union with him that we can enjoy God's salvation and produce fruits that are worthy of our new life in him.

It is indispensable that we realize the truth of Jesus' statement that "apart from him, we can do nothing." (See v. 5 in today's Gospel.) This may hurt our pride, and we may be tempted to consider it an exaggeration. The fact is that this is the sober truth. Rather than feeling hurt in our pride for not being "totally independent and self-sufficient," we should rejoice in the fact that God has given us the privilege to be joined to Christ, the fruitful vine. Only those who accept this truth/gift in all humility and live accordingly will live a fruitful life.

MAY 2012 CALENDAR

01 Tue Feast of St. Joseph the Worker03 Thu Feast of Sts. Philip and James

06 Sun 5th Sunday of Easter / Feast of St. Dominic Savio

13 Sun 6th Sunday of Easter

16 Wed BI. JP II Catechetical Conference – Opening Mass

8PM

17 Thu BI. JP II Catechetical Conference – Mass 8PM

18 Fri BI. JP II Catechetical Conference Closing Mass 8PM / Visit of the Relics of BI. JP II to SJBP

20 Sun Solemnity of the Ascension/

100th Birthday of Fr. Godfrey Roozen

24 Thu Solemnity of Mary Help of Christians

26 Sat St. Philip Neri / Recognition of Retiring Lay Liturgical Ministers/ Prison Mass/ Grand Alay

27 Sun Solemnity of PENTECOST

31 *Thu* Feast of the Visitation of Our Lady

Sick Visitation – Thursdays 9AM Holy Hour – Thursdays 6:30PM Medical & Dental – Sundays 2:00PM Street Mass – Saturdays 7:30PM

Visit our website for the complete May 2012 Calendar http://sjbmakati.com/parish-events.html



DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

by Caren Rebenito

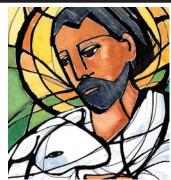
In the 1930s, our Lord Jesus revealed to then, Sr. Faustina, His desire to have a special Feast of Divine Mercy, celebrated every year on the Sunday after Easter. Blessed Pope John Paul II established this feast in April 30, 2000 on Saint Faustina's canonization.

What makes this feast special is the promise the Lord Jesus will grant complete pardon to the souls that will go to confession on the feast day as well as do acts of mercy, love and forgiveness out of love for Him. Jesus asked that the Feast of the Divine Mercy be preceded by a Novena to the Divine Mercy, which begins every Good Friday.

The Feast's liturgy is very fitting as it concerns the institution of the Sacrament of Penance. Jesus reassures us in his revelation through Saint Faustina that He

is there in the confessional when we are making our individual confessions to the priests. We invite everyone to experience Jesus' bountiful mercy on this special Feast on April 15, 2012.

Read more: http:// www.ewtn.com/ devotionals/mercy/ feast.htm



GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAYBy Caren Rebenito

Good Shepherd Sunday falls on the fourth Sunday of Easter. The name stems from that Sunday's Gospel about Jesus, the Good Shepherd, who lays down His life for His sheep. As opposed to a hired shepherd who works for pay and has no concern for his sheep, the Good Shepherd is one who has utmost concern for His sheep and would willingly sacrifice His own life in order to save them. The sheep hear His voice and follow Him.

In recent times, this day is aptly known as Vocations Sunday. This is a day to pray not only for priestly and religious vocations but also even for lay people to lead others closer to God, the way the Good Shepherd has done so for His sheep.





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The photos were taken by Errol Palaci, Grace Gueriba, Vi Hernandez and Mon Angeles.

NEWS BRIEFS

PARISH LENTEN RECOLLECTION – NEW ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF THE ROMAN MISSAL



From March 7 to 28, Fr. Ting Miciano, SDB, SJB Parish Priest, gave a recollection, primarily, but not exclusively, for all Parish volunteers on the new English translation of the Roman Missal, which will be implemented across the Archdiocese of Manila in phases beginning June 10, 2012, the feast of Corpus Christi. The new responses, acclamations and musical settings are planned for full implementation by December 2. Advent 2012.

The schedule for the gradual implementation of the new responses of the people in English Masses will be posted in the May Simbahay, bulletin boards and at http://sjbmakati.com/new-english-roman-missal.html.

ARCHCON HOLDS RECOLLECTION

by Maris Katigbak-San Juan

Members of the Archconfraternity of Mary Help of Christians organized a Lenten Recollection for its members last March 13, 2012 at the Blessed Sacrament chapel. Fr. Dennis Paez, SDB gave the half-day recollection with the theme, "Healing our Wounded Image of God." In between his talks, Fr. Dennis showed slides of the passion of Jesus, with inspirational music to conduce meditation and reflection on how our wounds can change our image of God as well as our lives. Fr. Dennis ended the recollection with a Holy Mass and final blessing where he gifted us with words of wisdom - 3 short affirmations that feed the soul: "God loves me unconditionally. God forgives me completely. God is always with me."

MAKATI SPED STUDENTS RECEIVE 1ST COMMUNION

On March 22, 2012, after completing two months of preparatory catechism, eight students of the Makati Special Education Center in Barangay Pio del Pilar, received their first Holy Communion during a Mass, which was specially celebrated for them by Rev. Fr. Ting Miciano, SDB, in the Parish



Church. The first communicants were: Angelica F. Carable, 11 who read the psalms, Jane D. Lagandaon, 12, Jemima S. Pascual, 12, Ran Mae K. Valdueza, 10, Hans Patrick O. Manuel,10, Mark Nesher N. Tadalan, 11, Kenneth A. Ortiz, 11 and Jasper M. Saycon, 12. They were accompanied by their SPED Teacher incharge, Ms Maria Lourdes R. Esclabanan.

LENTEN RECOLLECTION OF SLV HOUSE HELPS & DRIVERS

by Fr. Ting Miciano, SDB

On March 22, Thursday, at one in the afternoon, around 25 house helps and drivers from San Lorenzo Village gathered at the Village Club House conference room for their yearly Lenten Recollection. Fr. Ting Miciano, SDB, the Parish Priest gave an inspirational talk about the significance of the Lenten period. After which, members of the Legion of Mary of the Parish assisted the attendees in preparing to make a good confession, given by Fr. Ting and Fr. Richard Varela, SDB, the Rector. The whole affair ended with a hearty merienda prepared by the Ladies of the Village Association led by Sis. Diva Abad Santos and Ms. Maris Katigbak-San Juan.



RELICS OF THE PASSION OF CHRIST VISIT SJB

The *Arma Christi* ("Weapons of Christ") relics, or the Instruments of the Passion of Jesus (thorns, cross, nails, column of flagellation, spear, etc.) visited St. John Bosco Parish from March 25 to March 26, 2012.

After veneration of the relics from early evening of March 25 until 3:00PM the next day, the relics were borne in procession

during the penitential Stations of the Cross around the Church grounds with Fr. Dennis Paez, SDB leading more than a hundred parishioners. The 56 relics which include those from the 12 Apostles and other saints, a gift from a convent in Italy, have been visiting churches across the country.



BULILIT SENAKULO PERFORMED ON PALM SUNDAY

For the third straight year last Palm Sunday, young parishioners of SJBP presented the Gospel of the passion and death of Christ in a play entitled, "Bulilit Senakulo". This year, the Bulilit Senakulo was featured in GMA 7's news programs and in ABS-CBN's Umagang Kay Ganda. Fr. Dennis Paez, SDB created this play to animate the Gospel for young mass goers.

RIDM THANKS PHOTOGRAPHER, ANNOUNCES SUMMER PHOTO WORKSHOPS

SJBP Research, Information and Development Ministry thanks Mr. Floren Bautista, a professional photographer, who generously shared his talents, time and equipment in several Simbahay projects. A member of the prestigious Camera Club of the Philippines and only one of four "Power of 5" winners in the Club's 80-year history, Floren, an SJBP parishioner and daily massgoer with wife, Didit, left for abroad recently. Godspeed, Floren, salamat at mabuhay!

On April 28 and May 5, another professional photographer, Mr. Jojo Gloria, will conduct a two-day Summer Workshop on the Basics of Photography entitled, "Is There Life Beyond Point and Shoot?" Young people, 10 years and older, are invited to join this workshop which will also include tips for choosing and caring for cameras, a photoshoot of the SJBP Church and its surroundings and a culminating exhibit. Please sign up with Ms. Ging Romero of the Parish Office or email your name, age and contact details to sjbmakati@gmail.com on or before April 25.