



St. Therese Parish  
**BULLETIN**

Issue No. 06-09

JUNE 2009



## Pope: Let us Learn in the School of Mary

6/2/2009 **Vatican Information Service**

VATICAN CITY (VIS) - At 8 p.m. Sunday the traditional procession marking the end of the month of May wound its way through the Vatican Gardens, from the Church of St. Stephen of the Abyssinians to the Grotto of Lourdes.

Benedict XVI arrived at the Grotto at 9 p.m. where, before imparting his apostolic blessing, he made some brief remarks to the faithful present.

“The great Feast of Pentecost”, he said, “is an invitation for us to meditate upon the bond between the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, a close, privileged and indissoluble relationship. The Virgin of Nazareth was chosen to become the Mother of the Redeemer by the action of the Holy Spirit: in her humility she found favor in the eyes of God”.

The Annunciation, the Virgin’s visit to her cousin Elisabeth, the birth of Jesus and His early infancy were all “guided, almost palpably, by the Holy Spirit, although He is not always mentioned. Mary’s heart, in perfect harmony with her divine Son, is a temple of the Spirit of truth, where each word and each event is treasured in faith, hope and charity”.

“Mary’s faith”, the Holy Father went on, “supported that of the disciples until their meeting with the risen Lord, and it continued to accompany them even after His ascension to heaven, as they awaited ‘Baptism in the Holy Spirit’. At Pentecost, the Virgin Mother once again appears as the Bride of the Spirit”, an expression of “universal maternity towards all people who have been generated by God through faith in Christ. This is why, for all generations, Mary is the image and model of the Church which, accompanied by the Spirit, advances through time invoking the glorious return of Christ: ‘Come, Lord Jesus’”.

The Holy Father concluded his comments by telling the faithful “let us, in Mary’s school, learn to recognise the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives, to listen to His inspiration and humbly to follow it”. ■



The Visitation of Our Lady to Elizabeth

*Let us in Mary's school learn to recognise the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives, to listen to His inspiration and humbly to follow it.*

# A Message of Thanks...



The St. Therese "the little flower" Choir wishes to thank all generous and kind hearts for the support extended in making the concert "With Our Voice, We Build Our Church" held last May 30 a big success. Special thanks to all our sponsors, presenters especially the team of pastors, the working group and of course those who watched the concert most especially to all our parents, relatives and friends. Please

continue to support our CD album sold at P150 each. All proceeds will go to the on-going church construction. Buy a CD and help build our church!

Please contact Amabel Abella through the parish office if you wish to avail of the services of this choir group.



## Misspelled Baptismal Name

The Parish Office has advised parents to be extra careful in the spelling of their child's name when registering their child for the Sacrament of Baptism. This advice is given due to the numerous complaints received recently by our parish secretaries, Ma. Jeanna Villarante and Euvygdila Bascon. Names appearing in the Baptismal Certificate are spelled differently when compared to the Certificate of Live Birth.

Because the Baptismal Certificate is a public document, the spelling that appears should not be altered. The entries in the Baptismal Certificate depend on the information given at that time the parents registered their child for baptism. Immediately, this will be recorded in the Baptismal Registry of the parish. However, rectifying the entries in the Baptismal Certificate can be done following the steps:

For correction of FIRST NAME and DATE OF BIRTH:

1. Buy a "Correction of Data" form from the Chancery located at the 2nd floor of the Patria de Cebu building at P. Burgos Street fronting the Cebu Metropolitan Cathedral.
2. Bring the "Correction of Data" form back to the parish office and attach the following:
  - a copy of the Baptismal Certificate with the alleged misspelled FIRST NAME and/or wrong DATE OF BIRTH;
  - a copy of the Certificate of Live Birth showing the correct FIRST NAME and/or correct entry of DATE OF BIRTH.
3. Once filled up by the parish secretary and approved by the Team of Pastors, immediately submit the "Correction of Data" form and its attachments to the Chancery Office for approval by the Chancellor.
4. Once approved by the Chancellor, forward the documents intended for the parish office.
5. The Parish Office will now issue the Baptismal Certificate with the corrected entry as approved by the Chancellor.

Additional requirements for correction of SURNAME:

- a copy of the Marriage Contract, and
- a copy of the Birth Certificate already with the surname of the Father.

It now has been a practice of companies to require submission of Baptismal Certificate for job applicants, in contracting marriage, enrolment and application for passport among others. Please contact parish office for details of misspelled Baptismal name.

**Note:** When filing, please bring along your original documents for reference purposes.

## All About Changes

Everything we do changes us.

*That is right, my dear chap. Changes happen to us all the time. Some are more perceptible than others. Others you take for granted although changes are really happening to you. It is like when you get angry. You do not know it is affecting your heart so much and the more you are angry the more the possibility you will suffer a cardiac arrest."*

That is why, when you get angry, they say, 'Take care of your heart.' Not only that, they also say, 'Take care of your face.' Know why? Because it will also change your face! Angry men develop a glum and gloomy expression that even children will be afraid of them!

*I get it. It is like taking prohibited drugs. You want to get high and be cool with your barkada, not knowing that it can make you really sick. You can suffer delirium or hallucination. In other words, you will live in a fantasy world and end up in a mental institution. Or worse, it can suddenly speed up your heart palpitation and you can die at any moment. How could you know?*

Tachycardia, right? But why take the risk? Why not just be jolly and live longer, as they say?

*They call it peer influence or peer pressure. It is like they are saying to you, 'We took the risk so why can't you?' And so even if you know it is bad for you, you are swayed.*

Jeez! How terrible that is. And how foolish.

*Sin too has its effects. Some are more perceptible than others. Others are not.*

Ha! Ha! Ha! Like Pinocchio, you mean. Whenever he lied his nose grew. If that happens to us, that is, if our nose also grew, we will definitely not tell lies anymore. I can only imagine what people will say when they see you with a very long nose.

*In Theology, it is taught that the Devil is involved directly or indirectly in every mortal sin that a person commits. But he cannot be seen. He is just there enjoying how he has influenced people to disobey God.*

Well, now. As you know, people are so engrossed with the scandals involving prominent people in the internet, couples unashamedly performing grave sin for others to see. Let them just imagine the demon directing the whole show. He is there and whenever you look at it, he is looking back at you.



Angry men develop a glum and gloomy expression that even children will be afraid of them!

*Ugh! So many do not know but the saints can testify the changes happen to us when we sin. Do you know that sin can make us acquire a foul odor. This is what St. John Bosco has to say, "God has given me the gift of discerning hypocrites. When one of them comes near me, I discover his presence by a nauseous odor which I can hardly bear."*

With the saints the opposite is also true. Santa Teresa de Avila, doctor of the Church, mystical nun, during her lifetime, had a delightful fragrance enveloping her.

*Smelling the stench of a man who said he wanted to become a priest, St. Paul of the Cross, approaches him, holds his hands and tells him: "Do you know how much you have offended God with these hands and you say you want to become a priest?"*

St. Joseph of Cupertino, patron saint of astronauts, as I can remember, because he levitates like Sta. Teresa de Avila has the most pleasant perfume which clung for a long time

*Continued on page 4*

to all the things he used. Can you imagine, even the rooms he passed retained that unusual fragrance.

*Yes. The halo of the saints and the dark aura of sinners, who is not familiar with that. When St. Anthony of Padua approaches you, and so many saints too I suppose, they say, you find that there is a radiance on his face that is visible even from afar.*

My dear chap, when we are too focused on the world, always remember, the greater things will not be very perceptible to us anymore. And when we become too worldly, changes happen to us although we may not be aware of it.

*Yes. Yes. We need to be reminded always that ordinary faith is not enough. We need to have expectant faith, a faith that believes that God not only listens to us but will work miracles in our lives, a faith that changes us to be more and more like him!*

I cannot agree with you more. That is the reason why when we pray to the Holy Spirit, we just do not ask him to come once in our lives, or twice or thrice. We ask him to come to us all the time, to fill us with the power of his love all the time, to strengthen us and to embolden us to proclaim the goodness of God all the time!

*'Blaze Spirit blaze, set our hearts on fire,' so the song goes and that is so true. It is the Holy Spirit that changed the disciples of Jesus on Pentecost day into blazing proclaimers of the Good News!*

'Flow, river, flow. Flood the nations with grace and mercy.' Wow! You can just imagine how it is to be Spirit-filled all the time!

*And you know what? It is the fulfillment of the promise of Jesus. He goes to the Father but he does not leave us orphans because he sends the Paraclete, the power of God to us. When that power works in us, it will not only change us, it will change the people around us.*

The change may not be very perceptible but it can be seen by the way you do things, by the way you speak and by the way you glorify God.

*My dear friend, Spirit-filled communities growing together in grace as the Body of Christ is the picture of the Church today! A joyful Church, full of power, full of love and so much expectant faith! ■*

## Ultimate

Rosario Alviola Orat

Let me live in your love, my Lord  
 Or I shall not be free  
 Vowing to be happy and true  
 Each day eternally  
 For there's no basement to the sea  
 No attic to the sky  
 Only the deep beneath the deep  
 The high beyond the high  
 Nor is there zenith to my love  
 No nadir does it know  
 That reaches high above  
 And deep below below.

***"Flow, river, flow. Flood the nations with grace and mercy."***



## A Dollar to Build a Church

By Jess C. Alix

A dollar may not be much  
But it can build a church

Send us in St. Therese a dollar each month  
And feel God's graces pour on you in a bunch

We're building a new church  
It is such a beautiful thing  
But it may stop rising.

We may not finish it soonest  
'Cause the funds coming in are dwindling

HELP! Share a dollar with us each month  
Help us out of this crunch!

Your name will be inscribed forever in your  
Book of Life.

Your name shall be inscribed forever in our  
list of donors to the new Church.

Your name shall be included forever in all our  
thanksgiving masses.

For God is generous to a generous heart.

After all, a dollar ain't much  
But it can build a church.



# My New Pair of Eyes

One slight mistake risked my gift of sight. I couldn't bring myself to imagine the outcome of my recklessness. I could become blind forever! As fear crept in, I went to the ophthalmologist to have my right eye checked and was diagnosed to have Corneal Ulcer. It meant that the black part of that eye was damaged.

If one knew what would happen to her in the future, like becoming blind or deaf or mute, she would not have made the decision that would lead to it. *Please God...* I only wore contacts because my students kept on teasing me. Wearing eyeglasses, they said, made me look like a grandmother.

And how about the young scholar who took drugs for the first time and thought there was nothing to it? Five years later, not only was he hooked, he had committed crimes he never thought he could. And the young idealist who was so proud of himself for having been able to bear the punishment of a fraternity initiation, never thought that he would become the callous killer that he is now. How about that young beauty contestant who allowed her lover to make a video of their romantic tryst which was uploaded in the internet? Somehow they knew what they were getting into was wrong. But I didn't. *Per se*, using contacts is not wrong!

After the diagnosis, I underwent the most painful laboratory test ever. I prayed like I never prayed before. When I was 14 I blemished my 20/20 vision but that was nothing compared to what was going to happen if worse came to worst. I may need a corneal transplant. How will I tell my mother? She never approved my wearing of contacts.

That day I looked at the world at a different light. Here and there, I looked at it like as if was the very first time I saw

them -- the busy, dusty roads; the smile of a stranger; the sweat on the tip of the nose of a child; God's masterpieces everywhere which we usually take for granted; and so many things we leave unappreciated. What if I could not see them anymore?

I thank you God for the gift of sight!  
And I thank you God for the gift of life!



I hugged each member of my beloved family that night. I was scared to death. I prayed that the Lord may bless the medicine I have to use every hour of the day. I held the rosary tightly in my hand. I sang the chaplet of the Divine Mercy at the top of my lungs. And my fears did subside. Only Him I knew could I trust and depend on.

The next day, at the hospital, after a re-examination, the doctor told me that my eyes were practically okay but the scarring will remain. It was God. He heard my prayers. And now I look at the world with a new pair of eyes. As they say, you will realize how a thing is worth to you when it is gone- in my case, almost gone. I received a second chance and I am not going to waste it. Like the many precious things that God has given me, I am going to take good care of it. Never again will I put my eyes to risk again. I still need to visit the doctor for the next few months though to make sure.

I thank you God for the gift of sight!  
And I thank you God for the gift of life! I'm turning 21 this month, and I tell you, I already received my best birthday gift ever.

By Hazel Joy Celestial



## Holy Father's Prayer Intentions for June 2009

**General:** That international attention towards the poorer countries may give rise to more concrete help, in particular to relieve them of the crushing burden of foreign debt.

**Mission:** That the particular Churches operating in regions marked by violence may be sustained by the love and concrete closeness of all the Catholics in the world.

# Y-SPEAK



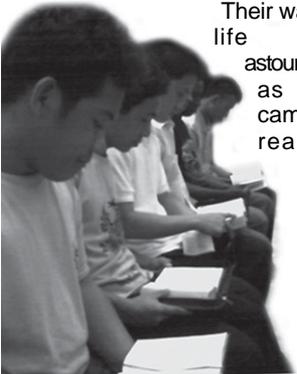
## Searching for my Vocation in Life

“Vocare” means to call, to summon, or to invite? And vocation derived from that word means that all of us our being called or summoned by God to serve him in a special way. Unfortunately, because of our busy schedule, we are unable to hear it. Our hearts and minds are supposed to be one with His so that we will not go astray and will be able to follow His will.

In view of that, last May 14, 2009, fellow Legionaries Robert Amistoso, Lindo Jabanes, Geniste Geralla and I joined a “Search-in” at the Order of the Discalced Augustinians (OAD), Tabor Hill in Talamban, Cebu City for a week. OAD is a religious community, an institute of consecrated life and a mendicant order. We came to them to find out what God intended for us: a priest, religious worker or married man. There is a fourth choice: Single Blessedness.

Rev. Randy, a Deacon, taught us how to be able to discern about our vocation in life. First, offer and surrender your whole being to God in prayer and sacrifices; and second, listen to the voice calling out loud in the very depths of your heart.

Their way of life was astounding as we came to realize.



They mean to serve the Most High and His people in a spirit of humility. Always. Their daily life was very simple yet so full of love. The day starts at 4:45 AM with house chores. We read books to increase our knowledge about faith and religion. But most of all, we joined with the community in the praying of the Breviary, the prayer of the people of God which so few of us are aware about.

We also served as choir for the 10:30 AM Sunday “Latin” Mass. Fra Heri-a, an Indonesian Solemn Brother (with the 4 vows of Poverty, Chastity, Obedience and Humility) assisted us. We also met Nigerian brothers Evans Mary, Kenneth and Abraham including Gilbert and Zakumo who come from Myanmar.

On Fridays at 5 AM is a very unique Stations of the Cross followed by the celebration of the Holy Mass. And you know what? We really enjoyed playing soccer with Fr. Alex Rubio and Rev. Joel. They were eminent at it.



The heart of seminary life is prayer. It is a very simple life because prayer is pre-supposed to be in the heart of every believer. Each and everyone of us has a divine calling and we must adhere to that call in deep prayer and deep surrender to God. If we follow our own ways and choices, i.e., God is calling

us to become a priest but we get married instead, we are destroying the beautiful plan of God in our lives and His command-ments.



I encourage all parents to support their children to their vocation and be an advocate to the path of their calling. I encourage my fellow youth to deepen the prayer life in their hearts so that we could conquer evil by doing good, and bring the message of Love to everyone.

Our experience was really fascinating. It is our hope that others will also try to “search-in” in the OAD way to find out what their true vocation in life is. So we can say, “I will follow You wherever You may go...” and find the happiness God himself will give us! Amen! Alleluia!■

I encourage my fellow youth to deepen the prayer life in their hearts so that we could conquer evil by doing good, and bring the message of Love to everyone.

By Frederick A. Yongco, LOM, KOA, STPYCC

**Priesthood Ordination Thanksgiving Mass**

Rev. Cherish Chester Serana y Didiquin of Lahug, Cebu City will be Ordained to the Priesthood by His Eminence Ricardo J. Cardinal Vidal, DD on June 16, 2009 at 9AM at the Cebu Metropolitan Cathedral. A Thanksgiving Mass shall be celebrated at STP on June 25, 2009 at 6PM.

## 25 Years in the Lord's Service

What is it like to be a nun? Is becoming a nun such a heavy task since almost all of the time they devote their selves to prayer? Will life completely change upon becoming a complete servant of the Lord? When I was in my childhood, these questions came into my mind because I have an aunt who is a nun. Her religious name is Sr. Christine Marie Vincent of Our Lady of Fatima, OSC. As a sister of my mother she was baptized Maria Emma Magdadaro Ruiz.



My mother told me they grew up in a prayerful family. And after her college years, she started falling so very in love with the Lord. Their father did not approve that she would enter the monastery. A lot of people discouraged her from becoming a nun for reasons like "Ka sayang nimo uy! Gwapa baya jud ka, Puti pa jud unya magmadre ra ka?" Nobody could stop her with her dream. She persisted and nobody could dissuade her. Later on, by the grace of God, her father changed his decision and gave his permission for her to become a Poor Clare.

Last May 2, 2009, she celebrated her 25th anniversary as a nun. I was amazed with the

many bishops and priests, religious brothers and nuns, relatives and friends, who came to celebrate with her. God was not the only one who loved her much but with the people she also prayed for. I realized that to follow God's will for you, everything will just be alright and everything will be in place. When my aunt was doing her renewal of vows, I noticed that she still look the same. It seemed like she did not get old at all. This must be a result of embracing God's divine love.

For the few years she spent together with us already a nun, I have learned a lot from her. From doing the

household chores correctly and not just doing it for the sake of accomplishing it, to consuming the food on the plate because there are people who starve to death, to respecting the elders

(Photos top to bottom) The Renewal of Vows; the author with Fr. Lyndon Ruiz, Sr. Christine and Fr. John; Bishop Christian Vincent Noel and co-celebrants.



and many more to mention. I could not even forget that she even taught us how to make the rosary with the use of a ballpen's top cover. And most of all, she taught us that through sincere prayers, we could reach out to God. Lastly, we must think of those people who need us most before we think for ourselves. Like the way Jesus did – sacrificing and dying on the cross for the sake of others. Well, as for me, I may or may not be a nun like my aunt, I know God has the best plan for me and for it to be realized, I must also learn how to be like Him. It would really be difficult but doing it with love would make the load light. ■

By Lourdes Ruiz Arnejo

*You shall love the Lord your God with your whole heart, and with your whole soul, and with your whole mind, and with your whole strength; you shall love your neighbor as yourself.*

Support our



# ONE DOLLAR campaign

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

All you need to do is furnish us with email addresses of your relatives and friends abroad and we will make contact as to how they can donate to the church project. Send your addresses to the Parish Office or to:

**Stheresefoundation@yahoo.com**

Thank you.

*Fundraising Committee*

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

## 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 May 28, 2009)

Estimated project cost ..... P43,000,000.00

Total cash donations received

(5/28/09) ..... 15,830,598.96

**Amount needed to complete  
the construction ..... P27,169,401.04**

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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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.

