



MATER DEI *updates*

marriage encounter community

"There is joy in doing things together"

VOL 12 NO 2

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MATER DEI M.E. COMMUNITY
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FEBRUARY 2012

THE GIFT IN A STAR

The Feast of the Epiphany marks the last day of the Christmas Season. It is signified by the bright star that led the three kings (the magis) to discovering the New Born King in Bethlehem.

In a homily by Fr. Allan Abuan last January 8 at the Holy Cross Parish Church, Laoac, Pangasinan, he alluded to the STAR of Bethlehem and shared his discovery of that STAR to the 210 participants of the Life in the Spirit Seminar conducted by the Mater Dei M.E. Community spearheaded by the Spiritual Growth Apostolate headed by couples Ric Sally Rey. To Fr. Allan the STAR meant:

Searching. We have many questions in life and we keep asking. We do not know what we want, and sometimes too, what we are looking for! In the process... "Sana na matagpuan mo ang Diyos at tanggapin mo ang Panginoon"

Truth. The Lord is the way, the truth and the Light. We need to live according to the Spirit. We are the temple of the Holy Spirit – that is the Truth! We are led in the life of the spirit because we live in the realm of the spirit. Kaya wala na tayong kakatakutan. Allow God. Do not control your life. This is what is happening to me because I allowed God to rule over me.

Relationship. God is found in our relationship. Spirituality is not all prayers but it is how you establish your relationship with others. Hopefully we can establish this community of oneness as we go along with our projects.

Hence, we say that the stars we look up to for our dreams can be a realistic symbol and a practical interpersonal rewards. We just have to notice the glow and learn to see them more with our hearts rather than with our eyes. Appreciate the simple things, feel the daily miracles they bring. Then the light of the stars may carry us to higher grounds.



Allow us then to share our own STARS as our life with Mater Dei ME Community takes on a new meaning and purpose for the year 2012.

There were many of us who walked towards the altar that First Friday of January 6, 2012. Fr. Domie our Spiritual Director, offered to bless us before we take on to Pangasinan and said, "these people who have volunteered to help in the conduct of Life in the Spirit Seminar are going on a long journey to Pangasinan for Fr. Allan Abuan. Sa ganitong pagkakataon, ituon natin ang ating mga kamay sa kanila na maging mapayapa at ligtas ang kanilang paglalakbay tungo sa paglilingkod at pagpapalaganap ng magandang balita ng ating Panginoon."

That night, the Light of the Star led 20 volunteer couples to fulfill a mission ... to introduce and pass on a Spiritual Growth Module in the conduct of Life in the Spirit Seminar (LSS) whose process, Fr.

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The Board Reports.....

THE GIFT IN A STAR ...from page 1

Before the start of the first regular meeting of the Board of Trustees for the year 2012 that was held on January 18 at Mater Dei office, the President Couple, Ding Susan Mayor, reported the following to the trustees present:

- The financial statement of Mater Dei for the year 2010 with comparative figures for the year 2009 has been finally prepared by the Budget and Finance Ministry headed by Oggie-Thelma Mercado. Likewise, we were blessed enough to hire the services of an external auditor for a fee of only PHP5,000.00 who will prepare the audit report before its filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Bureau of Internal Revenue.
- Successful conduct of an outreach 2-day Life in the Spirit Seminar at Laoac, Pangasinan on January 7 and 8, 2012 with 210 participants, mostly graduates of the M.E. Weekend and Couple Power Lakas Mag-asawa Seminars previously held simultaneously on December 9,10, and 11,2011 with some parishioners of Holy Cross Parish at Laoac, Pangasinan under Parish Priest Rev. Fr. Allan Abuan. Likewise, in the same meeting, the following agenda were taken up and approved:

1. Holding of Valentines Party at the Century Park Sheraton Hotel, P. Ocampo Street (formerly Vito Cruz), Manila. Ticket prize is PHP800.00 per head.

2. Approval of a fund raising "raffle for a cause" to fund the various program and activities of our community. Ticket costs PHP20.00 per piece, with the aim of raising at least PHP300,000.00. Prizes are pegged at PHP10,000.00 for 1st prize, PHP7,500.00 for 2nd prize and PHP5,000.00 for 3rd prize plus 10 consolation prizes in kind. Draw date will be on March 23, 2012 after the celebration of our community's 21st Anniversary Thanksgiving Mass.

3. On invitation of Fr. Bel San Luis of MCFP, our community will co-sponsor a Family TV Mass in connection with our community's 21st Anniversary. Taping will be held at Christ the King Church at E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue on March 24, 2012 at 6 PM, to be aired at 9:00 AM the following day, March 25, 2012 over Channel 13 and GMA Pinoy TV for the benefit of our members residing abroad. A family fun day with Bingo socials may also be organized on said date in a suitable venue that will be announced later.

The President Couple also request their peers (Board of Trustees) to intensify the follow-up of the pledges of the respective lists of pledgors assigned to them.

Allan Abuan endeavors to assimilate for the benefit of his parishioners. On January 7-8, Mater Dei ME Community through its Spiritual Growth Apostolate, reached out to the people coming from the different barangays of Laoac, with 210 expected attendees, who initially gathered at the Don Rufino Tabayoyong Elementary Central School Gym and transferred venue to the Holy Cross Church to receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

During the conduct of the Life in the Spirit Seminar (Day 2) a real bright Star shone through – his Eminence, Rev. Bishop Soc Villegas came on a surprise visit when he learned that a "Life in The Spirit Seminar" (LSS) is being conducted for the first time in the Parish of Holy Cross, Laoac, Pangasinan. The mere presence of His Eminence elated all of us. Our inner star glowed having that feeling of affirmation for the activity we are holding and the program we have brought in for implementation at the Holy Cross Parish under Fr. Allan.

And of course, no other Star could ever shine so bright as each participant was led to receive the Holy Spirit in their Baptism and experience the transforming power of His Love and presence.

That day, we all walked under the LIGHT of His grace and radiated His goodness, that others too, may find God and experience a newness of life.

Same as the goodness of a Bright Star that greeted the group at dawn (3:30 in the morning) when they arrived in the compound of Romy and Linda Cabacungan and their son Romeo Jr. First time ever, as they claimed that they opened their house to accommodate a group not from the family circle (10 couples from Mater Dei) for a free lodging for the duration of the seminar. The Divine Providence must have aimed His torch on the Cabacungan family to receive the group that early, literally, with open arms as though we had been an acquaintance for so long.

From the Mater Dei Marriage Encounter Community we had a prayerful remembrance of the people of Laoac under the Holy Cross Parish Church headed by Fr. Allan Morris Abuan. We now are one in praising and thanking God for the gift of the STAR.

Our workers whom we acknowledge for the blessings they willingly shared - Demet Rose Araniego, Edgar Tess Capiral, Sherwin Cess Cardino, Pris Vicky Contreras, Rey Baby Cruz, Mon Noemi Giron, Alfred Becca Guarino, Jojie Fe Guballa, Omar Rose Mayo. Ding Susan Mayor, Glenda Opeda, Noni Baby PAscual, Joey Tong Petrache, Jhun Mylene Pineda, Ric Sally Rey, Obet Len Roxas, Tony Pat Rivera, Vic Josie Rubis, Don Liza Salisi, Loren Weng Tabilog, Jun Adel Tamasacan, Migo Len Vargas, and Rene Cora Zapanta.

Noni Baby Pascual

MEFP COUPLE SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP Batch 2

For the second time, the MEFP conducted the Couple Spiritual Leadership Workshop at CEFAM at Ateneo de Manila University Campus in Quezon City last January 28-29, 2012. The workshop was conducted with Rev. Fr. Allan Abuan and Ma. Rebecca (Bicbic) Medez as facilitators. Two of our member couples had the opportunity to attend this workshop – Nono Cecille Delgado and Migo Len Vargas.

The workshop which was participated in by various leaders of the ME communities under the MEFP aims to equip the participants with basic knowledge on leadership that they may become more

effective leaders in their respective communities. "LEADERSHIP IS INFLUENCE" or the ability to obtain followers was the main idea where the workshop activities revolved. The 2-day event emphasized the fact that both LEADERSHIP and INFLUENCE are skills that can be acquired or developed, not necessarily just inborn or discovered.

Another topic - Leadership vs Management explained the distinction between the two, i.e. Management is the process of assuring that the programs and objectives of an organization are implemented while Leadership has to do with casting vision and



FEBRUARY 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 1 st BOT-HC MEETING	2	3 HOLY MASS Annual Gen. Assembly THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT	4
5 MEFP-DSWD Couple Power Seminar	6 Intercessory Prayer (Fr. Domie Guzman, SSP)	7	8	9	10 Prayer Gathering (Bro Bot Balbero)	11
12	13 Intercessory Prayer	14	15 BOT Regular Monthly Meeting	16	17 Prayer Gathering (Bro Francis Jonathan) MEW 286	18 MEW 286
19 MEW 286	20 Intercessory Prayer	21	22 ASH WEDNESDAY	23	24 Prayer Gathering CHRISTOLOGY (Fr. Domie Guzman, SSP)	25
26	27 Intercessory Prayer	28	29			

SGA CONDUCTS 92ND LSS



The Spiritual Growth Apostolate completed its 92nd Life in the Spirit Seminar last January 14-15 at the Napocor Canteen, Agham Road, Quezon City. The eleven couples from the Mater Dei Community were from ME Class 283 and 285. They are Christopher Irish Antonio, Neil Diana Borja, Henry Che Cabrera, Nelson Ching Cacho, Ric Arcey Cuartero, Rodell Apple de la Cruz, Mon Lally Delos Reyes, Ram Cory Hermida, Lertor Rhea Ison, Bob Rachelle Pamisa, and Ramon Zeny Sangalang.

Ric Sally Rey

MEFP COUPLE SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP... ..from page 2

motivating people. Making sure the work is done by others is the accomplishment of a manager. Inspiring others to do better is the accomplishment of a leader.

At the end of the workshop, the MEFP President Couple Robert Tinette Aventajado handed out the Certificate of Attendance after the participants' signing of the covenant and after Tito Robert's closing remarks with quotes from John Maxwell: "The Greatest Leader of All is Jesus" and "The Greatest Guide is the Bible".

Migo Len Vargas

WELCOME TO THE COMMUNITY

ME Class 285

SACRO COSTATO RETREAT HOUSE
January 20-22, 2012

DEMET ROSE ARANIEGO
Shepherd Couple

BONG DHANG GALICIA
Co-Shepherd Couple



Candidates:

Jay Irene Mediavillo, Ceferino Mayrose Provido, Julito Ofelia Tipas, Jun Jessica Gualberto, Oliver Ladymay Masecampo

Ecclesial Team – Manny Rose Sityar, Fr. Nick Guito, Romy Remy Valentin



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Chair Couple

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Lead Couple, Social Network

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