



MATER DEI *updates*

marriage encounter community

"There is joy in doing things together"

VOL 12 NO 1

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

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www.materdeime.com

There is Joy in Celebrating Christmas at Mater Dei



Traditionally, in the holiday season we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. In this timely celebration, we often spend time with the people very close to us. May it be with family or friends, it is always a festive occasion for the Filipino family. We, at the Mater Dei Marriage Encounter Community, have our own way of celebrating this jolly season, the M.E. way.

Last December 27, Thursday, a Christmas Party of our community was held in Shangrila Chinese Cuisine in West Ave., Quezon City. It was a night meant for the books, a legendary night to be talked about for quite some time. The Christmas party was one that could never had been accomplished if not for the help of everyone in our community. A theme was mandated in the party, it was set in the wild wild west. Guests came in wearing their best cowboy/cowgirl outfit, may they be of young or old. The venue was decorated as well to give a wild wild west vibe for the attendees.

The festivities for the night started with a Mass presided by our Spiritual Director Fr. Domie Guzman. Our BOT President Ding Susan Mayor gave an opening remark to officially open our event and the serving of dinner followed after. After having dinner the SGA Ministry graced us with an intermission number that sparked the beginning of the Dance Contest proper. The dance contest had 4 contestants and the first place winners will be taking home a whopping Php.5,000. The ultimate winner of the dance contest was Class 279 led by Shep. Vic Josie Rubis, following were the SADE, Worship and Music Ministry, and Class 239, respectively. As an act of sharing and giving on this holiday season, Class 239 donated their prize money to an outreach program to Cagayan De Oro.

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The Board Reports.....

December 2011 was really a very busy month for Mater Dei M. E. Community. Once again, the spirit of volunteerism, unselfish sharing of time, talent and treasure among the members and workers of our beloved community, paved the way for the successful conduct of the following program and outreach activities:

- Marian Procession held on December 4, 2011 in Intramuros, Manila
- Gift giving activity held on December 10, 2011 coordinated by our Outreach Apostolate through the member-communities of the North Cluster of MEFP, wherein 100 pails containing assorted foodstuff were distributed to the Dumagats living in the remote areas of Rodriguez (Montalban), Rizal. This gift-giving activity was coursed through Rev. Fr. Virgilio Lachica, Jr. of San Rafael Parish, Rodriguez, Rizal.
- Another gift-giving activity, again coordinated by our Outreach Apostolate for the Holy Family M.E. Community, a North Cluster member of MEFP, was held on December 16, 2011, wherein 52 pails containing assorted foodstuff were distributed to the poorest parishioners of Holy Family Parish in Roxas District (what a coincidence) and street sweepers and barangay tanods of Barangay Paligsahan in coordination with the Senior Citizens Association of said barangay in Roxas District, Quezon City.
- M. E. Weekend Seminar for 8 couples and 2 widows held at the St. Joseph Retreat House in Urdaneta City, Pangasinan on December 9, 10, and 11, 2011 with Ecclesial Team Rev. Fr. Allan Abuan, Ed Cora Depano, and Willie Rose Montales.
- Couple-Power Lakas Mag-asawa Seminar (CPLM) for 60 couples held on December 10, 2011 at the Holy Cross Parish, Laoac, Pangasinan with Ecclesial Team Rev. Fr. Allan Abuan, Arman Linda Perez, and Mon Noemi Giron.

The conduct of the above-mentioned M.E. Weekend Seminar for 8 couples and 2 widows and the CPLM for 60 couples will be the start of the M.E. Community that Fr. Allan intends to put up in his own parish, which he plans to name M.E. INA TI DIOS COMMUNITY. The attendees of the M.E. Weekend Seminar will compose the core group of this community and to deepen their spirituality, as well as that of the participants of the CPLM, a two-day M.E. Life In The Spirit Seminar will be conducted by our community for them, through the Spiritual Growth Apostolate, on January 7 and 8, 2012.

THERE IS JOY *...from page 1*

After the announcement of winners of the dance contest, the part of the program that everybody has been waiting for has finally arrived.....the RAFFLE DRAW!!! With over 70 prizes to be won with a grand prize of a whopping 32" LCD TV. as the drawing progressed, The grand prize was won by Bro. Romy Dolly Enriquez of Class 239.

The closing remarks followed thereafter with Joey Petrache. As this festive night was coming to an end souvenirs were given away to the attendees, with Red Wine for Oldies and some Goodie Bags for the young ones.

Indeed, that night will be very memorable for all of us. Celebrating a Christmas party with your Mater Dei ME Community, what more can one ask for? Celebrating the holiday season with the closest friends, brods and sis, that one can have. Like we said, it's an event meant for the books. HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ONE AND ALL!!!

Joey Tong Petrache

- Christmas Encounter spearheaded by Traditional and Special Events held on December 27, 2011 at the Shangrila West Restaurant, with the theme: *There is Joy in Celebrating Christmas at Mater Dei*, with a Cowboy motif. This was a fun-filled activity, that started with a Thanksgiving Mass presided by our spiritual adviser, Rev. Fr. Domie Guzman, SSP. The most touching part of the affair, however, was the generous response of everyone when a second collection for love offering was passed around for the victims of typhoon Sendong in Cagayan De Oro City and Iligan City. A total of PHP12,678.00 was collected, but this was later increased to PHP20,000.00 with additional love offerings from anonymous members. This amount was turned over to Caritas Manila in the name of Mater Dei M.E. Community in coordination with MEFP through Rev. Fr. Anton Pascual, president of Caritas Manila.

The Board of Trustees wish to thank everyone for their continuous show of unselfish love for one another and to the least of our brothers and sisters through their time, talent, and treasures and full support and commitment to our communities mission and vision for the Greater Glory of God.

MALIGAYANG PASKO AT MANIGONG BAGONG TAON SA LAHAT!!!!

FR. ALLAN MOVES ON... *...from page 4*

It has been a very hectic day yet the fun and laughter has taken over the fatigue that never crept in. God seemed to be rejoicing with us, with our deeds .

Then comes Day 3 – another busy day! Some were practicing the harana songs, others were collating the love letters, the participants' folders, the renewal of vows, printing the certificates, MLA Head Couple Migo Len Vargas was coordinating the introductory rites to choose the Coordinator, co-coordinator , BOT President Couple, Ding Susan Mayor was discussing with Fr. Allan the mechanics of an ME Community which Fr. Allan chose to name as "Ina Ti Diyos M.E. Community, Laoac,Pangasinan.

For the Harana, the handful of workers has multiplied in the numbers by the ME Class they represent - ME Classes # 28, 41, 46, 66, 81, 83, 112, 119, 123, 133, 149, 177, 178, 179, 198, 205, 216 (Fr. Allan's class), 219, 227, 231, 242, 259,279, 280, and 284.

An analogy of how the Lord makes great wonders touching many people's life through the works of one. The Lord must have touched Fr. Allan and be His instrument to move on for a mission.

At the closing of the seminar proper, Team Couple Ed Cora Depano briefed the participants on their role as ME Class #1. We saw how the participants assimilated the talks, the dialogues, the songs and the prayers. As soon as Fr. Allan cited how the Mater Dei M.E. Community worked as the "Sponsoring Class" he got overwhelmed with tears and told the participants , "Magpasalamat kayo. To these people from the Mater Dei M.E. Community who have come all the way from Manila and stayed with us for 3 days to bring in this program to you. Together with me, let us thank these people who are so generous and kind-hearted.

One by one they stood and hugged each one of us. It is different when an elderly farmer drops his tear on your hand saying "salamat po". Their hearts were talking then and we too can't help but cry. With gripped hands held high, we sang "If We Hold on Together ", for GOD'S GREATER GLORY!

The MDMEC workers – Demet Rose Araniego, Sherwin Cess Cardino, Ed Cora Depano, Mon Noemi Giron, Alfred Becca Guariño, Jojie Fe Guballa, Joe Connie Gumba, Ding Susan Mayor, Willie Rose Montales, Noni Baby Pascual, Arman Linda Perez, Joey Tong Petrache, Vic Josie Rubis, Loren Weng Tabilog, Migo Len Vargas.

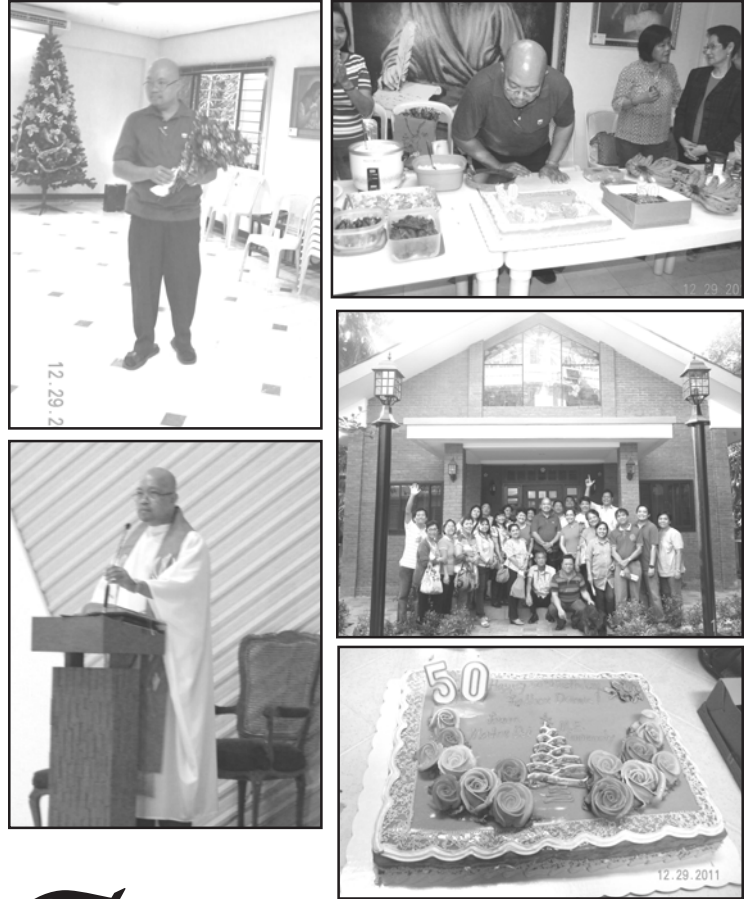
Noni Baby Pascual



MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER FOUNDATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (MEFP) NORTH CLUSTER 2011 GIFT-GIVING

It showed in the glow of their eyes and the smiles on their lips – the joy of an early Christmas blessings, literally by the bucketful. Barangay Paligsahan workers, street sweepers and marshals among them, and some of their indigent resident parishioners had their early Christmas wish come true on Saturday, December 17, 2011 when the MEFP-North Cluster in cooperation with the Barangay Paligsahan Senior Citizens Association, Inc. (PASCA), distributed yuletide gifts at the barangay hall. Cluster Coordinator couple Ding Susan Mayor of MDMEC represented MEFP while PASCA president Sister Rhodora Bohol, also of MDMEC represented the senior citizens of the barangay. After a brief introduction and exchange of pleasantries between the barangay’s senior citizen association officers and MEFP North Cluster, the gift-giving activity started without fanfare. The gifts may be of little value to some but they mattered a lot to the recipients as manifested by their profuse heartfelt thanks after getting their bucketful of mainly basic needs, food in particular. Seeing those low income earning barangay workers and indigent resident parishioners marching home joyfully with their bucketful of goods, perhaps for the noche buena of some or maybe to satisfy the hunger pangs of some families waiting in shanties for food at that time, convey an important Christian virtue: the joy of giving and sharing God’s blessings. Outside of its role in strengthening couples through its marriage encounter program, MEFP in this season of Jesus’ nativity played the role of the little boy who put his lunch of five barley bread and two small fish in the care of Jesus to feed thousands of hungry people (ref. John 6:1-14). And it lived to this reality: People who care are people who share.

50 ROSES GREETED FR. DOMIE



The morning Mass at St. Paul's Sanctuary is held every 6:30 am for the parishioners of San Antonio Village, Makati City. Last December 29, 2011, many of our members coming from different directions gathered to catch up for the Mass which will be presided by Fr. Domie. The reason is very special, Fr. Domie Guzman, our Spiritual Director, is celebrating his 50th birthday!

The trooping of friends and parishioners to his Mass offering is no longer a surprise for Fr. Domie. So after the Mass, he immediately came out and welcomed his well wishers from Mater Dei M.E. Community and other communities he advises. He then led us to the dining area where we shared the breakfast meal for the day.

Our group sang “Those Were the Days” while Fr. Domie was feeling overwhelmed by the preparations every group had for the morning. Though Fr. Domie saw the distribution of roses, he was still flattered receiving a bundle from each one of us as rosy gestures of the many “thank you greetings” we can offer him as our spiritual director. Fr. Domie also took time to introduce the other visitors from other communities who traditionally come to join him for breakfast in his past birthdays.

When we were ready to partake of the meals, Fr. Domie blew his 50th Birthday candle and joined the group in reminiscing the past that started when he became a member of M.E. Class #72 under Shepherd +Yoyong Cora Mangalindan and in 2001 when he became spiritual adviser for Mater Dei M.E. Community.

As the host for the day, Fr. Domie gave each one a St. Paul's wall calendar and led the group to the newest structure in the compound which he said is the Meditation Chapel for the exclusive use of the priests staying in the seminary.



FR. ALLAN MOVES ON WITH MDMEC LEGACY

We felt the lonesome spirit of Fr. Allan as the attendees of his installation as Parish Priest of the Holy Cross Parish in Laoac, Pangasinan last September told us. We wondered then why he was transferred and gave our sighs because we will surely miss his talks and substantive homilies.

Fr. Allan was the Team Priest while Cora Ed Depano and Willie Rose Montales were the Team Couples when my lambs (ME Class 259) attended their ME. Weekend. When it was Class 259's turn to sponsor an M.E. Weekend, the same team handled the sessions. To my lambs, this triumvirate team has become an idol because they admired how Fr. Allan gave his lectures and expounds on the subject matter. Since that time too, whenever my lambs would learn that it is Fr. Allan who will officiate in the mass or give a talk, my lambs really find time to attend. Others who have heard Fr. Allan talk, were simply awed and would give the same intention to pursue him. In short, Fr. Allan was able to draw a following and he has proven himself to be a good material in propagating the mission for marriage life and family building.

Contemplating then on the rationale of his transfer to Pangasinan we can glean the fitness of the choice and the urgency of the need. As a true disciple, Fr. Allan gathered his pieces, dismissed the negative baggage, regained his composure and buckled down to work.

In a few week's time, he has lured his parishioners on the merits of establishing an M.E. Community patterned after the Mater Dei M.E. Program. In a month's time, everything was set and the Mater Dei M.E. Community committed to help.

On December 9, 10, 11, 2011 MDMEC served as the sponsoring class for the first MEWeekend class of Fr. Allan's Parish at St. Joseph's Retreat House, Urdaneta City. Simultaneously, Fr. Allan scheduled a Couple Power-Lakas ng Mag-asawa Seminar (Ugnayan Class I) for 60 couples on December 10, 2011 at Holy Cross Parish Church, Laoac.

There was a heavy downpour from early morning till the whole day of Friday, December 9, yet that did not discourage the team of the Mater Dei to troop to Pangasinan. Our usual materials and equipment for ME Weekend loaded most vehicles and the cellphones became a hot line checking on each other and its locations. Couples Mon Noemi Giron from their rest house in San Quintin, Pangasinan, offered a choice of duck (easy to catch) or chicken (which would take time to chase and catch) for our early dinner stop over. Thanks for the sumptuous tinola which warmed our stomachs that rainy day.

The road to St. Joseph's Retreat House in Dagupan City seem to be an endless narrow path. As first timers in the area, we were silenced by the surrounding tall cogon grasses with only our vehicle trailing in the early evening dark.

We were the first to reach the retreat house – and without much ado, set up the room and the prepared the materials for the participants. This M.E. Weekend as Fr. Allan briefed us constitute the 8 couples from the different barangays under his parish, and 2 widows whom he says are very dependable and active in their church activities.

As Our Music team started with the welcome song, we saw the pride and happiness of Fr. Allan to conduct the seminar and his confidence that with Team Couples Willie Rose Montales, and Ed Cora Depano together with the Mater Dei working committee, his parishioners will experience a blessed undertaking.

The next day, Saturday, was the most hectic day for our working



team and Fr. Allan as we take turns in going to and from the retreat house and the Holy Cross Parish Church for the Couple Power-Lakas ng Mag-asawa (Ugnayan Class). This time, Team Couples Mon Noemi Giron and Arman Linda Perez handled the proceedings. There were 60 couples in attendance – all manifesting enthusiasm and interest in all the topics discussed. Fr. Allan officiated the

Culminating Mass and was never remised in expressing his appreciation to the Mater Dei M.E. Community's support in making this Couple Power-Lakas ng Mag-asawa Seminar a success. Before giving his final blessings, he requested all of us to stand for the participants to recognize and acknowledge us.

The closing rites and awarding of certificates was something the couples appreciated as this will be part of their compliance for some requirements to get their Marriage License. The Mass Wedding will be held on December 30, 2011 to be officiated by Fr. Allan and sponsored by the Town Mayor, Hon. Gen. Alarcio.

Back to the Retreat House, we have mobilized to set up the Candlelight Dinner for the participants. Then at the onset of the grand dialogue, the team managed to sneak out for Mon Noemi Giron's invitation to the Ilocano/non-Ilocano speaking workers for a feast on a delicacy that spells like "meeeee!" in four different, delicious and authentic recipes.

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Treasurer's Report

DEMET ROSE ARANIEGO CLASS 81
TREASURER COUPLE

AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2011

	ACTUAL DECEMBER	PROJECTION JANUARY
CASH RECEIPTS		
a) Love Offering: Worship Apostolate	23,300.00	30,000.00
b) Pledges	9,700.00	20,000.00
c) Returned Cash Advances: W.A. - Nov. 2011 PG	3,109.50	-
d) Fund Raising:	-	-
e) Donations: TV Mass (Dec. 16, 2011)	3,800.00	-
MLA-MEW284(Sp: Ojenar)	-	-
f) Annual Dues 2011	-	-
g) Interest on Special Deposit Account - November	1,355.64	1,200.00
" " " " - December	1,404.36	-
Interest on Savings Account (Net)	184.40	-
TOTAL CASH RECEIPTS	<u>42,853.90</u>	<u>51,200.00</u>
CHECK DISBURSEMENTS:		
	DECEMBER	JANUARY
a) CASH ADVANCES: Worship Apostolate - P. G.	18,000.00	12,000.00
Music Ministry	6,500.00	6,500.00
T & SE (Marian Procession)	4,000.00	-
SGA -ME LSS (Jan. 14-15, 2012)	13,000.00	-
Christmas gifts(priests/lay p.)	5,000.00	-
Christmas gift (SD & office s)	13,215.00	-
Christmas Encounter (Dec. 27)	15,000.00	-
b) UPDATES: Printing Cost	3,000.00	2,000.00
c) Office Rental (Elco Building)	11,736.56	11,736.56
d) Prayer Gathering Venue (Violago Chapel)	8,000.00	8,000.00
e) Office Staff Allowance - A. F. (less 3,000 cash adv)	5,215.00	5,215.00
f) Office Electricity (MERALCO)	6,788.25	6,500.00
g) MLA - MEW 285 Stipend (Ecclesial Team)	-	12,000.00
MLA - MEW 285 Transportation Allowance	-	1,000.00
h) Burial Assistance (FPeralta#225/FLachica#68)	2,000.00	-
i) Spiritual Director - Birthday Gift (Dec. 29, 2011)	3,000.00	-
j) MEFP - Sustaining Dues (44 couples)	2,200.00	-
k) MEFP - Membership fee 2012	1,000.00	-
l) Website Renewal (2012)	3,000.00	-
m) Imajestic Printing (MEW Certificates)	900.00	-
n) MCFI - TV Mass (December 16)	5,000.00	-
o) Budget & Finance (Financial Report preparation)	3,000.00	-
	<u>129,554.81</u>	<u>64,951.56</u>

BANK ACCOUNTS:

Current Account	7,194.94	Available Funds	152,275.03
Savings Acct (Revolving Fund)	56,183.79	Less: Annual Dues	<u>61,200.00</u>
Savings Acct (Fund Raising)	<u>88,896.30</u>	OPERATING FUNDS	<u>91,075.03</u>

AVAILABLE FUNDS 152,275.03

NOTE:SPECIAL DEPOSIT ACCOUNT PLACEMENT 502,200.00

PLEDGES 2011

PLEDGOR#	AMOUNT
3 Ding Susan Mayor #41	500.00
15 Samie Lulou Asia #157	500.00
16	500.00
17	500.00
32	100.00
55 Jhun Mylene Pineda #116	500.00
67 Don Liza Salisi #211	1,000.00
68 Joe Connie Gumba #178	500.00
79 Phil+Cristy Sumera #124	500.00
81 Dante Marife Maanda I#184	500.00
85 Demet Baby Ledesma #64	100.00
87 Sonny Arhlene Cariaga #102	1,000.00
95 Pol Naty Castillo #272	500.00
113 Dennis Malou Tinga	1,000.00
117 Ed Thelma Planas #111	1,000.00
123 Alex Elvie Sagum #242	1,000.00
	<u>9,700.00</u>

**PLEASE PAY TO THE TREASURER YOUR MDMEC
ANNUAL DUES IN THE AMOUNT OF P120.00
PER COUPLE**



JANUARY 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Feast of Mary, Mother of God MEFP-DSWD Couple Power Seminar	2	3	4	5	6 Prayer Gathering HOLY MASS (Fr. Domie Guzman, SSP)	7
8	9 Intercessory Prayer (Fr. Domie Guzman, SSP)	10	11	12	13 Prayer Gathering (Bro. Harold Espeleta)	14 ME LSS
15 ME LSS	16 Intercessory Prayer	17	18	19	20 Prayer Gathering (Bro. Noel Claro) MEW 285	21 MEW 285
22 MEW 285	23 Intercessory Prayer	24	25 BOT Regular Monthly Meeting	26	27 Prayer Gathering CHRISTOLOGY (Fr. Domie Guzman, SSP)	28
29	30 Intercessory Prayer	31				

COMMISSIONING of LITURGICAL SERVANTS at PG

The Worship Ministry has initiated the commissioning of seventeen Lectors and Commentators and eleven Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion during the Prayer Gathering for First Friday Mass at Viologo on Friday, December 2, 2011.

Our Spiritual Director, Rev. Fr. Domie Guzman presided the Holy Mass and led the Commissioning Rites and Blessing of the new servants of Mater Dei M.E. Community.

The Lectors and Commentators who have completed the Renewal Formation required by the Diocesan Ministry for Liturgical Affairs last September 17 and 24 at the Immaculate Concepcion Cathedral were: Hortencia Anduyan, Rose Araniego, Lulu Aytona, Tess Caperal, Rheda Catacutan, Marian Co, Vicky Contreras, Emma de Llamas, Cherry Manuel, Rose Mayo, Thelma Mercado, Rose Montales, Richie Rebolledo, Sally Rey, Liza Salisi, Miriam Santos and Adel Tambasacan

The Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion who also completed their renewal last October 15, 2011 were Demet Araniego, Rey Cruz, Demet Ledesma, Raymund Liwanag, Jr., Noy Manalo, Ogie Mercado, Willie Montales, Bong Salvador, Fred Santos, Lorenz Tabilog, and Jun Tambasacan.

In addition, we have members who completed their renewal in their respective parishes and serve also in liturgical activities of Mater Dei ME Community: Lulou Asia, Sam Asia, Ben Bernardo, Letty Bernardo, Rhodora Bohol, Tom Co, Ryck de Paz, Ram Gloria, Adora Mabesa, Bobby Mabesa, Armand Perez, Joey Petrache, Babes Tuazon and Nestor Tuazon.



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marriage encounter community
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BONG DANG GALICIA
Lead Couple, Social Network

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