

News  
Bulletin  
of the

# Humanitas

Federation of Filipino-Chinese Catholic Women's Organizations

菲華天主教婦女聯合會



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September- December 2014



*“ In the poor and outcast  
we see Christ’s face; by loving and  
helping the poor, we love and  
serve Christ.”*  
-Pope Francis



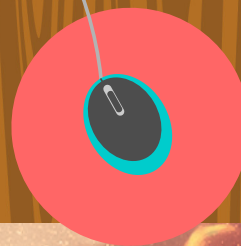
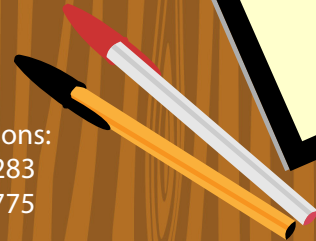
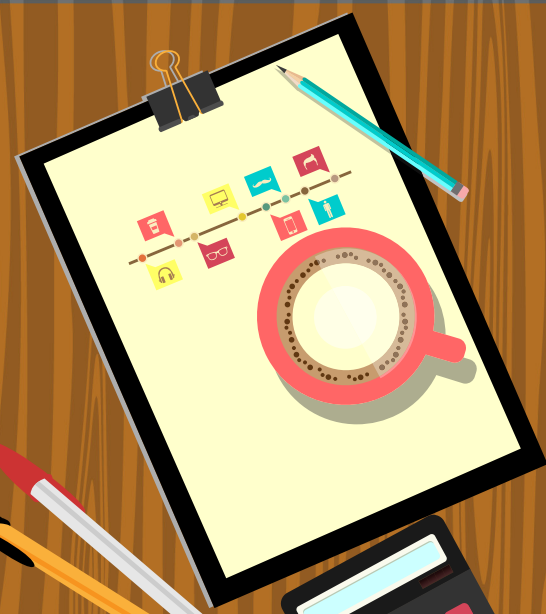
## From the Editor

Hi everybody! A very Happy New Year to you all! This is your 3rd issue of the Humanitas. Enjoy. You may start sending your write up/ articles for our January-April 2015 Issue, with accompanying pictures and name of writer/ author.

Our e-mail address again, is: [humanitas\\_2014@yahoo.com](mailto:humanitas_2014@yahoo.com)  
Our Website: [www.ffccwo.org](http://www.ffccwo.org)

You may also mail your articles to this address:  
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We are still accepting line ads. at Php 1000.00 per issue: Contact persons:  
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2015 FFCCWO GRAND ACTIVITY OF THE YEAR:

*The Presidents and Secretaries Meeting in Tuguegarao,*

MARCH 6-8, 2015.



# Christmas Message 2014



There are two figures that compete for prominence during Christmas: Jesus Christ and Santa Claus. Christ is the reason for the celebration, and yet the big, overweight, bearded jolly fellow is more popular especially to the kids. In a world which has turned to be highly materialistic, kids pray to Santa for what they want and not to Jesus. In the streets, there are few pictures of the Baby Jesus in the manger, while Santa is on every show window.

Dear sisters, as FFCCWO women, mothers and grand moms, let us make a stand for Jesus. Let every heart and home focus on Jesus this Christmas. After all, where would we be without Jesus? Let me share with you what an Unknown Author wrote:

- Santa lives in the North Pole... Jesus is everywhere.
- Santa comes but once a year... Jesus is ever present.
- Santa fills your stockings with goodies... Jesus provides us with all that we need.
- You have to wait in line to see Santa... Jesus is close as the mention of His name.
- Santa lets you sit on his lap... Jesus lets you rest in His arms.
- Santa doesn't know your name... Jesus has carved your name in the palm of His hand.
- Santa has a belly like a bowl full of jelly... Jesus has a heart full of love.
- All Santa says is "You better not cry"... Jesus says "Cast your burdens upon me."
- Santa comes down your chimney... Jesus knocks at your door and enters your heart.
- Santa brings toys... Jesus gives new life, mends broken hearts and repairs broken homes.
- Santa puts gifts under the Christmas tree... Jesus is our gift and died on the tree.
- Santa gives us gifts of this world... Jesus gives us what lasts for eternity.

Obviously, there is NO comparison. Jesus is the reason for the Christmas season. Christmas is all about Jesus. As FFCCWO women, our challenge is to put Christ back in Christmas. This Christmas, let our greetings, acts, and deeds of service bring Christ back to the lonely, the hungry, the sick and those at the back roads. Let FFCCWO make Jesus truly alive anywhere and everywhere. Let this be the FFCCWO essence of Christmas.

As we meet the year 2015, let us brace ourselves for another year of profound commitment to FFCCWO. Let us look forward to the Presidents and Secretaries Conference in March. Let us welcome Pope Francis to the Philippines with our fervent prayer of thanksgiving. Let us continually be propelled by the love of Jesus at all times.

May this love of Jesus envelop you and your families. May each FFCCWO family and community be blessed. And may you have the best this Christmas, this coming New Year and always.

Fondly,  
Luisa Jon-Ng  
FFCCWO President



# Message

Dear Sisters in Christ,

“She gave birth to her first Son, wrapped Him in clothes and laid him in a manger--there was no room for them to stay in the inn” (Luke 2.7).

The celebration of Christmas is a witness to the life of Jesus, the Son of God stripped of His glory (Phil.2:5-7), who became poor in order to enrich us through his poverty (2 Cor. 8-9). Christmas reminds us that Jesus was born poor, lived poor and died poor. The majority of Filipinos experience poverty in varied forms, that is, lack of food, shelter and clothing. Our poor brothers and sisters invite us to in solidarity with them. The Philippine Church has declared 2015 as Year of the Poor. Dear ladies, may you be inspired by Jesus to continue your mission as evangelizers of the poor, the lost, the last and the least in our society.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude for the generous help of Madam President, Luisa Ng, the Kalibo Chapter and the Roxas Chapter during the National Youth Ministers conference in Kalibo, Aklan last October 20-26, 2014. In behalf of the Episcopal Commission on Youth and the Secretariat, thank you so much!

As we look forward to the apostolic visit of His Holiness Pope Francis in January 2015, let us keep praying for him. He will bring God’s mercy and compassion. **HEARTY WELCOME, YOUR HOLINESS!**

Dear Ladies, see you in March in Tuguegarao for the Presidents and Secretaries Meeting.

To one and all, a most blessed and a very spirit-filled new year! Be blessed with abundant graces, joy and loving service, good health and happiness individually and as a family.

**LEOPOLDO C. JAUCIAN, SVD, DD**  
*Bishop of Bangued*  
*CBCP National Coordinator Chinese Apostolate.*







## The Meaning of Misa de Gallo

Misa de Gallo, sometimes called Simbang Gabi, is a century-old Filipino religious tradition celebrated during the season of Advent. It is called Misa de Gallo, or mass for the roosters, because it is originally dedicated to the farmers. Since farmers wake up early, they were given special privilege by the Church to hear dawn masses before attending to their farms especially that December is a harvest month.

Dawn masses are said for nine (9) consecutive days or novena in preparation for the Christmas season starting on the 16th to the 24th of December of each year. It is also called Misa de Aguinaldo or gift mass as thanksgiving to the Lord for the abundant harvests and for graces received. Thus, it has been a practice since then that *pamainit* is served after the mass as an expression of our generosity in sharing our blessings, and a manifestation of our closeness to one another.

Our community, through the years has observed this old tradition of *pamainit* where groups take turns to sponsor the *pamainit* right after each Misa de Gallo. It is a gathering that we look forward to during the season of Advent, and with a simple breakfast where our community takes time to eat together and bond despite our busy Christmas schedule. This religious tradition holds a great significance for us because it is unique not only to our community, but also to our country and to all Filipinos throughout the world. Attending Misa de Gallo is an affirmation of our deep faith and devotion to God as we look forward and hope for His second coming.

*Ma. Joyce Kho, San Lorenzo Ruiz, Cagayan de Oro City*

## Mary Mediatrix Ladies Circle , Cotabato Chapter

### An Awesome China Trip with Cardinal Orlando Quevedo



First stop was Beijing to see the Great Wall, the Summer Palaces, Tian ‘anmen Square and the Forbidden City. Then to Xian for the Terracota Warriors and cultural shows, on to Shanghai for some shopping, Guilin for a short cruise with a last stop in Yangshou and Guangzhou for the popular Chimelong Safari, circus show and more shopping.

“Your wish is my command.” No sooner did Cardinal Orlando Quevedo expressed his wish to see the many beautiful and historical places in China when Mother Lily Uy granted his wish. Why not, indeed! In less than 2 months a tour group consisting of 16 Mary Mediatrix Ladies, together with their spouses, children and friends was ready for a 10 day China tour.



In the 10 days tour that we had, we discovered that Cardinal Quevedo is not always a serious person, but also a “kalog,” with his jokes, and a beautiful voice to boot. A group picture seemed to say, “China, we’ll be back!”





## Happy Mid-Autumn Moon Festival 2014



A. special Sunday mass on September 7, 2014 was officiated by Archbishop Romulo Valles, Monsignor Paul Cuison and Fr. Randy to celebrate the Chinese Mid-Autumn Moon Festival.



Picture taking after the mass. Standing left to right: Sylvia Uy, Irena Yutankin, Pacita Uy, Felinda Go, Gloria Lu, Judith Gan, Archbishop Valles, Lily Co, Erlinda Tan, Juana Tan, Precy So, Norma Lu. Kneeling left to right: Emily Go, Conchita Tan, Erlinda Lee and Nenita Uy.

Today is a special Sunday celebrating the Chinese Mid-Autumn Moon Festival. Archbishop Romulo Valles, together with Monsignor Paul Cuison and Fr. Randy celebrated the 9:30 am mass. This annual festival which takes place on the 15th day of the eighth month in the Lunar calendar, is celebrated by Chinese communities all over the world. Archbishop Valles expressed hope that an occasion like this would bring more Chinese Catholics, non-Catholic Chinese and even non-Chinese parishioners to the parish so we could happily celebrate together as one community.

For the first time in the history of the Sacred Heart Parish, Archbishop Valles organized a coming together of various parochial organizations. This was made possible with the generous help of the Davao Sacred Heart Ladies Circle and the Filipino Chinese Catholic Youth (FCCY), under the leadership of Lafayette Lim. Chinese teachers of the Stella Maris Academy were also invited to join the celebration. Since partaking of the Chinese pastries famously known as moon cakes is part of the festival tradition, what better way to enjoy these moon cakes than to make them part of the prizes in the game of dice. Round shaped moon cakes symbolize completeness, while sharing them signifies family unity. Although every player wished to get the top prize which is the biggest moon cake, yet, in a spirit of goodwill and friendship, it still felt good to win a prize, be it big or small. Unmistakably, everyone was a winner because everyone had a good time!

## Christmas Party 2014



Monsignor Paul Cuison led the prayer and grace before meals during the Christmas buffet dinner held at the Marco Polo Hotel. After partaking of the bounteous food everybody gathered around the table for a group picture.

**Standing from left to right:** Henriza Uy, Felinda Go, Conchita Tan, Lina Tan, Erlinda Tan, Purita Olivar, Juanita Uy, Annie Sumalinog, Father Randy, Nancy Lim, Monsignor Paul Cuisia, Lourdes Yao, Rosita de la Cruz, Gloria Lu, Erlinda Lee Josephine Lim, Jeanett Yutankin

**Seated left to right:** Nenita Uy, Surian Te, Soledad Huang, Pacita Uy, Eufrosina Tan, Adelaida Co, Araceli Tepoot, Presentacion So, Emily Go, Lily Co, Sylvia Uy.



# Kids of Hope

Mothers and grandmothers always have a soft spot in their hearts for children, more so, for special children with medical problems and physical disabilities.

The House of Hope inside the compound of the Southern Philippine Medical Center houses kids with ages from 0 – 18 years who are suffering from cancer. Aside from providing chemotherapy and other medical needs, it has an in-house educational program which allows children to continue their studies while undergoing treatment.

The Davao Ladies Circle did their part in uplifting the spirits and bringing joy to these children by entertaining them with the help of a magician and a clown. The clown led the kids in playing parlor games, with prizes of stuffed toys and stuffed animals, books, and soap bubbles. The magician on the other hand, wowed the kids with his magic leaving the kids enraptured and seemingly hypnotized.

After an hour of excitement, brunch of fried chicken, spaghetti, cuchinta, biko, cassava cake and fruit salad was served by the Ladies Circle. The kids really enjoyed the food. Aside from that, individual bags containing hygiene kits of toothbrush, toothpaste, soap bars, toilet as well as rice, assorted toys, biscuits were distributed to each child. Added to all the yummy bags was a donation of trays and trays of fresh eggs for the kids' weekly consumption.

The time spent with these special kids may be short, but we hope that the memory will last a lifetime, however long or short their lifetime might be. The Davao Ladies Circle promised to continue supporting the House of Hope on a quarterly basis.



December 8, 2014. The “Wish List” is an annual project of the House of Hope when cancer survivors come together every Christmas and receive the toys they wish for.

As early as the month of October, the Ladies Circle were getting busy planning for the activities for the coming holiday season. Meanwhile, a visit from ex-officio Pilar Uy brought out the youthful energy in us. In this reunion we played parlor games, and had brunch afterwards.

The month of November finds us celebrating with sister Araceli Tepoot on her birthday. After months of illness she is now in the pink of health.



Caption: Left to right: Sylvia Uy, Emily Go, Josephine Lim  
Felinda Go, Conchita Tan, Lily Co, Erlinda Tan  
Seated: Nancy Lim, Birthday celebrant, Araceli Tepoot



# SANTA MARIA PARISH CATHOLIC WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION, ILOILO CHAPTER

Visitation of FFCCWO National President Luisa J. Ng and officers together with Bishop Leopoldo Jaucian, DD, in Iloilo City last July 19, 2014. We felt blessed that Bishop Jaucian celebrated his birthday with us. We welcomed them at the port in the morning despite the heavy rains. From there we proceeded to Tatoy's Seafood Restaurant for lunch. Later in the afternoon Bishop Jaucian officiated mass.



A formal party celebration of Bishop Jaucian's birthday with a lauriat dinner was held at the Ocean City Restaurant. There were singing and instant bonding with our sisters in the chapter. Sis Mila Apuy shared some verses from the bible. Our chapter president, Lanie Uy had nothing but praises for the celebrant. It was truly a fruitful and meaningful evening.



On September 7, which is our Parish fiesta and Marian celebration a procession was held in the afternoon, and a concelebrated mass was officiated by Rev. Archbishop Angel Lagdameo, DD, who also installed Fr. Ruben Orbeta, Jr. the new parish priest of Santa Maria (Our Lady of China Parish).



During the September monthly meeting, the CWA ladies and their spouses also celebrated the Mid- Autumn Mooncake Festival. There were prizes galore during the game of dice.



October, month of the Holy Rosary, was culminated with a living Rosary participated by all members of parish organizations.



The picture above reminds us of CWA members some 20 years ago. Some have gone home to the Father, while many, although retired senior citizens, have remained active and still very much involved in the activities of the Association. We find comfort and encouragement from each other, and this is our prayer:

*Sent by: Lanie Uy, President, Iloilo Chapter*







## Prayer for Seniors

I may be growing older dear Lord,  
But I'll never outgrow my need to talk with you.  
I've come a long way in my life  
And thank You for helping me to get this far.  
May You continue to watch over me each day.

You are my dearest Friend, and  
You know I've had my ups and downs in life.  
Although there have been some sorrows,  
I've also been blessed with many joys.

Now that I'm in my latter years,  
Please give me the strength and energy  
To carry on in the best ways I can.  
I'm so glad to be alive Lord.  
Keep me safe from harm.  
Let me be as free as possible from any health  
And money worries.

I hope to take things a little easier,  
at this time in my life,  
Of course, at my age, I'm not able to do  
Quite as much as I used to.

I'm slower now and sometimes,  
it takes me a while to get going.  
So please help others to be kind,  
patient and understanding towards me,  
And may I always remember to treat  
them the same way.

Let me look forward to each new day Lord.  
Be merciful and bless my remaining years  
With happiness and loved ones who care.  
Amen.

*Sent by: Mila Apuy*

**Philippians 4:13**

*"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me,"*

## St. Michael Ladies Circle, Iligan Chapter

Past president, Matea B. Dy once again sponsored the baptism project, and the distribution of food packs, copies of the Holy Bible, rosary beads and cash gifts on September 20, 2014. This project was a joint coordination of the St. Michael Ladies Circle and the OES.



### **SHARING THOUGHTS ABOUT CHRISTIAN FAITH, HOPE & LOVE.**





*And the Lord turned and looked at Peter... (Lk 22:61)*

## **THE GAZE OF THE CRUCIFIED LORD**

Love and Compassion, Forgiveness and Challenge

CBCP Message: Opening of the Year of the Poor 2015

When you gaze into the eyes of the Crucified Lord, and he gazes into yours, you encounter the love of the Resurrected Lord. Many prefer not to look. Many recoil at looking into the eyes of a man in deadly pain. Many balk at having to respond to love. But these are not the eyes of a defeated man, condemned for criminal insurrection. They are the eyes of an unlikely King, who in dealing death its death blow, still looks into our eyes with challenge. In his love is his call to the Kingdom of his Father, his Kingdom of justice, compassion, peace and life to the full.

In the sign of this crucified Lord, now resurrected, we your Pastors, invite you to the celebration of the Year of the Poor. Behold Jesus, poor. No image of Jesus, poor, surpasses this one. Jesus hangs from his Cross stripped of his clothes, his dignity, his possessions, his power, his strength. He is fully one with the unwashed, the oppressed, the scorned, the powerless, the miserable, the outcaste. In the Year of the Poor, look into the eyes of the crucified Lord. There is no experience richer.

*You who are poor...*

In those eyes, you who are poor, feel his suffering-with-you. From his Cross, he walks with you through crowded alleys, stumbles on mud, recoils at the stench of unmoved sewerage. He bows to enter your makeshift home hobbled together from salvaged materials; it is for your family, but you share it perforce with rats and cockroaches, an oven in the hot season, a waterfall when rainy.

On his Cross, he is with you – God with you. He has taken on your nakedness, your vulnerability, your hunger, your illness, your shame. You once thought you could escape the hardship of your rural beginnings. But your suffering only increased. Here, you cannot find the camote to chase the hunger from your belly; you cannot find the herbs to stop your baby's vomiting and diarrhea; you cannot find money even to keep your single bulb burning. Here, though amidst thousands, neighbors are distant.

You were once grateful for the backbreaking work you finally found; your work continues to break your back, and bend you. But your debts just continue to grow. The clothes and shoes you bought last year to send your children to school are already worn out. In your home you have an altar. Mary is there. The Nazareno is there. So is the Sto. Niño. You pray. But you tremble when you hear the shouts of the demolition crews approaching. You cry out for mercy. You look into the eyes of your crucified King.

Looking into his eyes, you feel his gaze into your soul. You do not understand. Why the love for you, but a poor man? Why the energy from the Cross to convince you: you are loved? Why the persisting message like a mantra in the sign of the Cross: "I have come to bring life, and bring life to the full," and, "Blessed are you who are poor.... Blessed are you who hunger now... Blessed are you when men hate you..."

Why his silent acceptance of abuse, hatred, rejection, oppression and death in rejection of yours? Why his abiding identification with you, as he calls on his disciples to act in your aid? "Whatever you do for this poor person, that you do for me. ... Whatever you do not do for this poor person, that you do not do for me?" Why, on your behalf, to any who follow him, his mandate to works of mercy? "Feed

the hungry. Give drink to the thirsty. Clothe the naked. Shelter the homeless. Visit the sick. Ransom the captive. Bury the dead." For the answers to these questions... look into his eyes, and search within.

*You who are weary...*

In the Year of the Poor, all you who labor and are heavily burdened, we your Pastors invite you, as Jesus himself did: come to Jesus. "Come to me," Jesus said, "and I will give you rest." Life has not reduced you to penury, but life has not lifted you to wealth. To you also Jesus has said, "I have come to give life, and to give it to the full."

Thinking of your families, your spouses, your children, the relatives who run to you for help in their unending need, you work long hours, you work overtime, you even take on second and third jobs, just to make ends meet. Often ends don't meet; demands exhaust you; your taskmasters overstress you; worries distress you.

But you labor on in love. Thinking of the smiles on your children's faces and the promises you have made your spouse to provide adequately, you work on, hoping your sacrifice will bring the full life that Jesus brings. Whenever you can, whenever you remember, you pray. You ask him to help. You ask his mother for help. He does help. She does come to your aid. You know that. Now, coming to Jesus hanging from his Cross, look into his eyes as he looks into yours with love.

*You who are rich...*

"I have come to bring life," he said, "life to the full." Some of you, sadly, are unmoved by this. You do not believe this. You do not believe Jesus brings anything. You say you do, but you don't.

For you, the fullness of life is the good life: your doing. It is not gifted, but taken. It is not brought to you as a blessing from above, but seized as a result of pushing and shoving from below. It is not selfless, but selfish. It is fueled by pride, scheming ambition, the exhilaration of power, the taste of blood. For this you work harder than hard, you push yourselves to the limit, you even push beyond the limit. To achieve "the sweet life," to outdo your ambitions, to over satiate your sycophants, to make them applaud without end, you abuse your bodies, you break the law, you violate your conscience; you ravage Creation. Your social life is your needy ego. You manipulate people, exploit their skills; take advantage of their weaknesses; pay them poorly. What is rightly theirs, you steal; what rightly belongs to society, you conceal. What is there for all, you hoard for yourself. For you, there is no common good, only your good!

You build your first house, then your second houses; you provide for your family, then for your second families. You fill your lives with deceit, hypocrisy, and misery, and so glory in your "good life." You take great satisfaction in that you are not like the rest of the rabble. You have no need for prayer; you have no need for God.

In this Year of the Poor, we your Pastors invite you, step back from the rat race, the pressure, the din. Step back, and look into the eyes of the King.

His gaze penetrates through your eyes to your heart. It is the same gaze of compassion as his gaze into the eyes of the poor. But it is a gaze altered by your own arrogance and cynicism. It is a gaze marked by concern. You may not wish to hear his message, but he says it again for you: "Woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. Woe to you who laugh now, for you will mourn and



weep. Woe when society speaks well of you, for your fathers did the same to false prophets.”

He doesn't thunder this from loudspeakers, nor embarrass you with this in the media, for you are well-respected and honorable persons. He says it simply in his gaze, knowing fully you can reject it, as you have rejected it before.

But in the Year of the Poor, where so many poor are poor because of your decisions, he also reminds you that over concern with your humungous investments, your corporate takeovers, your capture of political power and your fine reputations to the detriment or negligence of the poor may have serious consequences. “Whatever you have done or not done to one of these the least of my brothers and sisters, that you have done or not done to me.” For not feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, succoring the sick, sheltering the stranger, visiting the imprisoned, the Lord, the Just Judge, may say to you, “Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire...” for I was poor, and you did not care.

If you have trouble believing this, look into his eyes gazing at you from the Cross.

*Behold Jesus poor...*

If that gaze, filled with love, brings you to confusion, shame and repentance in this Year of the Poor, then consider its urgent challenge for you:

With God's grace, turn away from your haughtiness, your pride, your selfishness, your idolatry of money, your all-consuming fascination with power. In love, work to build the Kingdom of God on earth!

In the Philippines, this means, urgently: stop the corruption. Stop the misuse of the People's funds. Stop the wanton destruction of the environment. Fight the poverty of the poor. Build vibrant companies that use our resources to create wealth for our people, but distribute that wealth equitably. Build an economy that responds to the unconscionable poverty of the fishermen, the tillers of the soil, the urban laborers. Build an economy that is open to the world, but whose benefits do not exclude the poor. Provide jobs.

Provide education that respects all our people as human beings and children of God, not just cogs in a global production machine. But provide education relevant to the fight against dehumanizing poverty: basic education to all, and higher education to all who desire it. Build a society of dialogue in our diversity, and especially for our poor, build a society of peace. No more war, for the greatest victims of war are the poor!

*Behold Jesus, hope of the poor...*

If that gaze, filled with love, brings you in poverty to consolation, encouragement and peace, take heart in Jesus' love. He strengthens you, encourages you, and calls the Christian community to help you progress from destitution to the fullness of life.

But help the community in helping yourselves. Should you have no work, look for work. Should you have work, work well. Cultivate a personal sense of industry, self-respect and social responsibility. As the economy allows, continue to provide well for your family in love: nutritious food, adequate clothing, medical care, good education, wholesome recreation. Strive for conditions of work that are humane and just. Continue to contribute to the welfare of your neighbors, your barangay, your municipality, your city, your nation. Always be helpful. Vote as the common good demands. Together with your spouse, lead your children to the love and respect the Lord through our Catholic communion. Be active in your parish and in your basic ecclesiastical community. Love, as you are loved by God. Share courageously of your faith in love! You are

not just receivers of the Gospel. You are its bearers!

*Shepherds looking into the eyes of the Good Shepherd...*

Finally, in the year of the poor, we your pastors, and with us, all priests and religious, look with you into the eyes of the crucified Lord. How often it is that we have look into those tortured eyes and failed to notice their twinkle! We have seen only embarrassing defeat, jaded suffering and obvious dying, but failed to notice the light that pierces the gloom in our hearts.

In the void that loneliness and isolation brought by our distance from Crucified, we can be misled to fill the gaping abyss with new phones and ipads. We can cover the gaping vacuum with another luxury car or designer jeans or more fashionable shoes more than our shoe racks can contain; with a vacation out of the country or another gadget for the bedroom. We can hold on to the whisky bottle and hope that the bottled spirit will exorcise the spirit of boredom in us. It can also be filled up by working like a horse to impress the people, to create a fans' club and move you up higher to a better assignment. It can also increase our interest in bank savings, the stock market and the accumulation of more properties. Church funds and personal funds are deliberately mixed up. The parish crawls in financial difficulties while we sprint and jump with financial security. Our easy and comfortable lifestyles can make us numb to the peril of worldliness. It can make us at ease with ecclesiastical vanities. *(to be continued...)*

Read and be touched:

## *A Silent Sermon*

~author unknown~

**A** member of a certain church, who previously had been attending services regularly, stopped going. After a few weeks, the priest decided to visit him. It was a chilly evening. The priest found the man at home alone, sitting before a blazing fire.

Guessing the reason for his priest's visit, the man welcomed him, led him to a comfortable chair near the fireplace and waited. The priest made himself at home but said nothing. In the grave silence, he contemplated the dance of the flames around the burning logs.

After some minutes, the priest took the fire tongs, carefully picked up a brightly burning ember and placed it to one side of the hearth all alone. Then he sat back in his chair, still silent. The host watched all this in quiet contemplation. As the one lone ember's flame flickered and diminished, there was a momentary glow and then its fire was no more.

Soon it was cold and dead. Not a word had been spoken since the initial greeting. The priest glanced at his watch and realized it was time to leave, he slowly stood up, picked up the cold, dead ember and placed it back in the middle of the fire. Immediately it began to glow, once more with the light and warmth of the burning coals around it.

As the priest reached the door to leave, his host said with a tear running down his cheek, “Thank you so much for your visit and especially for the fiery sermon. I shall be back in church next Sunday.”



## Mary the Queen Ladies Circle Response to the theme of the 17th FFCCWO National Convention held in Tagbilaran, Bohol: Women, Evangelizers of Faith, Hope and Love.

We, as members of the ladies circle at MTQ (Mary the Queen) Parish continue to do our role as women evangelizers of faith, hope and love. This is our response to the challenge on the theme set forth at the 17th FFCCWO National Convention in Tagbilaran in March 2014:

Early this year, we set up a Mandarin class, hoping to be more proficient in imparting the basics of the Catholic faith (catechism) to couples planning for a church wedding, and also, to appreciate better the mass said in Chinese.

On January 31, 2014, a Friday, we celebrated Chinese New Year's Day with a special mass officiated by Fr. Ari Dy, S.J., held at the parish.

In January 22nd of this year the MTQ celebrated its 60th Jubilee year. It also marks the significance of the mission of evangelization and pastoral care among Chinese Filipinos. As part of this celebration, MTQ hosted the Jesuit Chinese Filipino Apostolate (JCFA) conference, a dialogue among 6 Jesuit Chinese Filipino Apostolate institutions namely:

1. Mary the Queen Parish in Greenhills,
2. Shrine of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in Cebu,
3. Sta. Maria Parish in Iloilo,
4. Xavier School in Greenhills and Nuvali,
5. Ateneo de Cebu-Sacred Heart School for boys and girls,
6. Ateneo de Iloilo-Sta. Maria Parish in Iloilo.

The primary objective of this conference/dialogue is to stress among the Chinese Filipino communities in each institution the importance of their role in evangelization, thus becoming partners in the Jesuit mission to deepen the faith of the communities within the church and school, and eventually, reach out to those non-Catholics.

This November, we will set up again the Ancestral Veneration Altar Remembrance Board for our dearly departed relatives and friends. Anyone who wishes to remember a departed loved one can register. Upon registration, the names of the beloved deceased will be posted on the memory board for the whole month of November, and will be included in the daily mass intentions. Any donation received is given to the Philippine Jesuit Aid Association (PJAA). Part of the amount will also be used for the upkeep of this project. As a Universal Church, the participation in the Ancestral Veneration Altar is open to all, regardless of race and culture.





# Congratulations to the 35th Chapter of FFCCWO



On July 9-10, 2014, FFCCWO national president, Luisa Ng, together with COP (Council of Presidents) member, Fanny Uy and yours truly, FFCCWO national secretary, Carol Jeun, visited Palawan in the hope of creating a new local chapter member of the FFCCWO. We had the good opportunity of meeting Mrs. Virgie Gapuz who brought along 9 of her very close friends. After a night of fellowship, dining and discussion this group decided to make a commitment to form a ladies circle.

Finally, on November 29, 2014, the Holy Family of Palawan Filipino-Chinese Catholic Ladies Circle was formally inducted as the 35th chapter member of the Federation of Filipino Chinese Catholic Women's Organization (FFCCWO). A thanksgiving mass at 7 p.m. was celebrated by Bishop Leopoldo C. Jaucian, with concelebrants, Fr. Juan Felipe Torrecampo, parish priest of the Immaculate Conception Cathedral and Fr. Albert Sanches, parish priest of San Pedro. Venue of the mass was at 118 Building, National Highway, San Pedro, beside the City Coliseum in the city of Puerto Princesa. After the mass a sumptuous dinner prepared by the newly inducted members was laid out on the table. It was a wonderful time to dine and get to know their families. Present at the occasion were no less than our FFCCWO national president, Luisa Ng, national secretary, Carol Jeun, national treasurer, Shirley Cheng, ex-officio FFCCWO president, Juana Go, and the godmother of this newly formed chapter, COP member Fanny Uy of Iloilo.

National president, Luisa Ng installed the new chapter, while Bishop Leopoldo C. Jaucian inducted the 1st set of officers and members. Following is the complete list of officers and members of the new chapter:

- |                           |                       |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| President                 | <b>Virginia Gapuz</b> |
| 1st Vice President        | <b>Judy Go</b>        |
| 2nd Vice President        | <b>Erlinda Pe</b>     |
| Secretary                 | <b>Catherine Pe</b>   |
| Treasurer                 | <b>Pamela Teng</b>    |
| Auditor                   | <b>Evelyn Banzon</b>  |
| PRO                       | <b>Lolita Go</b>      |
|                           | <b>Members</b>        |
| <b>Teresita Dimalanta</b> | <b>Angie Go</b>       |
| <b>Avelina Go</b>         | <b>Aileen Pe</b>      |
| <b>Alice Sia</b>          | <b>Vivian Sy</b>      |
| <b>Lolita Zabala</b>      |                       |

In behalf of the Federation of Filipino Chinese Catholic Women's Organization (FFCCWO), we congratulate the Holy Family of Palawan Filipino-Chinese Catholic Ladies Circle, and welcome them to the family. We are truly grateful to the godmother of this Palawan Chapter, our COP member Fanny Uy. She really went out of her way and persevered in bringing this chapter into full realization. All the Palawan Ladies could say was that they simply could not resist the charming ways of Tita Fanny, the lady with the noble heart who was determined to spread God's love among the Filipino-Chinese Community in Palawan.

*Carol Jeun, National Secretary*





## Our Activities for this Year:

May 2014, before the opening of classes, we distributed school supplies to a number of school children.

June 25, 2014, 8:00 am to 12noon. : Our chapter conducted a skill training livelihood project by inviting a trainer from the Manila Manpower Development Center to teach candle making to 20 women participants.

August 15, 2014: Another batch of 50 women participants underwent massage skill training which lasted for 21 sessions.

September 27, 2014, 6 am to 10:30 am: 150 parishioners availed of our annual laboratory check up. On top of this we have a continuing charity clinic every Monday of the week, wherein around 60 indigent patients are being treated. Also a monthly donation of 10,000Php is given to the PGH to help treat cancer patients.

To enrich the spiritual life of the parishioners, we continue to sponsor talks and seminars. Recipients were deeply thankful for the outpouring of materials, as well as all physical and spiritual blessings received during these times. God is indeed good. Through His grace we continue to experience good health and youthful energy. It is with joy that we serve the lost, the least and the last. May He forever be glorified.

*Jasmin C. Tan*



## St. Joseph Filipino-Chinese Catholic Women's Association, Zamboanga Chapter

Fr. Mars Villagracia, parish priest of Tetuan, Zamboanga, conducted an Advent Recollection for the St. Joseph Filipino-Chinese Catholic Women's Association, Zamboanga Chapter.

The recollection began with the song titled, "When a Child is Born." We learned that in the early church, advent was meant only for Christmas. However, during the Middle Ages, the meaning of Advent came to mean:

- 1.Christmas Past: the time when we prepare for the celebration of Christ's birth.
- 2.Christmas Present: the time when Christ's presence is felt in the celebrant, among the people, presence of the Word of the Lord (in the Liturgy), and His presence in the Holy Eucharist.
- 3.Christmas Future: the time when we prepare for the coming of the Lord. To make ourselves worthy of the Lord, we need to cleanse ourselves, rid ourselves of our many sins. Be glad to do good works, help the poor and be content with your blessings.

Thoughts on Christmas:

We seem to forget the true meaning of Christmas. Yes, it is a time for joy, parties and merrymaking. But most of all, Christmas is a time for us to remember the little boy, Jesus, who was born in a lowly manger, to live with us and to die for us so that we may all have a chance at salvation.

*Letty Suarez*







## San Nicolas de Tolentino Ladies Circle, Surigao Chapter

October being the month of the Holy Rosary the FFCCWO ladies circle took charge of the culminating activity held at the Luneta Kiosk at 3 pm. Different religious organizations were assigned for every mystery of the Holy Rosary, which was followed by a procession and Holy Mass at the Cathedral.

October 28, 2014 – A concert entitled, Songs for Surigao was presented by the Diocese of Surigao to commemorate the 75 years journey of the Catholics of Surigao.

November 10, 2014 – Ordination to priesthood of Reverend Glenn Donoso and Reverend James Puracan at the San Nicolas de Tolentino Cathedral in Surigao City.

November 11, 2014 – The unveiling and blessing of the Diamond Jubilee landmark, and wreath laying ceremony in honor of the former bishops of the diocese held at the San Nicolas de Tolentino Cathedral in Surigao City.

November 12, 2014 – On this day we celebrated the 75th anniversary of the Diocese of Surigao. Everybody in the Catholic Community was involved in the preparation of the different activities of the Diamond Jubilee. Schedules were set and assigned to different committees. Our chapter president, Charita Go was assigned as member of the finance committee.

Calendar of activities is as follows: *(All given free)*

October 18, 2014 -	Mass Baptism
October 25, 2014	Mass Confirmation
November 8, 2014	Mass Wedding
November 9, 2014	First Communion

The yearlong commemoration which culminated on this day started with a parade at 1:30 p.m., followed by a program at 3:30 p.m. Most Rev. Jose Palma, DD, Archbishop of Cebu, was keynote speaker. His Eminence Orlando Cardinal Quevedo, OMI, DD, Archbishop of Cotabato celebrated mass at the Provincial Grandstand, with an estimated participants numbering 25,000. Members of the local church hierarchy, parish heads from nearby towns and municipalities, 29 archbishops and bishops, 1 cardinal, different religious orders, congressmen, provincial governor and the city mayor were all present at the Eucharistic celebration. Likewise many visiting priests and religious from different cities in the Philippines also graced the occasion. CBCP President and Archbishop of Lingayen, Most Rev. Socrates Villegas, DD, addressed the congregation during the 8 p.m. testimonial banquet. It was truly a huge success. Thank you all for the support!

*Virgie Cordero*






# Bridging the Gap

There will always be a line that divides parents and children. It's a clear line – thin but sturdy in its singular function of establishing roles. The parents are to be the guides of children, and children are to learn from them. Otherwise, it's a relationship built on mutual respect, understanding, and trust. As time passed though, it was as if a specter turned that line into a huge gorge between the two entities. And now, it seems parents and children barely communicate, getting farther away from each other in spirit. The distance between them makes it harder to fulfill their roles, leaving parents at a loss and children quite ignorant of life. It begs the question: How do we even tackle this impasse that pervades many of the world's homes? The simple answer is to just seek and find help.

OLLA, or Our Lady of Lourdes Association, noticed this dilemma that troubles many of the parents today. By the same heart of compassion of its eponymous patron saint, OLLA decided to provide help to those who seek the right approach to being effective parents. It was for this purpose that the motivational talk, "Parenting Today" was held last October 11, 2014. The collaborative efforts of OLLA and the Tabaco Filipino-Chinese Fire Volunteer Brigade, Inc. made this niche event, which spanned two like sessions, possible. Awareness was spread to different schools in Tabaco City so that parents would get involved. The first session was held at Tabaco Pei Ching School Social Hall from 8:30 to 11:30 in the morning while the next session was held at Hotel Fina from 6:00 to 9:00 in the evening.

The talk provided insight into how to approach parenting especially in these times ruled by a clear Zeitgeist – technology. While its ubiquity makes many different things (even ones previously thought impossible) accessible and easy to do, technology can become the axe that severs bonds in our families. Ms. Ardy Ines Araneta, the motivational speaker for the event, tackled this in the talk by sharing her knowledge on Personality Development through Effective Communications for Responsible Parenthood. Her eloquence in the subject is a product of experience which was condensed into information to be easily digested by the many attendees. It was a wonderful talk and perhaps, the people who attended the event left a little more enlightened in the subject. But, it was just the first step. It is up to parents to take this new knowledge and use it to bring them closer to their little children and/or teenage kids.

There are no shortcuts to good parenting. Patience and effort with the proper knowledge are key to creating an amicable family relationship. It is OLLA's hope that hosting this event and imparting these thought gems would herald a better future that bridges the gap between parents and children.





**Our Lady of Lourdes Association (OLLA)**  
**PRESENTS**

**"PARENTING TODAY"**  
Venue: Tabaco Pei Ching School Social Hall  
Date: October 11, 2014  
Time: 8:30 am

**Featuring**  
**MS. ARDY INES ARANETA**

**"PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT THROUGH EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION FOR RESPONSIBLE PARENTHOOD"**  
Venue: HOTEL FINA, Tabaco City  
Date: October 11, 2014  
Time: 6:00 pm



Top: Ms. Ardy Ines Araneta with OLLA President. Bottom Right: OLLA welcomes Ms. Araneta  
Bottom Left: OLLA sends off Ms. Araneta with a promise to return



Parents join the activities led by Ms. Araneta



OLLA ladies with Ms. Araneta



Event T-shirt



## Tacloban City Commemorates Yolanda Anniversary

One year after the devastation of Super typhoon Yolanda, (international code name Haiyan), the Taclobanons commemorated the unforgettable event with a series of events organized by the city government, non-governmental organizations (NGO's), civic and religious groups. Taclobanons were encouraged and invited to join the various activities not just as a way of thanksgiving, but also to show togetherness and resiliency.

The activities started on November 8, 2014 at 4 a.m. with a Haiyan Run around Tacloban led by the Rotary Club of San Juanico. Another commemorative walk starting from the Sto Nino Church was led by Archbishop John Du at 5:30 a.m. A sounding of sirens, ringing of church bells followed by a one-minute pause of silence and thanksgiving prayer was observed at 8 a.m., the exact time when the Yolanda water surge hit Tacloban.

On the same day at 10 a.m. a memorial service was held at the Holy Cross Memorial Park for the more than 2,000 dead bodies/cadavers which were retrieved from around the city, and buried here.

**Jenny Yao of SHJWA** shares her thoughts and observations on the Yolanda memorial:

Three weeks before Yolanda's first anniversary, it was announced that there would be a commemorative candle lighting ceremony. The news could be heard in radios. Posters were put up in establishments, calling all concerned citizens to light a candle in memory of the typhoon aftermath, of what we suffered through, and for those who perished during the typhoon.

In the early morning of November 8, 2014, a memorial parade was held participated by local and international NGOs, ambassadors from all over the world. We converged at the Tacloban Convention Center, then proceeded to the Holy Cross Memorial Garden where about 3,000 bodies were buried.

On that day before dusk settled in, little flickering orange lights could be seen along the roads of Tacloban. Each one lighted a candle, said a prayer of thanksgiving for the survivors, and a prayer for the souls of those who passed away.

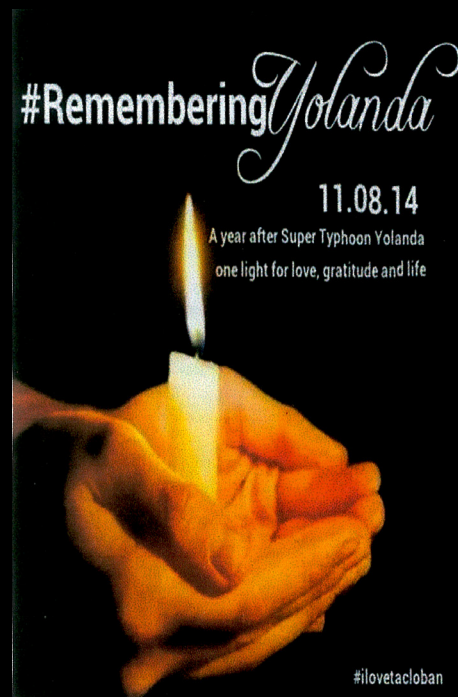
May eternal rest be granted unto the souls of the faithful departed, especially to all the victims of the super typhoon Yolanda, and let Your perpetual light shine upon them, oh Lord. Amen.

At 2 p.m. the Sacred Heart Church, with which the Sacred Heart of Jesus Women's Association (SHJWA) is affiliated, sponsored a talk on Climate Change. This was held at the Sacred Heart Gymnasium. After the talk, at 4p.m. a Holy Mass was simultaneously celebrated at the Sacred Heart Church and Sto. Nino Church.

At 5:30 p.m. a long procession commenced with candle-lighting ceremony along the roads from the airport to the different barangays. The Cancabato Bay was aglow with floating lit candles, brightened with strewn flowers, and sky lanterns drifted high up in the air to illuminate the evening sky. All these symbolic and poignant ceremonies were spearheaded by Representative Martin Romualdez of Leyte.

We have slowly moved on after a year of the Yolanda tragedy. We can wear smiles on our face. We believe there is a great hope for recovery. God will surely bring us back to light!

**Anita Lee Salazar**, Sacred Heart of Jesus Women's Association, Tacloban Chapter.





# Tuguegarao Prepares for the 10th Presidents and Secretaries Meeting



Tuguegarao-the Premier Ibanag City will host the 10th Presidents and Secretaries Meeting (PSM) on March 6-8, 2015. The St. Peter's Filipino Chinese Catholic Community of Tuguegarao warmly welcomes everyone with the Ibanag greeting, "Maddulo kamu!"

After a meeting in Tuguegarao headed by our chapter president, Edna Ontiveros, together with members of the National Board of the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Catholic Women's Organization (FFCCWO) namely, President Luisa Ng, Past President Juana Go, and National Secretary Caroline Jeun, and also after having consulted with the members of the local chapter, we formally and graciously accepted to host the said national meeting.

To make the delegates' stay memorable and to ensure a successful event, the local chapter made an initial meeting at the Arzobispado nat Tuguegarao to create the Preparation Committee. The ladies, after several meetings, have enthusiastically shared time, treasure and talent together to see to it that everything will turn out right according to God's plan. Yes, with assistance from our National Board, Tuguegarao is ready to host the event.

The organizing committee is asking all chapter delegates to send their registration and hotel reservation forms immediately for a hassle free logistical preparation.

Each chapter has to prepare a tarpaulin with pictures and captions of their respective activities connected to the theme, "Woman, Evangelizer of Faith, Hope and Love." This should depict how every chapter was able to put into practice what was tackled in the past convention in Tagbilaran. Please take note that the size of the tarpaulin should strictly be 2.5 feet in width and 5 feet in length (portrait orientation). The tarpaulin should be submitted on or before **February 28, 2015** so that it can be mounted for the exhibit. The tarpaulins may be sent via courier to:

**Anita Ong**  
Jason's Commercial  
Aguinaldo Street, Tuguegarao City, Cagayan Province



OUR LADY OF PIAT

## Theme: Woman, Evangelizer of the Poor.

The Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines declared 2015 as Year of the Poor, which is also in line with the theme of the last National Convention held in Tagbilaran, Bohol. Hotels available for delegates: Valley Hotel, Pulsar Hotel, Hotel Joselina

## March 6, 2014 (Friday) – Delegates' arrival

*Events of the day:* Recollection, to be facilitated by Fr. Jerry Orbos, SVD  
*Venue:* Conference Hall, St. Paul University Global Center Eucharistic Celebration to be presided by Tuguegarao Archbishop, Sergio Utleg  
*Venue:* Chapel of Our Lady of Chartres

## March 7, 2015 (Saturday):

*Event of the day: Morning:* Meeting of all presidents and secretaries of the Filipino-Chinese Catholic Communities from all over the country. This will be a morning seminar workshop.

*Venue:* Benedetto Hall of Pulsar Hotel

*Afternoon:* Pilgrimage to the Minor Basilica of our Lady of Piatt which houses the miraculous image of the Black Madonna, after which we proceed to

- Iguig Calvary, to visit the famed stations of the cross and to venerate the authentic relic of the Cross of Christ' then we drop by
  - St. Clare Monastery to offer our prayer requests to the St. Clare sisters.
- The pilgrimage will end at the historic and beautiful- St. Peter's Cathedral, home to the relics of St. Peter and St. John Paul II. The day will be capped by a



LOCAL CHAPTER MEETING



WITH SR. MERCEDITAS ANG, SPC INSPECTING THE VENUE AT SPUP GLOBAL CENTER



-Fellowship Party at the Valerco Hall of Valley Hotel. March 8, 2015 (Sunday) Final day – Sunday Mass at the St. Rose of Lima Parish in Annafunan. The delegates will have a chance to interact with the poor. The closing program will follow after the mass with a brunch to be served at the parish hall.

Welcome to Cagayan, the “land of smiling beauty!”

*Fredel Agatep*



FOOD TASTING AT THE ALFRESCO CANTEEN, SPUD



MEETING WITH THE NATIONAL BOARD



LEOPOLDO C. JAUCIAN SVD, DD  
NATIONAL COORDINATOR and  
FECCWO S... AL AD...  
C... AZ... P... D...



## 2016 FFCCWO National Convention in Legazpi City

Dear Lord, we present ourselves to you in thanksgiving for the opportunity to host the FFCCWO National Convention in 2016. In all humility we accept this challenge to be able to conduct this event in a manner distinct in its simplicity, creativity, meaningfulness and depth.

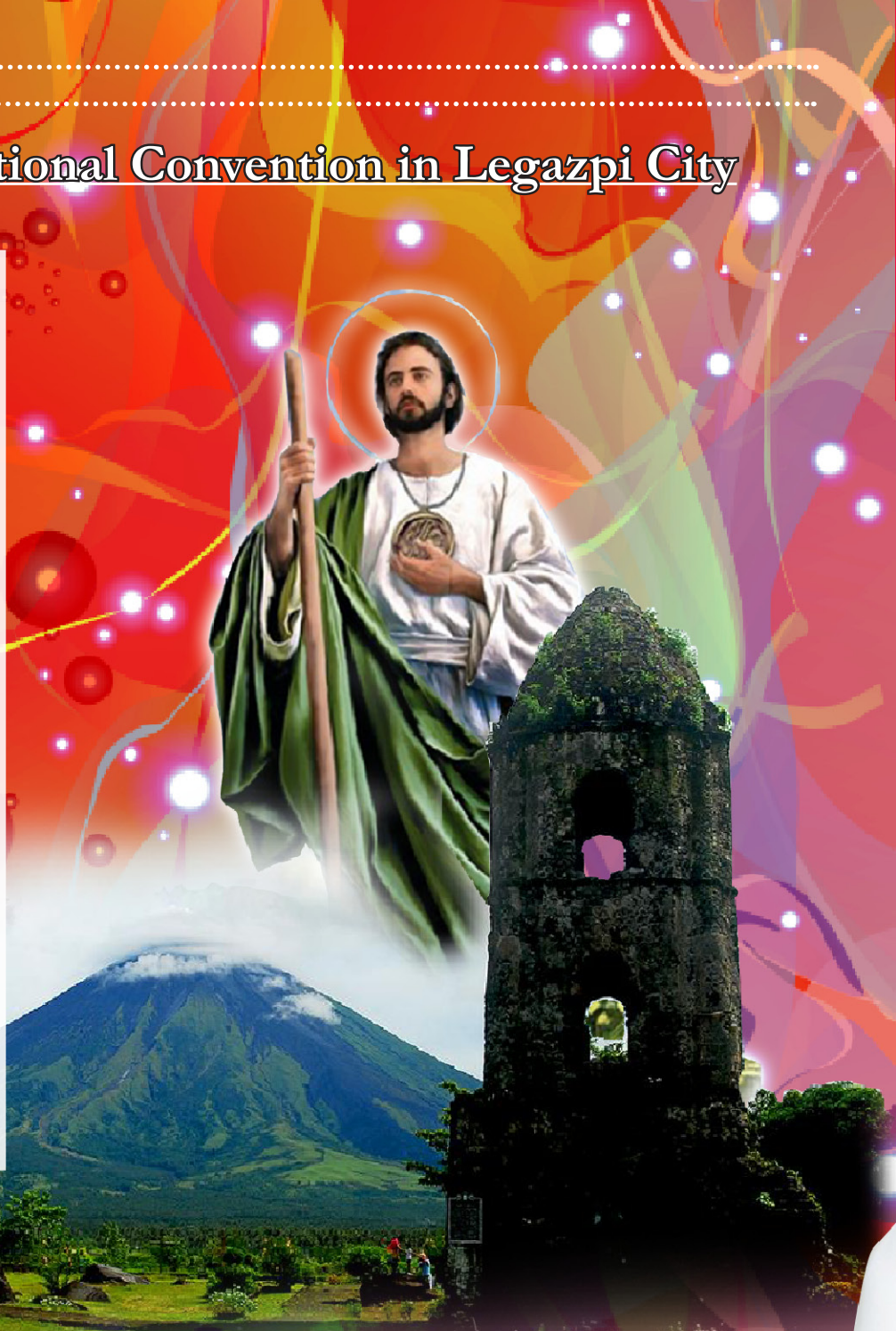
We realize that this is a daunting task, that this will require physical strength and stamina, that this will test our patience, cooperation and teamwork. We ask therefore, for the gift of good health, clean heart, clear mind and sound spirituality so that we will be able to pursue our assigned tasks in the light of love and service, for Your greater glory.

We need You, Lord, as we ask for your guidance, wisdom, courage and fortitude. A long road is ahead of us, but we pray that as we journey we may be sustained with your Word and the Eucharist, ever mindful of our mission to evangelize our brothers and sisters, to encourage and support vocation, to inspire and educate the young and to extend our hands to charity and works of mercy.

We pray for the intercession of Mama Mary as we place our hopes and aspirations in her hands. We also pray to our patron saint, St. Jude Thaddeus, in whose honor we dedicate our parish church in its golden jubilee celebration. As the patron saint of things impossible, help us make the convention possible and successful.

We ask all these in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, forever and ever, amen.

*Josephine Locsin Lee*



## OBITUARIES



**Nena Carillo Tang**

September 10, 1953 - August 30, 2014



**Shelly Ong Yao**

September 4, 1967 - October 13, 2014



**Ceferina Lee**

August 25, 1923 - December 4, 2014



**Milagros Huang Yuson**

December 14, 1941 - November 28, 2014

May they find eternal rest in the company of the hosts of angels and saints under the loving mantle of our Mother Mary before the Holy presence of the Blessed Trinity, God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

*Sent by: Josephine Locsin Lee, Daughters of Saint Jude Legazpi Chapter*