

News
Bulletin
of the

Annunziata

Federation of Filipino-Chinese Catholic Women's Organizations

菲華天主教婦女聯合會



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From the Editor

Hi everybody! This is the 4th issue of our magazine, the Humanitas. We hope you will enjoy reading it, as much as we enjoyed putting it out for you. To all those who submitted articles thank you so much for taking time to share with us your chapter activities. We really appreciate it. Unfortunately, some write ups had to be shortened because of lack of space, and in all fairness, we want to give all articles a chance to see print. I know you will understand. And do keep sending your articles.

Our e-mail address again is: humanitas_2014@yahoo.com
Our Website: www.ffccwo.org

You may also mail your articles to this address:
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We continue to accept line ads, at Php 1000.00 per issue:

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LOOKING FORWARD TO:

2016 FFCCWO GRAND EVENT:
2016 FEDERATION OF FILIPINO CHINESE CATHOLIC
WOMENS' ORGANIZATION 13TH NATIONAL CONVENTION,
IN LEGAZPI CITY, MARCH 4, 5, 6, 2016

Bishop Jaucian's Message

Women have much to tell us in today's society... Women are capable of seeing things from a different angle to us (men), with a different eye." (Message of Pope Francis during the Encounter with Youth at the UST, January 18, 2015).

Congratulations to the Ladies of Tuguegarao Chapter for the successful hosting of the Presidents and Secretaries Meeting this year. Thanks so much for the warm welcome and great hospitality. God bless you all.

What makes you different from other organizations as evangelizers of the poor is that you see the face of Jesus in the poor and love them as much as Jesus has loved us.

It is my prayer that God's Spirit inspires you to follow "Mary who welcomes the poor, to us, every time... Mary weeps with the poor. She is the Mother of mercy, to her do the poor cry" (Easter Message 2015 of Archbishop Soc Villegas).

I greet you all a Happy Easter. The Risen Christ is a witness that our life does not end on a Good Friday, but with the victory of Easter Sunday. Peace and Glory to all and let us pray for one another that we may be able to tell the world of God's love. Mabuhay.

With my love and blessing,
+LEOPOLDO C. JAUCIAN, SVD, DD
Bishop of Bangued
BCBP National Coordinator of Chinese Apostolate-FFCCWO Spiritual Director





President's Message

Sometimes we feel as our lives depend on our juggling skills: husband, children, grandchildren, parents, relatives, friends, business, recreation, responsibilities, FFCCWO and Church. Everything is important. Everything vies for our attention. When we lose our rhythm for an instant chaos ensues. We may be able to juggle a lot of things at once but we can only hold a few things at a time. For the most part of our lives, we cannot be jugglers. To attain stability, we have to strive for balance. Of course, God cares about everything that matters to us. But He cares more that our lives demonstrate balance: the ability to discern what is essential and give ourselves fully to it.

Our God connection is what is most essential. "God and Me" is the foundational relationship around which everything else revolves. It is the solid footing that enables us to fulfill all our other relationships and responsibilities. It is the bedrock that provides the stability for the conduct of our lives. "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and....Everything shall be added unto you."

Saying YES to FFCCWO is our FIAT. Through FFCCWO, we give ourselves fully to God. This is contrary to the prevalent norm in the society we live in where there is evident lack of commitment. Many go in and out of their marital vows. Many more are scared to get married and so just live in together. Commitment is today's world simply isn't a very high priority. Hence the FFCCWO sense of commitment is a rarity! Perhaps because the changes we seek are internal rather than external. Our "God-and-Me" relationship is the very bedrock of our faith. And it begins, not with our external efforts to change our outward daily patterns, but with a profound inward conviction that draws us to commit to someone greater than ourselves by joyfully serving others.

FFCCWO 2015 is a concrete manifestation of this commitment to God. The FFCCWO chapter activities have brought Jesus to the margins of Philippine society. These are significant God Experiences not only for those we serve, but for us as well. This is because when we commit our lives to God, something happens deep within us. Commitment is not an outward effort, but an inner transformation. It is a gift of Grace. FFCCWO is my gift of Grace.

This March, I have completed my 1st year of Presidency. This year is about you and me together in the FFCCWO mission! I congratulate everyone for the success of the Presidents and Secretaries Meeting in Tuguegarao. I sincerely extend my thanks to the Ladies of Tuguegarao, headed by President Edna Ontiveros, and Fr. Fredel Agatep, and the 31 chapters who attended and supported the 10th Presidents and Secretaries Meeting. This thanksgiving is about my deep spirit of gratitude, a true awareness of the blessedness of FFCCWO, not only for what we have, but for the gift of the persons of its members, and for their commitment to what truly matters.

I look forward with excitement to another year of togetherness in service. As early as now, I am inviting you all to the 2016 National Convention in Legaspi. As we continue our mission as woman evangelizer, let us meet on March 4-6, 2016 with our convention theme: Eucharist: As our strength in Evangelizing the Family. And always, I say, my strength is you!

Fondly,
Luisa Jon-Ng
FFCCWO President



Luisa Jon-Ng
FFCCWO President

President Luisa Ng speech during the Presidents Secretaries Meeting in Tuguegarao March 6, 2015

Bishop Leopoldo Jaucian, Rev. Fathers, The Council of Presidents, Members of the National Board, Host President and Host Chapter of Tuguegarao, Presidents and Secretaries, Ladies, Brothers in the Lord, good evening.

Last night, during the Holy Mass at the beautiful chapel of St. Paul University Philippines, a line from the communion song lingered in my mind. The line goes, “In everything, love and serve the Lord.” Each time I meet ladies from the Federation, be it during chapter visitations or in any national gathering, I cannot help but feel their warmth and love—as warm as the Tuguegarao weather during daytime. What is so inspiring is how the ladies are slowly growing in their service for God through their concrete actions and programs carried out in their local communities. The sharing this morning by the different clusters about ongoing projects and the tarpaulins displayed at the Pulzar Hotel are all signs that slowly we are embracing the ministry of Jesus—caring for the sick, feeding the hungry, proclaiming God’s words, and helping the less fortunate. Congratulations on a job well done in love. Edna Hontiveros, in her welcome speech last night, was correct when she said that indeed women can also be evangelizers.

As we carry out our tasks, let us remember the points shared by Fr. Jerry Orbos. Let us carry out our tasks and do good. However, doing good as evangelizers must be rooted on love so that Jesus may be radiated. Do good and be joyful. It is not enough to serve others. It is made complete and light by the joy in our hearts while doing service for others.

I am now half-way through my term as your president. Between now and the time next year when I shall turnover the responsibility of guiding the Federation to the new president, I want you to consider for your reflection few points that will further strengthen you in serving the Lord. Please reflect on the Marian qualities:

Dedication: Helen Keller said “when we do the best we can, we never know what miracle is wrought in our life, or in the life another.” It’s not a glamorous call, this dedication to the everyday. Feeding the hungry, spending the afternoon in the orphanage, or the home for the aged, raising funds for calamity stricken communities, or raising awareness for environment conservation, drug abuse, or human trafficking will not bring us the Pulitzer Prize. It is not hard work, but it is not ordinary work. It is emotional and spiritual bricklaying. The FFCCWO Challenge has been for us to “rebuild the wall around our house.” And so each chapter dedicates itself to the communities around it. And sooner than we think, the entire

Philippines can be better and stronger.

Generosity: The widow of Zarepath (1 Kings 17:7-24) who supported the prophet Elijah with her handful of flour and small cruet of oil showed great generosity. The old widow who put her two copper coins into the temple treasury (Mark 12:42-44) became Jesus’ example of sacrificial giving. I have seen each FFCCWO member put in her 2-cents worth in the mission. Yes, we have given our resources, but more importantly, we have given ourselves. Each one has given freely her time, treasure, talent and energy to collectively generate the FFCCWO creativity, compassion and love in service. FFCCWO has redefined Generosity. For us, generosity never has depended upon the contents of the pocket, but upon the bigness of the heart.

Servanthood: According to Oliver Wendell Homes, Sr. the noblest service comes from nameless hands, and the noblest servant does his work unseen. FFCCWO work is full of invisible people: members and all helpers behind the scenes who make things happen. They include officers who plan and execute, the secretaries who put all the details together and makes the officers look like geniuses, the errand helps run and walk and trip all over doing the minutiae, the drivers who bring us where we want to go, the nameless hand who makes coffee every meeting and countless others. In our world where the “important people” are those who are in the limelight, FFCCWO is creating a different value system. The real applause is reserved for the invisible worker.

Jesus called us to servanthood. And He showed us the way when He washed the dirty feet of His disciples. The FFCCWO mission gets dirt under our fingernails, brings us to take the mundane and thankless jobs not everyone does. It is difficult to be a servant in a world that values celebrity. It is hard to give ourselves to invisibility when it is good to see our names in the lights. Praise God, with or without lights, FFCCWO continues to be!

Members and Partners in the FFCCWO mission, congratulations again for the dedication, the generosity and the servanthood! FFCCWO 2014 has been friend full, fruitful and faithful. To the countless and nameless FFCCWO members, partners and friends who have shaped FFCCWO 2014, accept my profound gratitude. To you all who are with us here, and in all our undertakings, thank you so much. To our host, the FFCCWO Tuguegarao Chapter, we cannot thank you enough, and we in the National Board salute you. To everyone, welcome and good day!

Cagayan de Oro City Chapter

•San Lorenzo Ruiz Ladies Circle•

4th Anniversary of the Dedication of the San Lorenzo Ruiz Church

February 2, 2015, is the 4th anniversary of the dedication of our beloved San Lorenzo Ruiz Church in Gusa, Cagayan de Oro City. On its 4th birthday, a High Mass was celebrated. The grand choir sang this very appropriate entrance song:

*Come to the feast of heaven and earth, come to the table of plenty,
God will provide for all that we need, here at the table of plenty...*

It was a simple celebration. In deep gratitude, with head humbly bowed and hands gently clasped, we thank God for all the blessings the Church and the Community have received throughout the years. We also remember the hardships and perils that our forefathers went through as they sailed the vast seas in the hope of giving us, sons and daughters of the next generation, a better life, and ultimately, a life lived in Christ. The San Lorenzo Ruiz Church proudly stands as a living proof of God's love and mercy as He accompanied us in building this beautiful Sanctuary since the very beginning.

February 2nd is also the feast of the Presentation of the Lord in the temple. This is commonly celebrated as "Candelaria," where the faithful bring candles to be blessed by the priest during mass. A short procession outside and around the church was held and the Holy Rosary, prayed.

February 11, 2015, Wednesday, is the feast day of Our Lady of Lourdes. This coincides with our Wednesday novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help. The occasion was made more meaningful with a concelebrated/thanksgiving mass by two visiting and newly ordained priests, a diocesan, Rev. Fr. Marvin Cruz, and Rev. Fr. Mark Lemuel Tibay, LRMS.

Fr. Gil G. Escalante, SSJV, anointing the faithful and sick members with the oil of healing. This mass also gave special attention to sick members of our community wherein, shortly after the mass Fr. Gil anointed them with the oil of healing.

February 14, 2015 was a day of triple celebration--Valentine's day, the anniversary of the San Lorenzo Ruiz Ladies Circle, and pre-celebration of the Chinese Lunar New Year. A mass was celebrated on Sunday, February 15th. 42 seminarians from the San Jose Seminary under their rector, Fr. Gil G. Escalante, lent their beautiful voices (they just had a very successful concert not too long ago), and served as choir during the mass.

And of course, what would Chinese New Year be without the ang pao's, those red envelopes so eagerly awaited by the kids. Even each seminarian got one of those little red envelopes, much to their delight!

February 18, 2015, Ash Wednesday, the start of the Lenten season. The faithful lining up for the anointing of the ash. "Remember man, from dust thou art, to dust thou shall return."

March 26, 27, 2015, 2-days Lenten recollection given by Rev. Fr. Tim Ofracio, SJ. Touching on the Lenten message of Pope Francis, Fr. Tim said, "a culture of indifference has permeated the world, the Church, and in our personal lives." We have become self-centered thinking only of the self. We have succumbed to relying only on our own judgment. This has resulted in relativism, where nothing is absolute, including Truth and Morality. "We need a formation of a strong heart," Fr. Tim said.



Maundy Thursday : Reposition of the Blessed Sacrament



"March 29, 2015 Palm Sunday Celebration"



April 3, Good Friday, & last Friday of Lent.



Reflecting on the 14th station, last Friday of Lent.



*"The Triduum Celebration"
Easter Sunday : Encuentro (Salubong or Tabo)*

Cagayan de Oro City Chapter

•San Lorenzo Ruiz Ladies Circle•

A member shares her thoughts on the just concluded Presidents & Secretaries Meeting in Tuguegarao:

Congratulations to the Tuguegarao Chapter for hosting such a very beautiful and successful meeting of the presidents and secretaries. I say beautiful, because we were able to see their city amidst all the natural beauty of its ancient churches, one-of-a-kind landmarks, both old and new, and through all these, we saw the beauty of the hearts of the people of Tuguegarao. It was also a very successful event because we were filled with spiritual nourishment from a very articulate and lively speaker, Rev. Fr. Jerry Orbos, SVD. Through his talk that centered on the season of lent, he has awoken in us the resolve to become better Christians. He reminded us that the season of lent is a time of intense prayer, fasting and charity.

We can never thank you enough, dear sisters of the Tuguegarao chapter for giving us the best of comforts, and charming hospitality!

Thank you.

Dolly S. Ong

Cebu City Chapter

•Sacred Heart Ladies Association•



In tune with the message of Christmas, members of the Sacred Heart Parish Ladies Association, Cebu Chapter chose to bring Christmas to strangers. On November 2014, a year after Supertyphoon Yolanda struck northern Cebu, through the Parish's Stella Maris project we donated a number of fishing boats as well as numerous solar lamps to fishermen to enable them to re-start their livelihood.

In December 2014 Casa sa Gugma, an institution managed by nuns of the Missionaries of Charity whose charisma is caring for the poor and indigents, received from us 500 sacks of rice for their ward.

At about the same time, the Parish initiated a mass wedding for unmarried couples, giving them the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony for free. To top it all each couple received a wedding cake to celebrate their happy union – much to their surprise and great delight! Seeing their happy faces was enough to make us feel and appreciate the true meaning of Christmas!

Cotabato City Chapter

•Mary Mediatrix Ladies Circle•

The Mary Mediatrix Ladies Circle (MMLC) Tuguegarao Journey

The eagerly awaited Presidents and Secretaries Meeting in Tuguegarao had a surprisingly big turnout. It seemed almost all chapters sent delegates. There were 15 of us from the Mary Mediatrix Ladies Circle, Cotabato (MMLC), led by our beloved Mother Lily, Madame Estrella H. Uy and Juliet Tsang, our chapter president. Like most participants we were looking forward to renew old acquaintances, make new friends, kept updated on past activities and future plans of the Federation, experience spiritual nourishment through the various talks especially during the Lenten season, and naturally, to relish the hospitality and charm of the northern province of Tuguegarao.

Needless to say, we were not disappointed. Efficient planning, guiding us through different venues, and inviting a respected speaker, Rev Fr. Jerry Orbos, SVD, who gave such a profound and stimulating talk, which truly touched our hearts. There was never a dull moment; he injected humor which made us listen, laugh and sing with him. The insights that we gained will help us in our task as women evangelizers.

To make the most of our journey, we bravely traveled as far north as Aparri, visiting small towns with beautiful old churches, and saw up close the many beautiful islands of Cagayan. That was truly a memorable trip for us MMLC ladies!

-Deanna Malunes/ Cotabato Chapter



Dagupan City Chapter

•Family Action of St. Therese•

Chinese New Year 2015

The Parish of St. Therese of the Child Jesus and Family Action of St. Therese (F.A.S.T.) celebrated the Chinese New Year as a testament of solidarity of the devout Chinese-Catholics in Dagupan City and those in its nearby towns. This Parish was founded sixty years ago by Bishop Theodore Schu, SVD, and, in commemoration of the diamond jubilee anniversary of our parish this year, Chinese New Year was celebrated in a special way—starting with a concelebrated mass presided by our very own Most Reverend Socrates B. Villegas, DD, archbishop of Lingayen-Dagupan. After the mass, the Chinese delicacy, tikoy, and tea were shared by the parishioners. F.A.S.T. hosted a sumptuous dinner for the SVD family, Diocesan Priests, Dominican and Augustinian sisters. A splendid display of fireworks highlighted the event.



Dagupan City Chapter

•Family Action of St. Therese•



F.A.S.T. Retreat

On March 14, and 15, 2015 F.A.S.T. sponsored the annual retreat held at the Divine Word Retreat Center in Baguio City. 80 students from P.U.I. a Chinese non-sectarian school, accompanied by some F.A.S.T. members headed by Mrs. Anita Lee, FCCY coordinator, and Mrs. Mary Grace Chua, head of the F.A.S.T. Youth Ministry, together with some teachers, participated in this retreat, with Rev. Fr. Elmer Loreto, SVD as retreat master. Morning praises, workshops, making the Way of the Cross, and physical activities were all part of this retreat. All these helped in the growth of the youths' faith.

-Anita A. Lee FCCY Coordinator, Dagupan City



Recollection

Members of the Family Action of St. Therese (F.A.S.T.) held a Lenten Recollection at the Mary Help of Christians Theology Seminary, conducted by Msgr. Oliver Mendoza last March 21, 2015. After the opening prayer, the Msgr. talked on Mercy and Compassion. Pope Francis has declared December 8, 2015 to November 21, 2016 as Year of Mercy.

Mercy is undeserved love. It was from the Cross that man got the greatest undeserved love of all—Divine Mercy. In Mathew 9:13, “... I desire mercy, not sacrifice. For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners!” Msgr. Oliver reminded us to go out “to the peripheries,” to find the true meaning of mercy.

Forgiveness is not something we do for other people, but we do it for ourselves. By forgiving those who hurt us, we get well and move on. Thus, ultimately, it is a gift one gives to oneself. We only need to ask God for the grace to learn to forgive. By forgiving, love follows. Lent is the best time to reflect, to turn to Christ for guidance. It is a time to make amends, to reconcile with those whom we have offended and those who have offended us.

-Bronyn Joy C. Lim / F.A.S.T. – P.R.O.

Davao City Chapter

•Davao Sacred Heart Ladies Circle•



February 15, 2015, advanced celebration of the Chinese New Year held at the Sacred Heart Parish. Displayed on the table with the image of Our Lady of China are flowers, fruits, tikoy and incense.



What's Chinese New Year without the Dragon Dance? Parishioners gathered at the church ground to witness 2 dancing dragons to the tune of loud drums and gongs.



Photo-op after the mass with Archbishop Romulo Valles. Members of the Ladies Circle came in red as a sign of prosperity as they welcome the Year of the Wooden Sheep.



Visiting Tuguegarao had been an exhilarating experience: the monumental churches like the Basilica of Our Lady of Piat, St. Peter's Metropolitan Cathedral, Our Lady of Chartres Chapel, Sta. Rose de Lima Parish, and the vast Calgary Hill in Iguig, and the St. Clare Monastery all moved us to prayer and reflection. Picture above are some of us ladies, acting like kids, jumping with joy.

President Josephine Lim and Secretary Sylvia Uy standing beside the tarpaulin which featured among others, our chapter activities, year 2014: blood-letting, and visits to the kids with cancer.

-Sylvia Uy, Davao City Chapter



Photo-op with Fr. Jerry Orbos, SVD, guest speaker at the PSM Meeting, who gave a talk on Lenten Recollection.

Dumaguete City Chapter

•Mary Immaculate Parish Women's Organization (MIPWA)•



A MIPWA REFLECTION



The Presidents and Secretaries Meeting leveled up from just merely a biennial meeting to a pilgrimage where soul is cleansed, and faith, nurtured. It was an oasis in a desert-world where economic rat race is the byword, and terrorism becoming seemingly unstoppable. The meeting had all its twists and turns. But every twist shaped everyone, and every turn led everyone closer to one's God. Visits to St. Peter's Cathedral, and venerating the relics of St. Peter and St. John Paul II, the long drive to Calvary Hills, a quick stop at the St. Claire Monastery where its tranquility created a deep sense of the spiritual and provided some solace for delegates while getting immersed in prayer, and deeper reflection...

The fourth word spoken by Jesus on the cross: "My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?" Does God truly forsake us? Why does He allow evil to come our way?

TV reports show ISIS kidnapping Christians in the Middle East, beheading some of them for refusing to give up their Christian faith, forcing them to embrace Islam. And think

of our very own San Lorenzo Ruiz, San Pedro Calungsod who both suffered death rather than give up their faith.

Does God really forsake us? Why does He allow pain to pierce our hearts? Where is God in the midst of all human misery?

Some familiar lines from the song, Footprints in the Sand, provide us a possible answer:

"My son, my precious child,
I love you, and I would never leave you,
During the time of suffering,
When you could only see one of the footprints
It was then when I carried you."

Why does God allow us to suffer? We all are like gold tested by fire. We become beautiful metals if we submit ourselves to fire. We all are like diamonds. We become the most expensive stone if we allow ourselves to be cut and polished!

The wisdom of suffering lies in the fact that by pain we draw out the best in us—our faith in God and our love for the Lord.

And so now we pray and say, "My God, my God, forsake me that I may be able to show how much I love Thee and trust in Thee."

-Fr. Eking, Dumaguete City Chapter

Iloilo City Chapter

•Santa Maria Catholic Women's Association•

Iloilo Updates



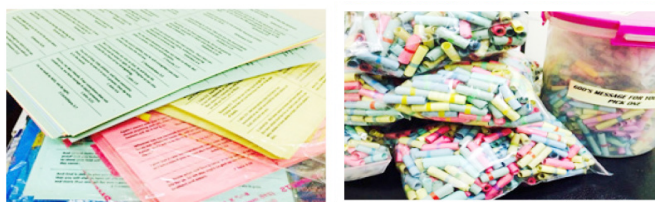
Our Chinese New Year celebration was highlighted with a mass celebrated by Fr. Ari Dy, SJ. Quite interestingly, he mixed his readings and homily with a sprinkling of the Chinese language.



Picture above was taken during our March monthly meeting together with March birthday celebrants when we invited Batangas delegates to the Kang Ha Uy Family National Convention held in our city. We had a chance to talk to some of them, and to Nancy Wong who is the wife of the President of the Batangas City Association. We learned that they are interested in joining a church group of Filipino-Chinese. Another group from Isabela voiced out the same desire. After an interview with these ladies, President Luisa thought it a good opportunity to invite them to join the Federation. We could see how they hunger for spiritual fellowship. God has opened a door, and we are more than willing to welcome them.

Theme of the Lenten Retreat: Women as Evangelizer of the Poor. The four days spent in Tuguegarao was also a time for personal reflection and spiritual preparation. It also afforded me the chance to meet the FFCCWO officers and a rare opportunity to meet and talk to members of various chapters, some from as far as Jolo. It was sad to know that their members are decreasing because of the peace and order situation in their place, and yet inspiring on the other hand, because in spite of this problem, two of them managed to come and represent their chapter.

The host Chapter really went out of their way to make our stay not only enjoyable and memorable, but enriching as well. During the Visita Iglesia we visited a number of old churches, all so rich in history, and had a great time witnessing the 14 stations of the cross at Calvary and the Eucharistic Altar as well.



Our Chapter's (Iloilo) mission to carry out our Bible apostolate received positive responses especially with great encouragement from FFCCWO National President Luisa Ng. During the Presidents & Secretaries Meeting, we distributed plastic jars containing some Bible verses. From Cluster #6 to which we belonged during the workshop, we also learned from the sharing of other chapters of new ideas and tools for evangelization. The inputs were truly enriching, and even inspired us to campaign for new chapters. We also believe that regular chapter visitations to all chapters by the National Board help a lot in achieving this goal. To request for copies of the file document for reproduction of Bible verses, here's how to do it: [mila apny@yahoo.com](mailto:mila_apny@yahoo.com).

Tips on how to make use of the Bible Verse effectively:

1. Pray before you pick one as your message from the Lord,
2. When reading, think of it as God's love note for you,
3. After reading, meditate, and ask the Lord what He wants to tell you about the Word,
4. The message may not hit you immediately, but some thoughts will come to you during the day, and then –
5. Thank the Lord for His message of love... and if it is some task you need to do, act on it! Enjoy your daily manna verse from heaven.

-Sis Mila Apny

Iriga City Chapter

•Our Lady of Penafrancia Circle•

NATIONAL OFFICERS VISIT IRIGA CITY

February 8, 2015, was a very memorable day indeed, because we of the Iriga Chapter received a visit from the FFCCWO National Officers, headed by President Luisa Ng, and Spiritual Director, Bishop Leopoldo Jaucian. We were honored to meet the national officers who came in full force—Maan Lolem, vice-president, Carol Jeun, secretary, Shirley Cheng, treasurer, Juana Go, immediate past president, Mely Tieng past president, and Rose Olivan, director. Two officers from the Legazpi Chapter, Josephine Lee, and Dr. Rosita Milante also came to give boost to their hosting of the National Convention in 2016.

We gathered at the 2nd floor of the Saint Anthony de Padua Parish on a Sunday afternoon to meet the national officers. There was a short program. President Luisa gave a message; so did Bishop Jaucian and Msgr. Jeffrey Nelson Tria, Iriga Chapter spiritual director. Iriga Chapter president, Shelly Mendez, also gave her report. A most wonderful thing happened during this encounter: one of our members, Felisa Dino, who lost her eyesight due to cataract, received a visit from the National Board—much to her great delight. After an exchange of pleasantries, Bishop Jaucian enjoined everybody to pray over sis Felisa. The three-hour encounter may be short, but it was enough to lift our spirits and touch our hearts!



"Some pictures during the visit to our sister Felisa Dino at their residence in San Miguel, Iriga City"



The Officers and members of the Iriga City chapter together with the National Board

FEDERATION OF FILIPINO-CHINESE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION
 OUR LADY OF PENAFRANCIA CIRCLE
IRIGA CITY CHAPTER
 OFFICERS FOR 2014-2016

PRESIDENT
 VICE PRESIDENT
 SECRETARY
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 -MONETTE SIRIOS
 -NORMA ONGCORTAN
 - REV. MSGR. JEFFREY NELSON B. TRIA, P.C.

-Shelly Mendez

CBCP Pastoral Message – Year of the Poor (continuation)

Shepherds looking into the eyes of the Good Shepherd... (2nd paragraph)

How often have we reduced his living eyes to painted plastic on a wall, and deprived ourselves of feeling what those eyes twinkling in passion convey: that we are noticed, appreciated, valued, and sent forth. In so doing, we have cheated ourselves of the only treasure in our calling: the felt certainty from the Cross that we are each individually and totally loved.

We have exchanged this prize, for the compulsive conservation of conceptual castles, for the anxious pettiness of rules and regulations, for the obsessive preservation of a pecking order, for the selfish defense of private space, for the eccentric collection of quaint things, as well as for the lifelong preparation for our retirement.

Or, we have exchanged this self-emptied Messiah for self-established messiahs on distinguished thrones, ourselves rejecting the folly of the Cross, preferring the authority of feared prelates or the renown of pious celebrity or the fashionable cynicism of the insecure. For these recognized spiritual professionals, there is really no need for prayer, no need for prophet, and certainly no need for the unlettered and unwashed, for all ultimately is about themselves.

Look at Jesus...

In this year of the poor, we too are being asked in silence to peer into the eyes of the crucified Lord, not plastic, nor wooden, nor closed, but open for me, confusing me, disturbing me, returning me to an original inspiration, healing me, raising me up, making me whole and surprising me anew with unaccustomed joy. In those twinkling eyes, we consider the quiet invitation to be actually poor, one with him, stripped of his clothes, his dignity, his possessions, his power, his strength, one with the unwashed, the oppressed, the scorned, the powerless, the miserable, the outcast. Of course, we can say no. We can repeat the valid, reasonable excuses. But we can also say yes.

In this Year of the Poor, may our neediness be turned to sanctity, and may our arrogance be turned to service. In all, may the love of the Crucified Lord triumph as he gazes into our hearts and we dare to look into his.

For the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, November 10, 2014
First Sunday of Advent.

(SGD)+SOCRATES V. VILLEGAS

*Archbishop of Lingayen Dagupan
CBCP President*

Kalibo City Chapter

•Sto. Nino Filipino Chinese Catholic Ladies Association•

KALIBO UPDATES



A pose with Fr. Jerry Orbos, SVD, after a very timely and enlightening Lenten talk.

The 10th Presidents and Secretaries Meeting last March 6 – 8, 2015 hosted by the Tuguegarao Chapter was well organized and well attended. Congratulations to its president, Edna Ontiveros, and to all the rest of the very accommodating officers and members. Congratulations also to FFCCWO Secretary, Carol Jeun, who emceed the affair beautifully.

The Lenten Recollection facilitated by Fr. Jerry Orbos, SVD helped to strengthen our commitment to share our blessings with the poor and the marginalized. This year's FFCCWO theme, "Women as Evangelizers of the Poor," calls on us to share not only our treasure, but also our talents. We should take effort to extend a helping hand to the hungry, the oppressed, the sick, the abandoned and the downtrodden.

Those present were given some time to reflect on their shortcomings and weaknesses and asked for the grace to transform and be pleasing to the Lord.

YEAR of the POOR
2014-2015



LOOK at JESUS



Continuing on our Lenten journey, we visited various beautiful churches, such as the Basilica of Our Lady of Piat, St. Peter's Metropolitan Cathedral, and the Calvary Hills in Iguig where 14 life size stations of the Cross could be found.

All the delegates were updated on the activities of the Federation. Finally, the Legazpi Chapter, who will host the forthcoming 2016 National Convention, once again showed a video presentation of the beautiful tourist spots in Albay. Fr. Val Pinlac of the Bohol Chapter also presented a video of the many houses built through the pledges of many generous chapters during the Bohol Convention.

The Bachawan Eco-Park of Kalibo located at Barangay New Buswang is a world- renowned tourist destination. It is being replicated by other Local Government Units in other provinces in its preservation aspect. Kalibo ladies helped in the planting of propagules at the park to replenish the dead ones. Matured trees serve not only to prevent flooding and tsunami, but also as fish sanctuary. Ultimately, they help protect the lives and properties of those living along the coastal areas.



Manila Chapter

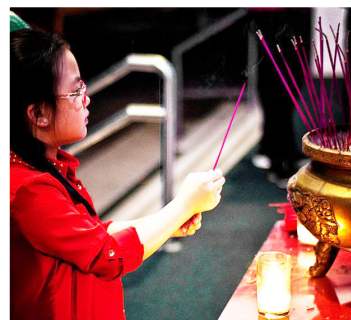
•Mary the Queen Parish•

Mary the Queen Parish

One of the major events in the calendar of Mary the Queen Parish in Greenhills, San Juan, is the celebration of the Chinese New Year. Since the first Chinese mass was introduced in 1980, the parish has consistently celebrated Chinese mass as part of the Chinese Filipino Apostolate. Over the years the mass has developed into a unique mixture of using both the Chinese and English language in the liturgy and songs. When the Chinese New Year was declared a national holiday in 2009, the Chinese New Year mass has been celebrated in its actual date.

This year's celebration of the Chinese New Year was made different because MTQ decided to open its doors to introduce the FIRST INCENSE on New Year's Eve from 8:00 pm of February 18, 2015 to 1:00 am of February 19, 2015. An altar was set up for those who wish to light incense as part of the Chinese tradition. Word of God placed inside a glass bowl can be picked.

Parishioners came with their family after their traditional family reunion dinner. Fr. Ari Dy, Xavier School President, translated and adapted from a Chinese liturgy a short prayer service that people can pray when they visit the Church. Incense was continuously lighted throughout the night until the first hour of the New Year.





The Xavier School Dragon and Lion Dance Troupe performed the dragon dance before and after the mass. A concelebrated mass was held with Fr. Paulini Zhai, SJ, as main celebrant. The MTQ choir sang the songs in Chinese. Flower offerings to the Blessed Virgin Mary were offered by the parishioner's children. Ancestor Veneration rites, a practice of living family members giving honor and paying respect to their ANCESTORS, was observed. It is believed that the relationship and obligations of children toward their parents remain intact even after death.

After the mass, a simple agape, or Christian love feast, followed with members of the FCCY serving sweet tea to the parishioners. Other organizations provided the misua soup, and tikoy. Parish ground decorations were done by the FCCY. What a blessed Sunday, a perfect start of a Happy New Year!!

-Ms. Billie Syling, MTQ Parish

Tabaco City Chapter

•Our Lady of Lourdes Association •

Presidents and Secretaries Meeting at Tuguegarao City

The bonds that connect the people of Our Lady of Lourdes Association (OLLA) are part of a bigger web of connection, the FFCCWO (Federation of Filipino Chinese Catholic Women's Organization). Together, they are bound by the unifying mission of living up to a holistic Catholic standard as women evangelizers. So, last March 6 – 8, 2015, the FFCCWO 10th Presidents Secretaries Meeting with the theme "Women as Evangelizers of the Poor," was held in Tuguegarao City. OLLA representatives who took part in the meeting came home bringing with them knowledge pooled from the collective brain power and wisdom of the rest of the convention participants. The rest of the three-day affair was spent appreciating the spiritual legacy of the town, visiting the old churches and landmarks. There is always some strengthening force in these relics that have stood the test of time.



Chapter Visitation

Last February 9, 2015, FFCCWO officers and members headed by national coordinator, Rev. Leopoldo Jaucian, SVD, DD, and national president, Luisa Ng, visited OLLA in Tabaco to see how the chapter has fared in the mission as Women Evangelizers. After the mass celebrated by Bishop Jaucian, and over a simple dinner later, we presented our "accomplishments" as evangelizers. We wish to think that we did quite well, but, with the continuing inspiration of the FFCCWO, we hope to come up with better activities in the future.



Veneration Rites/Chinese New Year

Our Chinese ancestry holds strong in our blood and our hearts. OLLA's celebration of the Chinese New Year was moved from February 19 to February 21 due to the very busy schedules of most members. A mass was participated in by the different Chinese associations in Tabaco. Government officials of this city were also invited, and even joined in the offering of fruits, flowers, and wine, and, in true Chinese tradition of ancestor worship, incense were lighted led by the presidents of each Chinese association.



Team Building

“Bridging the Gap through Teambuilding,” a sequel to last year’s talk given by the wonderful Ms. Ardy Ines Araneta, was held on February 8, 2015. This talk, aside from being filled with lots of activities, centered on the emphasis of family bonding aimed at developing a closer relationship between parents and down to the youngest of siblings.

Gift Giving

Olla hosts a gift giving event every year. This time, on February 7, it was the “Pusong Handog ng OLLA,” in honor of February being the Love Month. Members packed 300 gifts for the indigent families gathered at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Tabaco. Recipient families were all smiles as they toted happily their loot home.

Our Lady of Lourdes Association (OLLA) Tayhi, Tabaco City

Officers and Members 2014 -2015

Lourdes P. Qua	President	Board of Directors
Jocelyn B. Chua	1st Vice President	Delia L. Ranola
Ma. Claudia G. Lao	2nd Vice President	Teresita A. Tan
Rosella L. Ang	Secretaries	Therese L. Tan
Josephine I. Diaz		Antonina B. Guarte
Simonette R. Goyena	Treasurers	Pat D. Encinas
Judith C. Sia		Eugenia San Pablo
Ma. Teresita T. Reyes	Business Manager	Jocelyn B. Chua
Lorena B. Que	Auditor	Melda Y. Reyes
Naty S. Candano	PRO's	Council of Advisers
Juvy D. Binalla		Salvacion A. Arcilla
Rev. Fr. Jojit B. Borromeo,	Spiritual Adviser	Trinidad T. Reyes
		Elisa M. Moran
		Josefa Locanas
		Lorenza A. Chan

Members

Lolita Cu
 Marie V. Demetrio
 Crisanta T. Diaz
 Annaliza S Arcilla
 Melda Y. Reyes
 Cecille C. Abraham
 Maritta B. Moran
 Myrna Alphine D. Goyena
 Ninfa Go Ang
 Grace B. Lao
 Christine Chen Cea
 Maria Luisa O. Pielago
 Glenda Ong-Bongao
 Zoximz Lim
 Dingding T. Rocha
 Lourdes P. Rico
 Evangeline Banaobra

Tacloban Chapter

• Sacred Heart of Jesus Women's Association •



December 4, 2014, with the onslaught of Typhoon Ruby in Northern and Eastern Samar, members of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Women's Association (SHJWA) poured in donations of rice, noodles, canned goods and used clothing for the victims in Dolores, Eastern Samar. These were brought personally to Dolores by the Sisters of Charity.

December 15 to 23, 2014, *Simbang Gabi* at 9:00 pm or December 16 to 24, 2014, *Misa de Gallo* at 4:30 am. Members had their choice of attending either mass in preparation for the birth of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

December 28, 2014, a red-letter day for the newly elected officers, this being their induction to office during the 5:30 pm mass at the Sacred Heart Parish. After the mass, we proceeded to Ocho Seafood and Grill for our fellowship and Christmas get-together. Archbishop John Du, DD, together with three other priests, namely Fr. Wilson Chu, Fr. Bong Tiu and Fr. Paul Li, and Sis Gratia from Taiwan, honored us with their presence.

Highlight of the evening was the farewell speech of our out-going president, sis Jane Cabigon, and the speech of sis Helen Julio, the incoming president. Archbishop John Du, DD, gave an inspirational talk. Truly, it was an evening of bonding and great camaraderie among members, our spouses, and guests. The evening was capped with an exchange of gifts and raffles. Much to our delight, Archbishop John Du got the major prize—a Turbo Broiler donated by President Helen!

January 17, 2015, was a time of great expectation as we eagerly awaited the visit of Pope Francis to Tacloban. Indescribable feelings of joy, hope, and a gentle assurance of papal blessing filled our hearts. To be able to see Pope Francis in person is happiness beyond words. Some members were given a seat at the Tacloban airport, while we, senior citizens, were given a place at the Palo Cathedral.

Deep in my heart just like millions of people, I prayed for

the health and safety of the Pope as a storm was gathering in some part of the Visayas. Our prayer was heard, for the Lord saw to it that the Pope completed his itinerary before setting on the fury of the typhoon.

As the world watched, Pope Francis, wearing a raincoat to protect him from the rainstorm, offered mass in an open area at the Daniel Romualdez airport in Tacloban. In the words of Cardinal Luis Tagle, Pope Francis came bringing with him fire, not to destroy, but to purify. He brought along earthquake, not to shaken, but to awaken. He brought with him weapons, not to kill or destroy, but to re-assure everyone of Jesus' presence in our lives. To that we say Amen.

On February 19, 2015, the Sacred Heart of Jesus Women's Association (SHJWA), together with the PPC and PFC of the Sacred Heart Parish sponsored a mass to celebrate both the Chinese New Year and the installation of our new parish priest, Rev. Fr. Gil Manaog, former rector of the Sacred Heart Seminary. Archbishop John Du and some 20 priests came to grace the occasion. With the help of the Sacred Heart SMIC sisters, we held a beautiful ceremony of ancestral worship before the holy mass. Later, our new parish priest was formally welcomed and introduced to the officers of the PPC and PFC and the different mandated associations. The event concluded with a sumptuous dinner for more than 300 guests at the Sacred Heart School Gym.

A 3-evening Holy Week recollection was held in our church. SHJWA sponsored the Lord's Last Supper on Holy Thursday; spent an hour of adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at the Altar of Reposition, while some members visited 9 churches, and then made vigil before the Blessed Sacrament. At 5:30 am on Black Saturday we had our Stations of the Cross around the Parish. Finally, we observed a 3-hour Easter Vigil in anticipation of the Sugat, or Encuentro, when our Risen Lord met His Blessed Mother. HAPPY EASTER EVERYONE!

-Wisdly Kiang Lim

Unforgettable Tacloban Memories of the Papal Visit

Fr. Virgilio Costin Manaog, Sacred Heart Parish Priest:

The Holy Father's pastoral journey last January really made an impact and brought inspiration that will last a lifetime. His insights and thoughts revealed a lot about his persona. But what impressed me most were his unspoken words and non-verbal expressions. Seeing him in a contagious smile that speaks of sincerity truly mirrors a man who is loved by God. His pensive gesture and homespun reply to the existential questions posed on him clearly reflect a man who not only empathizes with the plight of the poor, but also feels their pain and sufferings. And, by the way, have you noticed him carry his own bag? I believe this gesture was to remind us that he came to serve, and not to be served.

Jo An Tanjuakio:

The long wait was over when the papal plane touched down at the Tacloban Daniel Romualdez Airport on that gloomy Saturday, January 17, 2015. Amidst the stormy weather, people were clapping their hands, cheering, as they welcomed

the Holy Father. Pope Francis came not only to lend his presence, but more importantly, he came as a shepherd to gather his flock, mostly victims of Yolanda, to share their pain, suffering, and to assuage them of the presence of a loving God who is full of mercy and compassion, a God who sees the pain through every tear that falls, a God who never fails us. It is with heartfelt gratitude that we thanked Pope Francis for restoring our faith and hope despite losing loved ones and all material possessions. Viva, Il Papa Franchesco!

Susan Tiu Yap:

We read in the papers of people meeting or seeing the pope, and we feel happy for them, envious even. But to see for myself the Holy Father even if only from a distance in a motorcade, is one of the highlights of my life! Super Typhoon Yolanda did something constructive after all. It brought Pope Francis to us and put Tacloban in the limelight!

Tagbilaran City Chapter

•Our Lady of Lourdes Parish•



Stations of the Cross

Just like the previous Lenten Seasons, members of the FFCCWO Tagbilaran Chapter did the Stations of the Cross last April 01, 2015 at Calvary Hills at Sambog, Corella, Bohol, a property owned by the very active couple, Tony and Margie Bandala. Although the activity started at about sunrise, at 5:30, many came. After having done the stations of the cross, breakfast awaited us, courtesy of the generous couple.

Sis Sasing's 90th Birthday

HAPPY 90TH BIRTHDAY Sister Basilisa "Sasing" Lim. FFCCWO Tagbilaran Chapter joined the celebration of its member's birthday celebration last April 15, 2015. The occasion started with a Thanksgiving Mass officiated by Fr. Kiking Magdoza. There was a short program wherein Sister Joaquina Uy presented a song "May The Good Lord Bless and Keep You". Fil-Chi members were 1st row L-R: Neria Te, Fely Lim, the birthday celebrator Sasing Lim, Felomina Lim, and Alfreda Bullecer. 2nd row L-R: Blick Uy, Mila Lim, BB Llorente, Mila Uy, Anita Sanchez, Mellie Uy, Joaquina Uy, Liza Yu, Margie Bandala, Nday Te, Lita Teh, and Nday Lim Cabal. The celebrant Basilisa Lim has 17 children, 36 grandchildren and 18 great grandchildren.... Praise the Lord...

Naga City Chapter

•Our Lady of Fatima Parish•

NATIONAL OFFICERS VISIT NAGA CHAPTER

Bishop Leopoldo Jaucian, distinguished ladies of FFCCWO, OLFA ladies, Fr. Clarence Canafe, Jr., good evening.

Tonight I am tasked to introduce to you our guests from the Federation of Filipino Chinese Catholic Women's Organization. This is quite a tough order, but I will try my best.

1. Madame Luisa Ng of Iloilo City, FFCCWO National President for 2014-2016

I met Madame President during the 2014 National Convention in Tagbilaran, Bohol, and I saw a demure, unassuming, timid lady. However, her aura exudes quiet intelligence. I was not surprised when she came out the next National President for the year 2014-2016.

2. Madame Maan Lolim of Dagupan City, FFCCWO National Vice-President for 2014-2016.

During the meeting in Dagupan in 2013 Maan was the epitome of an ultimate convention host; definitely a lady of confidence, and a glamorous one at that.

3. Ms. Carol Jeun, Cagayan de Oro, FFCCWO National Secretary for two terms, 2012-2014 & 2014-2016.

Intimidating, but rightly so, because she oozes with confidence; her job as secretary suits her well; she seems to know everything, and not only that. I learn that she is also an avid golf enthusiast and a great player at that. Wow!

4. Ms. Shirley Cheng, St. Peter the Apostle Ladies Circle of Paco, Manila, FFCCWO National Secretary for two terms, 2012-2014 & 2014-2016.

The treasurer's report she made during the 2014 Bohol National Convention was impressive. She certainly is an asset to the Federation, but being a mother and wife comes first before being a National Treasurer.

5. Madame Juana Go, Binondo Chapter, FFCCWO Immediate Past President, & Member of the Council of Presidents.

As FFCCWO National President I found Achi Juana very approachable, more of a "less talk, more work" person. She is a fast worker, a no nonsense leader. Her administration has accomplished so much, assisted so much during the great natural calamities. She is very generous to a fault, readily reaching into her pocket to answer a call for financial help.

6. Madame Mely Tieng, Past President & Member, Council of Presidents.

Madam Mely is the mother of Fr. Peter Tieng, FCCY National Adviser. My first encounter with her was during the 2008 Davao National Convention, which was also the first national convention that I attended. She appeared so motherly, everybody seemed to be drawn to her. She had a smile for everybody as she walked around shaking hands with almost everyone.

7. Ms. Rosing Milante, President, Daughters of St. Jude, Legazpi Chapter.

Now chapter president, Ms. Rosing Milante, led her chapter, and together with the support of the Bicol Block, clinched the bid to host the 18th FFCCWO National Convention in 2016.

8. Ms. Josephine Lee, Past Legazpi Chapter President, Past FFCCWO National Secretary.

My first encounter with Josephine, who was at the time, the Legazpi chapter president, was during the Presidents & Secretaries preparatory meeting. Then we met again during one of the *simbang gabi* masses at the Fatima Church, this time she was the FFCCWO National Secretary. We made small talk, which became longer, and touched on the topics of family, children, *apos*. Somehow we really got connected. I realized that this lady, no matter how many titles she has, will always be a mother/grandmother and family person first.

9. Bishop Leopoldo Jaucian, SVD,DD, and FFCCWO National Coordinator and Spiritual Director. A priest for 25 years, he is also the bishop of Bangued in Abra and Laoag. In his homily, "Grace upon Grace," he said that many significant events in his life took place in the month of March: ordained priest on March 12, 1988, as Bishop on March 26, 2007. On March 27, 2007 he was installed Bishop of Bangued and Laoag. Presently, he is the Chairman of the Episcopal Commission of the Youth (ECY). At the Presidents/Secretaries Meeting, I see him as a person who doesn't lose his cool, has a ready smile for everyone. And as he said March is his "most significant" month, I beg to disagree. For what could be more significant than when on January 9, 2015, at the Santo Tomas University, he got a warm embrace from Pope Francis himself. How we envy you!

Friends, Mesdames Luisa Ng, Maan Lolim, Carol Jeun, Shirley Cheng, Juana Go, Mely Tieng, Rosing Milante and Josephine Lee all have one thing in common... unselfish commitment to serve the Lord through the Federation of Filipino Chinese Catholic Women's Organization. Indeed we feel so blessed. To you and to Bishop Jaucian who has untiringly shepherded the Federation, a big salute!

May I request everyone to please stand and raise a toast to our distinguished guests. Cheers!

-Ms. Linda Y. Sychay



OBITUARIES

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.

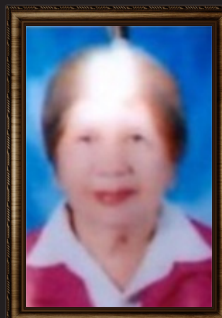
Sent By: Our Lady of Penafancia Circle Iriga Chapter



ELENA ONG ANDALIS
January 24, 2014



JULIANA CO
April 9, 2014



PURITA M. LEE
May 8, 2014



LUCILA ONG
September 7, 2014

READ and LEARN:

THE OBSTACLE IN THE PATH

In ancient times, a King had a boulder placed on a roadway. Then he hid himself and watched to see if anyone would remove the huge rock. Some of the king's wealthiest merchants and courtiers came by and simply walked around it. Many loudly blamed the King for not keeping the roads clear, but none did anything about getting the stone out of the way.

Then a peasant came along carrying a load of vegetables. Upon approaching the boulder, the peasant laid down his burden and tried to move the stone to the side of the road. After much pushing and straining, he finally succeeded. After the peasant picked up his load of vegetables, he noticed a purse lying in the road where the boulder had been. The purse contained many gold coins and a note from the King indicating that the gold was for the person who removed the boulder from the roadway. The peasant learned what many of us never understand!



”

“Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance.”

Romans 5:3

“

Every obstacle presents an opportunity to improve our present condition. We often fail to see beyond the obstacle. Problems are there in every person's life but the way we look at the problem is what matters. We can make a mess of our lives or we can chose to handle our problem. We need to go beyond the problem to get the solution. Trials make us stronger. Life is full of challenges but God will help us to face these challenges and make us bold.

”

“Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.”

James 1:12

“