



# Laudate Dominum

*Praise the Lord!*

*A Voice of the Filipino Catholic Charismatic Communities of the Archdiocese of San Francisco (FCCC)*

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## Our Mission Statement

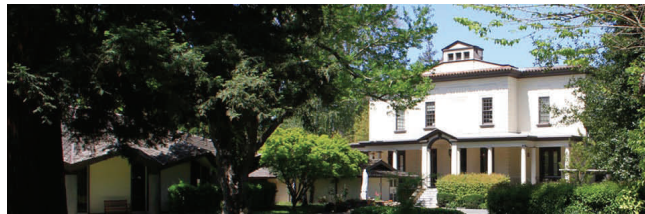
The purpose of the FCCC is to give greater glory and praise to our Almighty Father through our Lord Jesus Christ under the guidance of the Holy Spirit by serving the mission of the Catholic Church in promoting unity and love amongst its members as one body of Christ (Corinthians 12: 27-31).

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## 26th Annual FCCC Retreat A Great Success!

The 26th annual FCCC retreat took place at the beautiful 10-acre site of the "shady glen," known as the Vallombrosa Center last April 21 to 22, 2012. Nestled in a quiet corner of Menlo Park, California, the Vallombrosa is a retreat and conference center owned and operated by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of San Francisco. Graced by different charismatic prayer communities, the event under the umbrella of the FCCC (Filipino Catholic Charismatic Communities) enjoyed a refreshing spiritual nourishment with Fr. Jim Nisbet of the Archdiocese of Monterey taking the helm as



VALLOMBROSA CENTER

Retreat Master. The presence of Bishop Mylo Hubert Claudio Vergara of the Diocese of Pasig complemented the retreat with his reflections on faith. The camaraderie and fellowship of different members during breaks is something to reckon with. The retreat culminated with a Eucharistic celebration celebrated by Bishop Mylo Vergara. The theme of the celebration which came from **Luke**

**24:32** that says: "Were not our hearts burning within us while He spoke to us on the way and opened the scriptures to us?" Truly our hearts sank. Kudos to the able leadership of our Servant Coordinator Bro. Emil Lucero and his team for a job well done! We all look forward for our 27th annual retreat on April 13-14, 2013 with the same Retreat Master Fr. Jim Nisbet and venue at the Vallombrosa Center. The Lord will always be with us in this noble project for we all know that without Him we are all nothing!

## Happy faces of Members of different communities under the umbrella of FCCC





*“From his childhood, Pedro Calungsod declared himself unwaveringly for Christ and responded generously to his call.” (Pope John Paul II)*

## Pedro Calungsod next Filipino Saint

**Blessed Pedro Calungsod de Cebu** (1654-2 April 1672) was a young Roman Catholic Filipino migrant, sacristan and missionary catechist, who along with Blessed Diego Luis de San Vitores, suffered religious persecution and martyrdom in Guam for their missionary work in 1672. Through Calungsod and San Vitores’ missionary efforts, many native Chamorros converted to Roman Catholicism. Calungsod was beatified on 5 March 2000 by Blessed Pope John Paul II. On 18 February 2012, Pope Benedict XVI officially announced that

Calungsod will be canonized on 21 October 2012.

Research confirms that Pedro Calungsod was a young man from Central Visayas, born around 1655. He was between 12 and 14 years old when he volunteered to be part of the missionary expedition of Fr. Diego Luis de San Vitores to the Marianas Islands in 1668. He served in the mission generously as sacristan, catechist even translator for about 4 years. On April 2, 1672 he was brutally killed, giving up his life bravely for the faith in the village of Tumhon, in Guam. He

was probably 17 years old at the time of his death. His martyrdom was forgotten for a long time. It was only in 1994, after the beatification of his mentor and friend, Fr. Diego, that the cause for his beatification was introduced.



1. Teaching Ministry
2. Music Ministry
3. Healing Ministry
4. Intercessory Ministry
5. Liturgy
6. Hospitality and Food
7. Retreat
8. Media and Art
9. Special Events
10. General Services
11. Finance
12. Good Governance and Peace and Order

## Ministries Organized

At the recently concluded Annual retreat at Vallombrosa Retreat Center last April 21-22, different Ministries and Committees together with the appointed chairpersons were commissioned by Bishop Mylo Vergara. The different members of the ministries pledged that with the help of the Holy Spirit they will:

- Take an active part in the church’s mission to proclaim and spread the Good News of our Lord

Jesus Christ in their assigned roles.

- Strive to promote unity, love and cooperation among the members of the Church particularly among the Filipino Catholic Charismatic Communities.
- Strive to develop better leaders and more mature members in charismatic prayer groups by helping to bring out and exercise

their charismatic gifts.

- Strive to promote the spiritual growth and discipleship among charismatics through the teaching of Catholic doctrines, Bible study and personal relationship with our Lord.
- Strive to spread the meaningful praise and worship of our Lord Jesus Christ through the formation of more charismatic prayer groups in the Archdiocese of San Francisco.



Teaching Ministry of Jesus

## Music and Teaching Ministries in full swing

The FCCC **Music Ministry** recently formed with membership from different prayer communities had its initial task of providing music during the retreat on April 21-22. The ministry did the latest in praise and worship songs and exhorted the membership in praising and worshipping the Lord through their gift of music. Liturgical music during the celebration of the Masses was also something to reckon with.

Kudos to Sis Jocelyn Deauna and Sis Milan Cornejo for leading the worship team.

The FCCC **Teaching Ministry** likewise was organized with Sis Hermie delos Reyes as Chairperson. After a series of meetings at St. Elizabeth Church, training and dry-runs are now being conducted bi-monthly.

The goals and purposes of this Ministry are:

- To train teachers for the Life in the Spirit Seminar (LSS) and eventually establish uniform teaching procedures used in conducting the LSS.
- To teach the LSS to all small faith prayer communities.
- To provide additional and continuous support for the needs of teachers and communities.

## The Challenge-

*He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation." - Mark 16:15*

A few weeks ago I was fortunate enough to attend the General Assembly for the FCCC at the St. Thomas More Church in San Francisco. It was there that I learned something significant from Fr. Ray Reyes about the Catholic Church today. As many of us know the Catholic Church is slowly diminishing in numbers. And many of us are considered lapsed Catholics. It's very sad knowing for a fact that we are one of the world's greatest religions, centuries old, and that our followers reach to about over a billion the world over.

Sadly nowadays, many of us Catholics don't really care about practicing our religion, and practicing our faith, most especially in the younger generation. Many of us view God as far-off and detached from our real-life concerns. As a matter of fact, many of us don't know about our faith. It's like "I'm a Catholic, 'coz my family is and that's about it." Period. Nothing more, and nothing less. I guess you can say that one of the reasons why there are so many lapsed Catholics in today's world is because they find going to church on Sundays "VERY BORING!" The priest's homily is boring, the music makes you fall asleep during Mass, and you're surrounded by mostly old people. And at times even the priest doesn't look welcoming. So where's the motivation there? In a young person's perspective, "There's so much better things I could do on a Sunday rather than go to church!" I know it's sad, but it's true. One of the highlights in Fr. Ray's presentation that day was Lakewood Church in Houston, Texas. Now I know many of us know and listen to Joel Osteen. Lakewood Church is a non-denominational mega church lead by of course, Pastor Joel Osteen. It's considered the largest church in United States. Each services spans to about 16,000 people in attendance. Some say that, "Lakewood Church is the NEW CATHOLIC CHURCH! Why you ask? It's because majority of its

members come from the Catholic Church. And so why are there so many Catholics attending Lakewood's services? Because many of them are so drawn into the music! It's the music that brings so many people to the service."

I've experienced Joel Osteen. Last year I was able to attend Joel Osteen's "A Night of Hope with Joel and Victoria," at the HP Pavilion in San Jose. The place was packed with 16,000 praising and worshipping God like never before. Much to my delight, majority of the attendees were under the age of 40. His youngest followers are around the ages of 7-8 and this guy is almost well into his late 40s. He trends a lot on Twitter and gets a million "Likes," on Facebook.

Lakewood Church came alive into my eyes when they brought it to San Jose. It's a 3 hour service, yet it didn't even feel like it, not one bit. I recall that it wasn't even enough because after the service, people were still hanging out, singing, "I AM A FRIEND OF GOD, HE CALLS ME FRIEND!" (Lakewood's Theme Song by Israel Houghton). This is just a living proof that our God is never limited. It's just unfortunate however, that when it comes to going into a Mass service at the Catholic Church, one hour, just one hour seems like an eternity for rest of us! Again, it is really sad.

I am fortunate and even more so blessed to belong to a Catholic church called Our Lady of Angels in Burlingame that is open to have our music team sing Praise and Worship and/or Contemporary Christian music in our Mass services. And it really does make a huge impact on the church's congregation. Our Filipino Music Team has been singing at OLA since 1994 at the 6pm Mass every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays. We also sing if there is a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday. And even in our early beginnings our founder and pastor Fr. Michael Mahoney has strongly encouraged us to sing Praise and Wor-

ship songs instead of from the Breaking Bread Book or the Music Issue which the church uses. He feels that by singing Praise and Worship songs brings out the very best in us. And it sure did. Not only did it bring out the best in us, but it brought many people back in the church. OLA (Our Lady of Angels) comes alive whenever we sing "Friend of God," or "Free to Dance," or "Come Now is the Time to Worship," and so much more. We've had people come up to us telling us how much their lives have changed each time they attend our Mass service. And to top it all off, majority of the younger generation attend.

We've had people come up to us in tears because of a particular song that deeply touched them. We've had people who came up to us after Mass and tell us that they never really go to church a lot because of they don't agree with the church's teachings and beliefs etc. (an example of a lapsed Catholic), but the moment they listened to our music turned things around in their lives for the good. We've had people who came up to us telling us, "I wish this Mass service would be longer because an hour is never enough!" The list goes on and on. I read in yelp.com about a comment someone posted about Our Lady of Angels Church a while back and it said:

*"Sundays, 6pm masses .. are the latest among the masses offered here in my area. the best part - the Filipino choir. they just have the best choice of songs. the soloist too, sings like an angel. No dull moment in church, yeah uve read it right.. because they will get ur undivided attention, makes u sing ur heart out coz they have a projector with the lyrics on it. That's how a mass should be, its interactive. So people wont feel like they just need to go there for an hour like they are forced to. in the olden times, the masses were used to be sung.*

*So there - u don't need to have a glee - like voice to sing a song of Praise!*

*Amen."-Edz A. Burlingame, CA . So singing praise and worship songs is indeed effective. It just doesn't attract a lot of people, but it*

also brings the younger people in. Several months ago, I attended a music workshop by the international worship leader, singer and songwriter Paul Baloche along with a few of the members of our music team. During that day I learned that Paul was a former Catholic, who now belongs to the Assemblies of God Church. And during one of his workshop sessions he asked everyone in the auditorium who is or was a Catholic? Almost everyone in the auditorium raised their hands, including him. As to who still is, we'll just never know.

Paul discussed the importance of praise and worship and the fact that it is an essential tool to develop a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. It was also there that I was able to witness a congregation where 90% of its members were under the age of 40. As a worship leader and a leader in the music team, one of the things I do to improve the music team is doing an extensive research. I've been fortunate enough to become friends with a few international worship leaders, and I've asked them what the secret is into getting in more people in the church? They only said one thing: Praise and Worship. Joel Osteen does it, Hillsong does it, Paul Baloche does it, Darlene Zschech does it, True Worshipers Indonesia does it, and so does Don Moen, Oslo Gospel Choir and City Harvest Church Singapore. The list goes on. Many of them started out with just a handful of people to the tens of thousands as the years pass.

So the question is, are we going to do it? Is the Catholic Church going to open its doors to praise and worship music? I know Our Lady of Angels does and is going on for a very long time now. But are we going to be an open book? Or are we just going to get stuck in a rut by holding on to our old ways? It's good to hold on to our tradition, but then change is also good, especially when it is change for the better! In the Bible it says that David was a man known to be after God's own heart, and that he always danced before the Lord. Praise and worship means the same. I just hope one day our Catholic faith will open its mind and hearts to praise and worship, into what is considered right now, our CHALLENGE.

## Editorial Board

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## Publisher

Filipino Catholic  
Charismatic Communities  
of the  
Archdiocese of  
San Francisco  
(FCCC)

The Laudate Dominum newsletter was first published in the nineties. It was initiated by our late Sis Jovi Dimalanta of the Epiphany of the Lord and Holy Ground prayer groups. This publication went on as far as ten pages with different groups contributing newsworthy articles. For some reason or another, it was discontinued.

After many years of hibernating, through the able recommendation of Sis Hermie delos Reyes and the support of Bro Emil Lucero, the publication is revived and appointed Sis Hannah Rebosura as Editor. This edition is not its maiden issue but just a continuation of where we left off years back. Without the inspiration and guidance of the Holy Spirit, we won't have that motivation to go on.

We intend to start this publication on a bi-monthly basis and pray that in the future we will be able to do it on a monthly and permanent basis.

**We encourage the membership of different prayer communities to contribute newsworthy articles and submit their articles as early as possible for editing, printing, and distribution.**

Please email your articles to:  
hannah.rebosura12@gmail.com

## The Calling

*The LORD replied, "Don't say, 'I'm too young,' for you must go wherever I send you and say whatever I tell you. -Jeremiah 1:7*

Pretty much of my entire life has been devoted to serving God. At the age of 18, I was called as a worship leader, a God-given gift and a talent I never knew I possessed. Looking back all the way into childhood and all throughout high school, I was a painfully shy girl. Just place me in a room of people, and no one could ever know that I actually existed there.

Even to this day, I still consider myself a shy person. I'm not really much for words, I'm absolutely quiet, but put me on a stage to lead worship or at a prayer meeting, and everything about me turns upside down, and inside-out.

It's not easy being a worship leader. Many times in the past, I've tried to get away from God's calling to pursue my interests in life, and I was really pushing it. I'm sort of a stubborn person, and at times strong-willed. But when it comes to God, nothing can ever escape Him. Once He has got you in the palm of His hands, there's no letting go. There is no escape or any form of exit.

It is said that man's greatest fear is not death. It's not seeing a ghost or a zombie come alive in our sights (what are the chances anyway? We all know it's science fiction!). It's not the fear of heights or closed areas, or even the dark. Actually, man's greatest fear is "public speaking." Worship leading is a form of public speaking. And like I said earlier, I am a shy person; an

extremely shy person! I get nervous when people's attention draws down to me. So how could I possibly lead a large congregation to worship? How is it possible to be so spontaneous the whole time during worship, when I am not much for words kind of person? It all started when I was 17. I was going through a lot of circumstances back then. I had a lot of

spill out those words from my mouth. A cry to God. An answered prayer. And I was never the same again. There were many times when I tried to get away from God's calling after that. And each time I do, I am always reminded of what I told Him, back when I was 17. Obviously, there are no returns, refunds, or exchanges when dealing with the

Lord. His ways are higher, and His thoughts are greater than ours. He has a better plan. It says so in the book of Isaiah. God is good. And He rewards those who do His will.

It was about 9 years ago when I went back to Manila to join Bb. Pilipinas (Miss Philippines) and embark on a modeling career. I was around 24 then. I was full of hope and excitement, only to realize eventually that my dream of

becoming a beauty queen would be cut-off short. It wasn't God's best for me, nor was it His plan in my life. However, I didn't see it like that back then.

It took me many years to finally realize God's way. I know it shouldn't take many years for me to realize or understand what God wants, but I was just stubborn and bitter.

But one of the best things about God is that He can always turn things around for the good, when you least expect it. A few years later, He proved to me that my dreams will come to pass. It may not be my way, but rather His way.

*(To be continued in the next issue.)*

I hope that "Laudate Dominum" publication will inspire many of you readers about the greatness of our God.

insecurities, failures, setbacks, and all that good stuff. I felt like I was stuck in a rut. It felt like the world was on top of me getting ready to crush me down. I felt like there was no way out.

It was also then that I prayed to God, asking Him that instead of helping me out, I suggested that He use me, just to get it done and over with. And with that, I learned an important lesson: be careful with what you tell God. Because when you ask Him to use you, it won't happen instantly, but when it does happen, there is no turning back. And looking back at that time, I think He was waiting for me to

## Calendar of Events

- 1st Friday Mass and Light of God 31st Anniversary on July 6, 2012 @ St. Elizabeth church. Contact (415) 494-5643 (Sis. Hermie).
- BLD-LSS on July 6-8 @ St. Dunstan parish hall in Millbrae. Contact Bro Ray/ Ruby Urbino 650/333-9891.
- Officer's Meeting on July 9, @ 7pm to be hosted by Sis. Sandra Cea @ St. Thomas More Church.
- General Assembly Meeting @ Thomas More Church on July 30, 2012, at 7pm to be hosted by Light of God. Contact Sis Hermie @ 415/494-5643.
- 1st Friday Mass on August 3, 2012 @ Our Lady of Angels church in Burlingame. Contact Bro. Gene@510/331-1801.
- Officer's Meeting on August 13, 2012 @ 7pm hosted by Sis/Bro Mary/Flav Redublado @ 169 Crescent Ave., S.F. Contact: Sis. Mary 415/206-1884.
- Growth in the Spirit Seminar with Fr. Jim Nisbet and Bro. Bob Canton on August 25 & 26, 2012 at Vallombrosa Center hosted by Amor Dei. Contact Sis. Delia (707) 631-9577.
- General Assembly Meeting @ St. Thomas More Church on August 27, 2012, 7pm hosted by Lords Flock. Contact Sis. Jocelyn Deauna 650/994-0598.
- Holy Spirit Conference- September 14-16, 2012 @ Riordan High School, 175 Phelan Ave., San Francisco.

*(Please mark your calendars)*