

THE 2003 CONVENTION: *An Update*

By Purita Vasquez

Sometime in October the Lord spoke to my heart and said, "How can you and others serve in this Convention when you do not know each other. Gather them together in my name. Do something to let them know that I am a God of unity and love." In obedience to that message the 2003 Alliance Convention Servants' Christmas Fellowship will be held on December 8, 2002 and the theme of this meeting will be "Getting to know each other." The heads of the different ministries organized for the 2003 Convention will bring all their volunteer-workers-for-the-Lord, present a number in the program, and share whatever food they can bring. A Eucharistic mass will be celebrated by Fr. Bill Halbing, Fr. Ed Abano, and Fr. Joe Cadusale. For this occasion, Fr. Halbing offered the use of the big hall of his church.

Organization and planning for the Convention are in place. Starting in January we will focus on inviting as many prayer groups as we can reach. Dave Armesto and I will visit prayer groups in the Triborough area (Brooklyn, Queens, Manhattan/Bronx). Max and Fleur Gutierrez will visit prayer groups in Long Island. Oscar Fernandez will fan out to prayer groups in other States.

The Intercessory Ministry led by Liza and Bob Jablonski meet every third Saturday of the month to do adoration for the Convention. The Gift (Word) Ministry, led by Max and Fleur Gutierrez, has twelve members with multiethnic representation (American, Hispanic, Brazilian, Haitian, Filipinos, and youth), meeting every second Sunday of the month.

The Registration Ministry under the leadership of Fred Quimson presented a plan of action regarding walk-in registration and pre-registration and this was well received. We are now accepting registrations from our own prayer and ministry groups and flyers will soon be sent to all regional coordinators and Alliance prayer groups.

Efren Mapa, Communication head, will start advertising the Convention in the Filipino Reporter, Filipino Express, and Catholic Advocate. Bob Canton will advertise the event in the Pentecost Magazine.

Patti Isaac, Finance Ministry chair, has been "always on the go" confident that the Lord will take care of all the financial needs of the Convention.

Grace Bernardo, Youth Ministry chair, is busy recruiting the youth for our Youth Conference and requests that prayer group leaders help raise funds for the attendance and hotel reservation of the youth. Many prayer groups have responded to this campaign. Our youth must be a part of our Convention.

The Filipino Pastoral Music Ministry of the Diocese of

Brooklyn will be the main Music Ministry for the Convention. Butch Nunez is preparing the songs for three masses and the praise and worship sessions during the Convention.

A Festival of Praise will be held on Friday, June 27, 2003, and every prayer group who has a music ministry is encouraged to join and prepare two songs and submit these to Butch Nunez. Father Halbing suggests that the Festival of Praise should not be for entertainment but for praise and worship and therefore should sing songs that are familiar to many people.

Nett Barbilla, Auxiliary Ministry chair, has accepted the responsibility of supplying manpower for the Convention and is the chair for the Christmas Fellowship on December 8.

The draft for the Convention Program has been completed. Edwin Angeles is the Program Coordinator and has been working closely with Bob Canton and me. There will be a Parade of Banners. All prayer groups are requested to bring their banners. No make-shift paper signs will be allowed as this is a shabby way of representing a group supposedly working for God.

Vic Lausin, Liturgy Ministry chair, assisted by Liza Jablonski, will prepare the line-up for people who will serve in all three masses.

Solicitation for Souvenir Program ads will begin in January.

Our hotel, Hilton Towers, is now accepting reservations for the Convention. You can call direct and ask for the discounted AFCCPC rate. Early bird registration is \$30 per adult and \$10 per youth below 18. Seating is limited to 2000. Please register now if you can.

Here's good news to the Alliance: Father Bill Halbing has given the Alliance office space. We will renovate the room and name it "Office of AFCCPC." Thanks, Father Halbing.

Sister Purita presents her status report on the preparations for the 2003 National Convention at the Board and Officers meeting in Pittsburgh.



