



THE TRUMPET

Alliance of Filipino Catholic Charismatic Prayer Communities
www.afccpc.org

Attend our National Convention and visit our website at www.afccpc.org.

MARCH 2003

ALLIANCE LEADERS MEET IN PHOENIX

The first of two scheduled leaders meeting of the AFCCPC for 2003 was held in Phoenix on February 7-8, hosted by the Our Lady of Manaoag Prayer Group, and held at the Embassy Suites. This event was ably organized by Mila Bautista, Mayette Ravasco, Linda Yee, Wilma Mayo, Siony Anor, with enthusiastic help and support from the members of their prayer group and Filipino friends in Phoenix. The weekend gathering started with dinner at a Chinese Buffet followed by welcome and orientation talks from Sister Wilma, Sister Mila, and Sister Mayette, and a brief keynote talk from the national coordinator, Bob Canton.

The leaders meeting started with Praise and Worship Saturday morning and ended with Mass and healing service Saturday night. The bulk of the agenda consisted of reports from: the treasurer, national coordinator, chairperson of the upcoming National Convention, regional coordinators, Trumpet editor, and various assistant national coordinators. A recurrent item is the deficit or "arrears" in regional tithing which was part of the treasurer's report and this, as in the past, always stimulates lively discussion but consistently ends up with the conclusion that it is the responsibility of regional coordinators to keep up with present and past tithing. The last two hours of the meeting were most productive in group discernment as to what direction Alliance should take in 2003.

This national meeting, a first for the region and Our Lady of Manaoag Prayer Group, was indeed a success and gave abundant evidence that the Alliance is alive and well in Phoenix. The leaders and members of the prayer group deserve praise and thanks. Alliance regional coordinators in the Rocky Mountain Region are Mila Bautista and Mayette Ravasco. The addition of Simon and Lourdes Lam will further strengthen the Alliance in this region. nsa



Rocky Mountain Regional Coordinator Mila Bautista addresses the Alliance officers and guests during the Phoenix Meet while National Coordinator Bob Canton watches with approval.

NATIONAL CONVENTION UPDATE

- **Date: June 27-29, 2003**
- **Hilton Tower, East Brunswick, NJ**
Direct access: 1-732-828-2000
- **Theme: *Go and bear fruit*** (John 15:16)
- **Special Guest: *Bishop Chito Tagle***
- **Discounted registration (\$30) deadline:**
April 30, 2003
- **Discounted hotel rate (\$89) deadline:**
April 30, 2003
- **Deadline for Souvenir Program Ads:**
April 30, 2003
- **For Convention queries, please call:**
1-800-559-1540, code #28
- **For Hilton reservations, please call:**
1-800-445-8667
- **Convention Chair:**
Purita Vazquez (marpurie@aol.com)
- **Sister Purita's cell phone:**
201-424-0075 (Fax: 201-333-9491)



Bob Canton conducts Alliance Leaders Meeting in Phoenix.

National Coordinator's Report

PHOENIX LEADERSHIP MEETING

by Bob Canton

Praise be the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, our life and our salvation! I could not help but thank and praise the Lord for the wondrous things that He has done through us and for us during our Phoenix meeting. Everybody who came to the meeting felt the presence of the Lord in a mighty way. The spirit of unity and camaraderie and goodwill was visibly present. Thanks to the Our Lady of Manaoag Prayer Group. They really did a splendid job. By the grace of the Lord, much was accomplished. Following are the highlights of the meeting.

1. MISSION STATEMENT:

Our mission should be summarized and concisely stated in a "mission statement." Deacon Dean Lopata has volunteered to work on this task.

2. SPEAKERS BUREAU:

The AFCCPC should establish a Speaker's Bureau that can be accessed by any region or Alliance prayer group needing teachers or speakers for LSS, Growth in the Spirit Seminars, and Retreats. We need volunteers. Please contact me.

3. REGIONAL CONFERENCES:

Each region should plan to put on Regional Conferences next year and planning should start right away. Coordinators in each region should elect a Lead Coordinator, a Secretary, and a Treasurer from among themselves and meet on a regular basis to plan evangelistic activities under the auspices of the Alliance in their respective regions.

4. LEADERSHIP TRAINING:

The AFCCPC should embark on conducting Leadership Training in the different regions. The organization should also focus on organizing the youth and ministering to them in an effective way. The Assistant Vice National Coordinators for Youth Affairs, namely Grace Bernardo and Mario Vieneza, are encouraged to present a plan and program to achieve this end.

5. CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY:

The AFCCPC should engage in corporal works of mercy and promote and sponsor vocation and religious life among the Filipinos. The groups are also encouraged to pray for our sick brothers and sisters in the AFCCPC. The National Coordinator is planning to form an AFCCPC Intercessory Group which would pray constantly for the AFCCPC and its officers and members.

6. ICCRS INVITATION:

The AFCCPC is being invited to participate in the World Leaders Meeting in Italy come September, 2003, by the ICCRS based in the Vatican. Many AFCCPC leaders are invited to attend this meeting. For more information, check the ICCRS website at www.iccrs.org. An audience with the Pope is also being planned for the attendees of this meeting.

7. INACTIVE ALLIANCE OFFICERS:

The National Coordinator was urged by the group to review the status of Alliance officers and assess their level of interest and activity with the purpose of relieving inactive and disinterested officers of their posts to give opportunity to other Alliance brothers and sisters who are eager to serve the AFCCPC. The group recognized the fact that various life situations can affect the ability of an officer to continue to serve effectively.

8. LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINARS:

All Regions are encouraged to conduct Life in the Spirit Seminars on a regular basis (at least 6 times a year) to comply with the Pope's Encyclical entitled "Novo Millennio Inuente or "Go Out Into the Deep For a Catch." The LSS is a good tool for evangelization.

9. NATIONAL CONVENTION IN NEW JERSEY:

All the regions are urged to participate actively in our National Convention in East Brunswick, N.J. on June 27-29, 2003. The target for recruitment would also be the youth. A powerful program for the youth is being planned. In this same vein, the East Atlantic Region, which is hosting this Convention, is encouraged to plan, as soon as possible, evangelization activities (e.g.: LSS, Growth in the Spirit Seminar, Day of Renewal, Retreats) as a follow up for this Convention, striking

“while the iron is hot.”

10. CONVENTION ADVERTISING:

All the Regional Coordinators present have agreed to buy a whole page Ad in the souvenir program of the New Jersey National Convention. The cost of the Ad is \$100. This will help the hosting region tremendously. All the Regional Coordinators and Officers are obliged to buy an Ad, no exception. Brod Ray Caparros will write a letter to everyone about this.

11. DELINQUENT LOVE OFFERINGS:

Some regions are in arrears of their "love offering" and are encouraged to remit their region's love offering to Sister Lou Canlas as soon as possible.

12. ALLIANCE WEBSITE:

We have a new website. Our website address is: www.afccpc.org. Please check this out. I'm happy to say that we have a very presentable website. The domain name was chosen because "afccpc" is easy to remember.

13. NEXT TRUMPET:

The next issue of The Trumpet will come out in March, 2003.

14. VENUE FOR NEXT LEADERS' MEETING:

Toronto was voted as the next site for our Leaders' Meeting. Pending consultation with Alliance leaders in Toronto, our next meeting will be held in Canada so that we can also visit with our brothers and sisters north of the border. The meeting will be sometime in the Fall.

15. NEW EMAIL ADDRESS:

Permit me also to inform you that my new e-mail address is: rccanton@attbi.com. Please make a note of it.

16. NEW APPOINTEES:

New appointees to the AFCCPC are:

May Virata, Chicago, Illinois, as North Central Regional Coordinator;

Joy Talonghari from Orlando, Florida, as Southeastern Regional Coordinator;

Mario Vierneza from San Francisco, California, as Vice National Coordinator for Youth Affairs;

Simon and Lourdes Lam, from Phoenix, Arizona, as Rocky Mountain Regional Coordinator. The Lams are also very active in the BLD Community, Phoenix Chapter.

17. FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR *THE TRUMPET*

Financial contributors to *The Trumpet* will be acknowledged by printing their names in each issue of the newsletter for one year in the following categories: **Benefactors**, \$250; **donors**, \$200; **sponsors**, \$150; **friends of the AFCCPC**, \$100; **supporters**, \$50; **partners**, \$30; **companions**, \$25.

Mail your contribution to **Lou Canlas, AFCCPC treasurer, 1105 Pacific Court, Worthington, OH 43085.**

REGIONAL NEWS

North Pacific Region

Mandy Labayen reports:

San Francisco, CA: The Filipino Catholic Charismatic Council (FCCC) of the Archdiocese of San Francisco has a newly elected Coordinator for 2003-2004 in the person of **Mario Vierneza** of the Agnus Dei Prayer Community. Assistant Coordinator by virtue of garnering the next highest number of votes is **Judy Labaria** of the St. Patrick Prayer Community, who was the immediate past coordinator.

Brother Mario has appointed the following officers to assist him in serving the over 50 prayer groups that make up the FCCC: **Mandy Labayen** of the Lord's Flock, secretary; **Ellen Marcaida** of Christian Family Apostolate, assistant secretary; **Delia Tabasa** of Amor Dei, treasurer; **Emmie Yabot-Keith** of Our Lady of Fatima, assistant secretary.

Also appointed are **Ernie Jopanda** of Holy Family, auditor; **Esmenia Batinga** of Star of the Sea, assistant auditor; **Malou Soy** of the Junior Apostolate for Christ, PRO; and **Mimi Gines** of the same group, assistant PRO.

Business Managers are the following appointees: **Lising Calip** of Our God Reigns, **Lito de Guzman** of Prince of Peace, **Norma Guerrero** of Domus Nazareth, and **Adolfo Lanic** of Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

The FCCC meets every last Monday of the month at historic St. Patrick Church in downtown San Francisco whose parish priest, **Msgr. Fred Al. Bitanga**, duly commissioned the new officers in his capacity as FCCC Spiritual Director.

FCCC meetings always start with Rosary, a Praise and Worship service, and shared reflections on the following Sunday's Gospel reading. These activities and the snacks that follow the business portion of the meetings are courtesy of the prayer groups assigned to serve at specified meetings.

The Filipino Catholic Charismatic movement is indeed alive and well in the San Francisco region.

To Regional Coordinators: The AFCCPC is a networking organization. News from your regions will be of interest to the rest of AFCCPC. Your reports are encouraged and may be submitted by email to nalbarra@columbus.rr.com or by postal mail to **P.O. Box 20147, Columbus, OH 43220**



Personal Testimony

TO LOVE, TO CARE, AND TO SHARE

by **Joy Tatlonghari**

Peace be unto you, my dear brothers and sisters. As I relate my "near death" experience, I pray that my story will give you an understanding as to why God allows certain experiences in our lives that could be very painful and yet

could impact a major change in our lives and we could gain so much insight on how God forms us, empowers us and reveal the greatness of His love for us. With that in mind allow me to share my testimony with you.

Before September 11, of the year 2002, as I was driving down the road on my way to a "Renew" meeting at Sister Mayette's house, a '98 Chevy truck crossed my path and hit my car head on. The driver failed to yield and made a sudden left turn hitting the front of my car so hard that it jolted me forward and backwards. My chest hit the steering wheel and my knees hit the dashboard. I immediately felt intense pain in my chest and had difficulty breathing. I thought for sure I was going to die before help could arrive. I felt the car inching towards the edge of the ramp and I struggled to shift the car to park. I could hardly move my right arm but because of fear that the car might fall off the ramp I did manage to put it on park. At that split moment of time I felt very much alone and I prayed to God. I asked that if before He calls me home, He could just allow me to say good-bye to my children. It was then that I heard a woman's voice calling on her cell phone, reporting the accident and as I was fading out I heard a man's voice saying, "don't close your eyes on me." I felt him hold my hand, assuring me that help was on the way. I was so glad to hear those voices and to know that I was not alone. I thanked God for sending me those two angels who kept watch over me until the paramedics arrived and rushed me to the hospital where they treated me and contacted my family.

What followed after that was more pain in my whole body. After several x-rays and MRIs, they

found a fractured knee cap on my left leg, a couple of broken ribs on my right side, a bruised heart, and a lot of swelling on my legs, shoulder, and chest area. I was handicapped for about six months and had to undergo physical therapy. But God in His goodness sent holy people to pray over me whenever I needed His healing touch. He revealed a lot of things to me while I was recovering and while I was on leave from work. How precious life is! During this time of pain and struggle to get back on my feet I developed an awareness of other people who were handicapped, who had long-term illnesses, the elderly needing care and attention, and those who were lonely and distressed. I knew there were reasons for why this accident happened to me. Brother Harvey told me it was the work of the evil one trying to stop me from doing work for God. I kept thinking to myself there must be a reason why God had spared my life and not ended it.

The answer came to me three months later after the accident. At a closed retreat with Fr. George which was held at Camp Ethiel, Orlando, Florida, it was revealed to me in big and colorful letters. Painted on the wall was a picture of a dove, the sky and the mountains. The message was, "to LOVE, to CARE and to SHARE." A new Pentecost took place at that retreat. When we gathered in the lower room with Fr. George, people spoke and sang in tongues and several healings took place. Now I know the meaning and purpose of my earthly life and the reason why I am still around. May the Spirit of God remain with us always – now and forever.

(Sister Joy is Alliance Southeast Regional Coordinator and belongs to the Holy Family Prayer Group of Orlando, Florida)

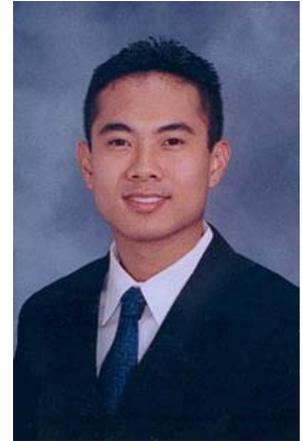
*Personal Testimony***DO NOT BE ANXIOUS ABOUT ANYTHING**by **Jed Santa Maria**

In January, 2000, about a week into my second Spring semester at Duke University, I received an email from the registrar's office stating that my enrollment for the semester was cancelled and that I was officially withdrawn from the university because of an unpaid tuition balance of approximately \$25,000, much of which had carried over from previous semesters. Being only a college sophomore at the time with no income of my own, I couldn't really do anything about it and started blaming my parents. I was angry at them for not being more vigilant about our finances and not saving enough for my college tuition. Having been a good student my whole life while also charting a steady course toward medical school, I felt that I was being unjustly deprived of the bright future I had been planning and envisioning all this time.

We pleaded with the officers, who did not yield. We tried asking friends and relatives if we could borrow money from them, but no one could help out. Finally, my Mom informed me that we could take out an equity loan that would just barely cover the balance. But, to our dismay, the money would not be available until the day after the tuition deadline. We were so close, and yet so far. I prayed intensely day after day that God somehow make a way for us to pay off my balance, but I received no answer. After days of being angry at my parents, angry at the university for being so expensive and unyielding, and even angry at God for leading me into such seemingly hopeless circumstances, I gave up. I resigned my will to God's. *"Lord Jesus, if this is what you will for me then go ahead, do as you please... whether it means staying here at Duke and doing research for a semester or flying back home to California and exploring my options there. I just thank you, Father, that you allowed me to go to college in the first place."*

The day of the deadline finally came, and I got ready to walk over to the computer lab to purchase a flight back to California online. But just as I stepped out of my apartment, my jaw dropped at the sight of an unprecedented two feet of snow on the ground. Though such a phenomenon wouldn't have raised a single eyebrow in Boston or Chicago, it did here in Durham, North Carolina. In fact, it was such a big deal that banks, offices, and even the university closed down for several days. Hordes of students (including myself, though I wasn't officially a student anymore) borrowed food trays from the West Campus cafeteria and brought them

out to the hilly Duke Gardens to use as makeshift sleds. But after all the fun ended, the reality of my present situation set in again as I realized that I might have to leave this place for at least a semester. Upon check-



ing my email later that day, I received a message stating, "Due to adverse weather conditions, the registrar office will be closed this entire week. Therefore, the tuition deadline for the Spring semester has been extended to next Tuesday."

And so, by the grace of God, not only were we able to use our loan to pay off my tuition balance, but I was also able to finish all my Pre-Med and Biology major requirements and even graduate a year early, thus saving a year's worth of tuition as well as allowing myself a year off to actually earn some money to help pay off our loan. In retrospect, what others may view as simply coincidence, I view as a miracle—God sent upon North Carolina what was reported to be the state's worst snow in a hundred years, so that I may not only progress academically, but also witness to you God's power and grace and the importance of prayer, supplication, and surrender to His pleasing and perfect will.

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."
~Philippians 4:6-7

Jed Santa Maria
First year student
UCLA School of Medicine





ALLIANCE NEWS IN PHOTOS

Leaders Meeting in Phoenix

Phoenix Meeting organizers, from left to right: Mayette Ravasco, Mila Bautista, Siony Anor, Linda Yee of the Our Lady of Manaoag Prayer Group. Sisters Mayette and Mila are Alliance regional coordinators.



Bob Canton conducted a healing service immediately after Mass Saturday evening.



Wilma Mayo of the Our Lady of Manaoag Prayer Group opens the Phoenix Meeting with a welcome address.



At the Phoenix Meeting, from left to right, seated: Elena Marcaida, Tess Vierende, Mario Vierende, Judy Labaria, Priscilla Jumad, Delia Tabasa. Standing: Bob Canton and Letty Ramos.



Bob Canton meets his youngest charismatic client in the person of Gabriel, son of Nelson and Wilma Mayo.



National Convention organizers: *present meets the past.* Ging Mangaliman, left, chaired the Los Angeles Convention held in 2001. Purita Vazquez chairs the 2003 Convention to be held in New Brunswick, NJ, on June 27-29. Both servant leaders were at the Phoenix meeting and shared notes. Sister Ging is regional coordinator and Vice National Coordinator for Administration. Sister Purita is regional coordinator and leader of the St. John's Prayer Community of Jersey City.

For information on the NJ Convention, please call 1-800-559-1540, access code #28.

LENTEN REFLECTIONS

Psalm 51

A Lenten Reflection

by *Father Perry Kenaston*

During the past several weeks the scriptures have been devoted to the themes of leprosy and blindness or similar physical ailments.

Lent is a time for prayerful reflection and as we do, we may want to reflect upon our own spiritual leprosy or blindness.

For instance when we visit one another or talk to them on the telephone or even through e-mail do we send off signals, no matter how faint, that demonstrate to others our own biases or prejudices. Jesus shares with us in Holy Scripture that if we are perfect we can cast that first stone. Do any of us dare throw that first stone at some one else? The next time we begin or even think about gossiping perhaps we should first ask this question: "What would Jesus do?" (WWJD).

Could we just imagine for a moment what our world would be like if we first asked the question, "What would Jesus do?" True this is an ideal but at some point don't we have to have ideals first? Aren't they something for each of us to strive for? And in this same vein, doesn't this apply to all of us, no matter what state of life we are in?

Some say that the world will never change and in a sense they perhaps are right but at the same time change only happen when we as individuals take the chance to step out and change ourselves first and from there we can change others.

Therefore, perhaps during this time of Lent let us ask both The Holy Trinity and Our Blessed Mother to share with us the graces to be instruments of change -- first in ourselves and then, when that occurs, the changes in others will naturally follow.

Pride sets subtle snares. Whenever we imagine that we are in control of life, we have fallen prey to the ancient whisper in the Garden: "You shall be like gods." Mortality is the enduring reminder that we become like God not by our own power but by the power of the cross. Magnificat.



Philippians 4: 13

Graphic art by:
Jesse Cabungcal
Columbus, OH

Doing Things Through Christ

A Lenten Reflection

by *Jesse Cabungcal*

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Phil 4: 13.

Before I committed myself to God, I did things "my way." I have since realized, after experiencing serious events in my life, that no matter how good I can predict and plan, I do not have control. I realized that people like me have plans and back-up plans because we actually do not know what will happen an hour from now, tomorrow, next week, next month, or next year. We just do not admit to it because of our pride. With Him in my life I am able to accept situations when things do not go my way and that there must be a good reason for it. I still plan and work hard but do not get disappointed when I do not get what I want, believing that there must be a better time for it.

When I learned to rely on Him, my life changed for the best. He is truly a friend and a Father who's always there to guide me in all that I do.

The image of the crown of thorns is dedicated to Him who wore it on His head and suffered pain, insult, and mockery, and finally died on the cross for my sake and yours.

TRUMPET MAIL

From Juneau, Alaska:

Dear friends in Jesus and Mary and the Alliance,

As some of you may recall from my Christmas letter I went to the Philippines for the month of January and in doing so I became more aware of what a beautiful home “we” have. I would like to share some of my experiences with you in this letter.

I left Alaska on December 27th and flew from Juneau to Anchorage then on to Taipei and then to Manila. After going through Customs and Baggage Claim, I waited for about three-fourths of an hour for Sister Cora Reece and her nephew to pick me up. When they arrived we drove to Max’s for something to eat and proceeded to Pampanga.

After arriving at the “family” house I met the rest of the family and guess what – there were people from “Juneau.” While there, there was a birthday party for one of Cora’s grandchildren – “Juneau” again – and I was able to celebrate Mass in the family chapel and pray with some people who would stop by.

After a week there I flew to Kalibo (Aklan) where I met Sister Naida James and some of the Carrillo clan (Morris Carrillo is Alliance regional coordinator). They were in town for the Carrillo reunion. I might add that at the reunion there were a total of 400 Carrillos in attendance. I asked Brother Morris who was running the state offices of McDonald’s. While in Kalibo, I stayed in town at one of the lodges and had a chance to attend daily Mass at the Cathedral and also to meet all the priests of the diocese. It was time for Aklan’s big festival (the Ati-Atihan).

At the closing Mass there were 10,000 people in attendance. The Bishop was the main presider. Naida and I met many wonderful people there and have been invited back to do a retreat some time in the last part of this year.

To draw this to a close I would like to share the following thank you letter which sums up our gratitude for the hospitality.

I would also like to add that by this experience I have had I can truly say I felt at home in the Philippines and at the same time have a greater awareness of your spiritual needs which will help me to become a better Spiritual Director for each of you and your families.

In Jesus and Mary,

Fr. Perry M. Kenaston

OFFICERS

Bob Canton
National Coordinator
Stockton, CA

Lou Canlas
Treasurer
Columbus, OH

Merle de Guzman
Secretary
Toronto, ONT

Nancy Buenviaje
Secretary
Los Angeles, CA

Pablo T. Malana
Auditor
Moreno Valley, CA

EDITORIAL STAFF

The Trumpet

Narciso S. Albarracin, Jr.
Editor

Sanito and Mae Mendoza
Distribution

Grace Bernardo
Jed Santa Maria
Youth

Bob Canton
Alliance Affairs

Ralph Ferrer
Canadian Affairs

Father Bill Halbing
Father Perry Kenaston
Faith and Religion

Jesse Cabungcal
Graphic artist

THE TRUMPET

P.O. Box 20147
Columbus, OH 43220

TO: