



THE TRUMPET

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

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MAY 2003

PRAYER GROUPS TO ATTEND NATIONAL CONVENTION

Bishop Chito Tagle of the Philippines to deliver keynote address

By Narciso S. Albarracin, Jr.
Trumpet Editor

Excitement builds as the weekend of June 27 approaches when the Alliance of Filipino Catholic Charismatic Prayer Communities (AFCCPC) convene June 27-29, 2003, at the Hilton Tower in East Brunswick, New Jersey for the its 12th National Convention. The East Atlantic Region of the AFCCPC hosts this event, moving the venue from the West Coast, where the 2001 Convention was held in Los Angeles, to the East Coast, another densely populated region of the Alliance. The over-all Chair of this event is Sister Purita Vazquez who is assisted by a team of enthusiastic, Spirit-filled servant leaders taking charge of a host of ministries. They have been at work for a year preparing for this Convention and have trial-ran the process at last year's Alliance Mini-Conference held in conjunction with the National Service Committee Convention convened in Pittsburgh to mark the 35th anniversary of the Charismatic Renewal Movement in the USA.

The theme of the Convention echoes a Jesus mandate expressed in John 15:16: *Go and Bear Fruit That Will Last*. It is a theme that promises to re-energize and stir our charisms, our spiritual gifts, acquired through our baptism in the Holy Spirit, which always runs the risk of cooling down into embers rather than raging into flames. This Jesus-appointed task is linked to a Jesus offer that is foolish of us not to accept: "... so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name."

The Convention organizers take pride in the line of charismatic speakers who will deliver their messages in plenary sessions and in workshops:

- Bishop Chito Tagle: *The Fruit that will Last*
- Jim Murphy: *Growing in the Spirit through Holiness*
- Msgr Joseph Malagrecia: *One Body, One Spirit in Christ*
- Nancy Keller: *Growing in the Spirit through God's Gifts*
- Fr. Bill Halbing: *I Choose to Proclaim the Good News*
- Bob Canton: *We Are Called to Do God's Work*
- Walter Matthews: *Growing in the Spirit in the Power of God's Words*
- Fr. Joe Cadusale: *Fruit in the Spirit*
- Fr. George Da Roza: *Fruit in Leadership*
- Fr. Ed Abano: *Fruit in the Service of the Church*
- Fr. Leoncio Santiago: *Growing in the Spirit through the Sacraments*
- Walter Matthews: *Growing in the Spirit through the Power of Prayers*
- Dr. Jaime Irizari: *Growing in the Spirit through Mary, Mother of God*
- Fr. Leonardo Polinar: *The Power in Community Building*
- Jim Murphy: *The Power of Praise in Worship*
- Nancy Keller: *The Power of Living in the Spirit*

The Convention also features a Youth Track, a Festival of Praise, a Parade of Banners, Procession of the Blessed Sacrament, a Healing Service by AFCCPC National Coordinator Bob Canton, praise and worship sessions led by various area music ministries, and the singing of the composed-for-the-occasion theme song "Go and Bear Fruit."



Fr. Ed Abano, Head Shepherd of the AFCCPC



Bob Canton, National Coordinator, AFCCPC



Purita Vazquez, Chairperson, 12th National Convention of AFCCPC



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FROM THE DESK OF THE NATIONAL COORDINATOR by Bob Canton

The preparation for the 12th National Convention of the AFCCPC is now in full "blast." I had the opportunity to meet with Purita Vazquez, the Convention Chairperson, and the heads of different ministries for the Convention on May 3, in Jersey City, after conducting a Healing Rally at our Lady of Victories Church, and I could not help but notice the display of enthusiasm, excitement, and a sense of great expectations for this coming Convention in their demeanor. They all believe that our Heavenly Father will pour out tremendous blessings and graces in the name of His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, upon all those who come and attend this event. I share this belief with them. I was really touched and very much encouraged by this show of faith and willingness on their part to continue to work for the success of this national gathering, the first ever in this region, for God's glory and for the building up of the Filipino Catholic Charismatic Prayer Groups in North America.

However, there is still a lot of work to be done. I entreat all of you, therefore, to continue to pray for the success of this Convention. It is "our" Convention, not only the East Atlantic Region's. Let us continue to pray for our brothers and sisters in the East Atlantic Region who are hosting this event because through our prayers many doors will be opened and the impossible things will become possible. Let us continue to pray for unity, cooperation, camaraderie, and the achievement of our mission to its fullness. According to St. Paul, "We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us." (Phil.4:13).

I would like also to ask you to continue to invite people to come to this Convention. Remember, this gathering is open to all, Christians and non-Christians, Charismatics or non-Charismatics. The Lord Jesus has commissioned us to be evangelizers, by virtue of our baptism, and one way to do this is to invite people to come and attend an event like this. I'm really looking forward to seeing you all during this Convention. I believe that this is one convention that will be hard to forget because of what the Lord will do for us, His people. Praise the Lord!

I would also like to take this opportunity to announce the forthcoming events of the AFCCPC. On March 19-21, 2004, the North Pacific Region will hold a Regional Conference at St. Mary's Cathedral Auditorium in San Francisco, CA. This event will be hosted by the Filipino Catholic Charismatic Council (FCCC) of the Archdiocese of San Francisco. Incidentally, Mario Vierneza, the Asst. Vice National Coordinator for Youth Affairs, is the newly-elected president of the FCCC. The Mid Atlantic Region is also planning to host a Regional Conference in Baltimore, MD. The target date is April 23- 25, 2004. The venue and the definite date will be announced later. Many other regions in the United States and Canada are also in the planning stages for similar activities for 2004. I'm sure the Lord is working among us in spite of ourselves. We shall continue to be open to His leadings and to be docile to His Holy Spirit by submitting everything, our plans and aspirations, to the Lordship of Jesus Christ, who is the author and finisher of our faith. Of course, we can do this through the power of the Holy Spirit. By doing so, our efforts will be fruitful and will bring glory to His Mighty Name. "Not by power, nor by might, but by my Spirit, says the Lord of Hosts." (Zech.4:5-6).

To God be the glory forever, and ever, Amen.!



COMMITTEE OF FIVE ANNUAL MEETING A Gathering in Georgia

by Lou Canlas

The Committee of Five consists of **Bishop Sam Jacobs** (representing the Bishops Ad Hoc Committee on Charismatic Renewal), **Judith Hughes** (representing the National Association of Diocesan Liaisons), **Aggie Neck** (representing the English-speaking National Service Committee), **Dennis McBride** (representing the Covenant Communities and **Monsignor Joseph Malagrea** (representing the Ethnic Groups consisting of Filipino, Haitian, Hispanic, and Korean Service Committees). The Committee of Five hopes to serve as a bridge by which many brothers and sisters who have experienced the wonderful outpouring of God's spirit in the Church may come to know each other better and give united witness.

I had the privilege of attending this gathering in Dallas in 2000, in San Antonio in 2002, and in Augusta, Georgia in 2003. A small group of 35 Spirit-filled men and women of God representing the community of the five streams in the Renewal came together at St. Joseph's Catholic Church to pray, listen, and discern God's Word for the incoming year. They came from all over the country, bringing varied cultures and backgrounds for the sole purpose of spending three days discerning God's Divine Will for the Renewal in 2003. I came as a representative of the AFCCPC and as a member of the Pastoral Board of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal Center of Columbus, Ohio.

The process of discernment was simple. We praised, we listened, and we prophesied all three days. Small group formats were utilized but the ultimate goal was to come up with a general consensus of what we heard God saying to us. The meetings started early and ended with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

On the last day, the group discerned that the Lord was calling the Renewal to "Go Into the Deep" in the following four areas:

Unity

- The Lord wants the different streams to develop a more organized and effective communication system and share events with each other.
- The Lord wants us to go to Mass, pray the Rosary and spend time before the Blessed Sacrament every Thursday for unity among the streams.

Personal Transformation

- The Lord wants us to repent of what we have done or did not do that has become an obstacle to unity.
- The Lord wants us to come to a deeper prayer life.
- The Lord wants us to return to our first love – Jesus.
- The Lord wants us to fast during the week especially during the Lenten season.

Mission

- The Lord wants us to promote Life in the Spirit Seminars during the Easter cycle.
- The Lord wants us to focus on families, our own, and our communities.
- The Lord wants us to minister to the sick, the home bound, and the isolated.

Youth

- The Lord wants us to promote youth to youth evangelization.
- The Lord wants us to promote Life in the Spirit Seminars tailored specifically to the youth.
- The Lord wants the adults to be more open to the needs of the youth.
- The Lord wants Diocesan leadership to foster and encourage Charismatic youth events around the country

The Committee of Five encourages all strands of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal to subscribe to the above and promote them in the hope that the Lord Jesus will continue to pour out His Holy Spirit in a sovereign way upon the entire Church.



Personal Testimony

GOD WORKS IN WONDERFUL WAYS

by **Claver Soriano, M.D.**

In January, 2002, I was in Negros (Philippines), along with 44 other medical mission members, giving free medical and surgical care to about 1,100 indigent Filipinos with a variety of health problems. Our group worked daily from 8 to 5 for almost the whole week. It was a great accomplishment for all of us for providing such a charitable and humanitarian service. There was a spirited feeling of uplift for everyone despite the fact that we were all physically exhausted.

In March, 2002, I was back in Pittsburgh doing my usual work. I managed to see only two patients in the hospital when I was stricken with an acute coronary disease which needed immediate surgical intervention to repair my damaged heart -- performed within half an hour by our efficient doctors, nurses and other health caregivers.

Many commented that I was so lucky it happened within the hospital, a trauma center -- the right place and the right time -- and not in the faraway island of Negros, Philippines.

God did it this way: His Way. It was He who guided me so I could attend to those who needed help before I could get help myself at the right place and at the right time.

GOD is Omnipotent.

(Editor's Note: We thank Dr. Soriano for this contribution. He has a busy GYN/ Obstetrics practice in the Pittsburgh area, had been president of the Philippine American Medical Association of the region, and has led several medical missions to the Philippines including his own home town of San Carlos, Pangasinan.)

Gleanings: Putting Humor in Aging

I'M FINE

There's nothing whatever the matter with me.
I'm just as healthy as I can be.

I have *arthritis* in both my knees
And when I talk, I talk with a *wheeze*.

My *pulse* is weak and my *blood* is thin,
But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.
I think my *liver* is out of whack
And a terrible pain is in my *back*.

My *hearing* is poor, my *sight* is dim,
Most everything seems to be out of trim,
But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.

I have arch supports for both my *feet*,
Or I wouldn't be able to go on the street.
Sleeplessness I have night after night,
And in the morning I'm just a *sight*.

My *memory* is failing,
My *head's* in a spin,
I'm peacefully living on *aspirin*.
But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.

The moral is, as this tale we unfold,
That for you and me who are growing old,
It's better to say, "I'm fine" with a grin
Than to let them know the shape we're in.

by Cardinal Cushing

(From: The Catholic Devotional, 2000, Apostolic Publishing Co., Oakdale, MN 55128). *Italics added.*

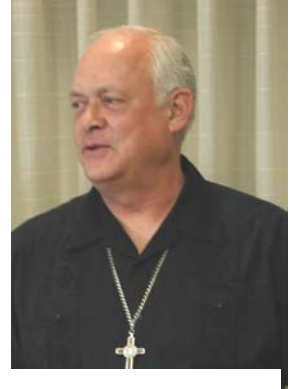
Words can destroy. What we call each other ultimately becomes what we think of each other, and it matters.

Jeane J. Kirkpatrick.

THE GIFT OF TONGUES

Why Do I Need the Gift of Tongues?

by Deacon Dean Lopata



1. It's Biblically normal – Tongues is in the Bible as the normal experience of the early Christians. For example, see the book of Acts of the Apostles, chapters 2, 8, 9, 10 and 19.

2. It's traditionally normal – Tongues has been part of believer's lives in the Catholic Church down through the ages. For example, see the lives of St. Francis of Assisi, St. Teresa of Avila, St. John Vianney and St. John of the Cross.

3. It's an unmistakable sign of God's presence – Tongues is an “audible” gift from God. It is a constant reminder that God is alive and well, loves you unconditionally, and is generous beyond our wildest imaginings.

4. It's a personal gift from God to you – God wants His children to receive and use the gift of tongues. All of God's gifts are beneficial for growing in spiritual maturity and holiness.

5. It's your personal prayer language – God wants to add another tool, a very powerful one, to your prayer toolbox. Tongues is a brand new, heavenly language that God wants you to use in communicating with Him.

6. It's a “doorway” into the supernatural – Tongues is one of God's doorways into a deeper understanding and experience of His invisible Kingdom. Through tongues, God is inviting you to enter more fully into the deeper mysteries of our Catholic faith.

7. It enriches your prayer life – Tongues provides you with a new spontaneity (i.e., freedom) and richness in your prayer time. When you are free in the Lord, you are free, indeed!

8. It allows you to pray confidently – Using the gift of tongues, you can always pray confidently for specific people and circumstances, even when you don't know what to pray (i.e., don't know the details of a situation); or when you run out of appropriate English (or Tagalog) words to pray (i.e., you simply run out of steam).

9. It allows you to pray outstanding prayers -- The Holy Spirit, praying through your human spirit, comes up with consistently great prayers, filled with exceptional power.

10. It draws you into greater intimacy with God – Through the use of tongues, you will grow closer to the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. One of the desires of God's heart is that you fall more deeply in love with Him.

11. It is part of God's loving plan to transform you daily – God wants to change you, more and more, into His image and likeness. Tongues is a powerful gift of personal transformation. It is not something that anyone should seek merely out of curiosity or for the sake of a novel thrill.

(Deacon Dean is a Spiritual Adviser to the Alliance and is from the Mid-Atlantic Region)



A healing seminar was held by Bob Canton in Fort Myers, FL, in January, 2003. Assisting him by bringing Alliance presence to the gathering were Oscar and Marilu Fernandez of Toms River, NJ, and Terri Albarracin of Columbus, OH. Brother Oscar “advertised” the AFCCPC Convention in June to the attendees.

THE ALLIANCE IN PHOTOS A Photo Diary



Those who commit to praying daily for Bob Canton’s healing ministry, please raise up your hands.



Bob’s visit to Southwest Florida was made possible by the contact made by a Prayer Group in Cape Coral. Among the servant leaders is Josie Gonzales shown here with husband, Leo. Sister Josie met Brother Bob in the Pittsburgh Conference in September, 2002.



At the Pittsburgh Alliance Mini-Conference. Bob Canton leads the praying for healing. As this photo clearly shows, praying for healing is a community act



Dr. and Mrs. Randy Geslani opened their home for an impromptu lunch break. These Marthas and Marys whipped up lunch at a moment’s notice. From left to right: Medy Parza with Chelsea and Kevin, Bob, Edith Geslani, Fanny Gagnon, and Beth Caangay.

The Ohio folks mingling with the Pittsburgh folks in the company of Bob Canton. From left to right: Mae Mendoza and Terri Albarracin, Dr. Primo Bautista and wife Henna with Jim Blubaugh in the middle.



2003 Events:

Committee of Five Meeting, January 20-22, 2003, Augusta GA
 Bob Canton Healing Seminar, January 24-25, 2003, Fort Myers FL
 Healing Seminar, January 31– Feb 2, 2003, Hawaii
 Alliance Leaders Meeting, February 7-9, 2003, Phoenix AZ
 Scripture Study and Healing Cruise, March 8-15, 2003, Mexico
 Healing Crusade sponsored by AFCCPC, March 28-30, New York
 Healing Crusades sponsored by AFCCPC, April 4-5, Baltimore MD
 Healing Crusades sponsored by AFCCPC, May 3, New Jersey
 Bob Canton Healing Seminar, June 13-14, Columbus, OH

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**COMMUNICATIONS**

Narciso S. Albarracin, Jr.

In an organization that is an alliance of numerous prayer communities encompassing 12 geographic regions in the USA and Canada, communication is important. During the past year we have devoted our attention to two vehicles of communication: our newsletter, *The Trumpet*, and our website, www.afccpc.org. Although much has been accomplished, much is yet to be done.

We encourage you to submit material to *The Trumpet* and periodically visit our website. A significant step this year is having our newsletter accessible on-line. Our intention in the Directory page of the website is to list the names of prayer groups with addresses, phone numbers, and contact persons. There is also a page for Prayer Requests and a section on Testimonies. We are infants in cyberspace but we will grow as we gain more experience. We cannot escape the fact however that both newsletter and website need information “meat” and without roving reporters like CNN has we will depend on you to share with us information on your activities and on your witness to the workings of the Holy Spirit in your lives as individuals and as prayer groups.

We also hope to raise funds to defray part of the cost of publication and web maintenance. In this issue, we begin offering advertising space. “Advertising” is a word loosely used in this instance. You may have no business to advertise but you still can support and communicate.

Donations are welcome, encouraged, and solicited. Benefactors contribute \$250.

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By advertising with us you are participating in the continued production of your Trumpet.

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Columbus, Ohio

*Rejoice in hope, endure in tribulation, and persevere in
prayer.* Romans 12:12

Al and Terri Albarracin
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