



Tayo nawa'y maging isang Sambayanan na pinagbuklod ng Eukaristiya na kumikilos ayon sa kalooban ng Diyos at naghahandog ng sarili tungo sa Iglesia ng maralita.



Fr. Henry Ferreras blesses with holy water the newly commissioned parish servant-leaders.

## Servant-leaders commissioned at PHS

Service is blessed anew for some 350 servant-leaders of the Parish of the Holy Sacrifice as they were commissioned on the Anticipated Mass of the Solemnity of Christ the King, Nov. 25.

“Ako’y natutuwa dahil iyong ating mga likod ay nandito ulit at nagtalaga ng kanilang mga sarili (I am glad because our servant-leaders are here again, committing themselves). I’m sure this is also their way, individually, of living out the spirituality of stewardship,” Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) coordinator Nathaniel Diola told Handuhay.

“Nawa sa ating paggamit ng ating mga gifts, ... sa ating pagtugon sa panawagan na magsilbi, at the same time magampanan ang ating mga responsibilidad bilang mga tagasunod ni Kristo, we may be able to know him more, love him more, and serve him more,” Diola added.

(We hope that in using our gifts, in responding to the call of service, at the same time, in living up to our responsibilities as followers of Christ, we may be able to know him more, love him more, and serve him more.)

In his homily, parish priest Fr. Henry Ferreras stressed the special meaning and significance of Christ’s kingship.

“Sa tuwing tayo ay nagsisilbi sa parokya, si Kristo ang ating pinaglilingkuran (It is Christ we serve every time we serve the parish),” he said.

However, he pointed out that parish work should not interfere with family matters. “Family first, before parish, because that is our first community,” Fr. Ferreras said.

“Kaya ako’y lubos na nagpapasalamat sa inyong paglilingkod, pagbibigay ng oras at panahon sa ating parokya, sa kabila ng pagiging abala niyo rin sa iba pang bagay,” he added.

## That they may be like Mary

by Rex Lago Paras

We have just commenced another liturgical year with the First Sunday of Advent. For the Catholic Church in the Philippines, the beginning of Advent coincided with the launching of the Year of the Clergy and Consecrated Persons. The year 2018, dedicated to the clergy and consecrated persons, is the sixth year of our nine-year spiritual journey towards 2021—the 500th anniversary of the arrival of Christianity in our country (Pastoral Exhortation on the Occasion of the Opening of the 2018 Year of the Clergy and Consecrated Persons).

For the Year of the Clergy and Consecrated Persons, the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) has chosen the theme “Renewed servant-leaders for the New Evangelization.” According to Archbishop Romulo Valles, the current CBCP President, the goal of our prayers and activities this year is the renewal of our clergy and consecrated persons so that they may become effective instruments of the New Evangelization. Our aim is the “integral renewal of the values, mindsets, behavior and lifestyles of the [c]lergy and [c]onsecrated [p]ersons” (Pastoral Exhortation on the Occasion of the Opening of the 2018 Year of the Clergy and Consecrated Persons).

*Continued on page 6*

# NEWS BITS



The Music Ministry of the Parish of the Holy Sacrifice held on Dec. 9, Saturday, its annual Papuri't Pasasalamat, or Choir Festival. Some ten choir groups joined together in putting up this activity, singing Christmas carols and medleys for the parish community.



## Parish holds Christ the King procession

Led by parish priest Fr. Henry Ferreras, the Parish of the Holy Sacrifice held on Sunday, Nov. 26, its annual procession of the Blessed Sacrament to celebrate the Solemnity of Jesus Christ, King of the Universe.

While the previous years of holding the activity was limited to the perimeter of the parish church only, this year's route included passing by the areas that comprise the Basic Ecclesial Communities including Ricarte, Dagohoy, Palaris, Area 1, and Area 2.

In preparation for the visit of the Blessed Sacrament to the area, the members of the community built a place of repose where the image of Christ the King was also present.

There were five stations in all, with parts of the Evening Prayer recited in every station. On the way back to the parish church after the fifth station, the Litany of Christ the King was prayed.

As the procession ended, the Blessed Sacrament was finally reposed to the Adoration Chapel.

For every station, Fr. Ferreras shared some reflections on the kingship of Christ and the kingdom of God to lead the faithful in deepening their relationship with God through activities like the said procession.

"Indeed, we have set to ourselves this commitment to hold this kind of Marian activity every year, as our way of honoring Mama Mary in her birthday, particularly for her role in God's plan of salvation," sabi ni Nato.

(Tunay na amin nang naitalaga sa aming sarili na idaos nang taunan ang ganitong gawain upang bigyang-pitagan ang Inang Maria sa kanyang kaarawan, lalo na sa kanyang papel sa gawang pagliligtas ng Diyos.)



17 aspirants -- the newest set of volunteers. In photo are the newly committed and current staffers and volunteers as well as members of the alumni. Amare et servire!

**Paghihintay**  
Kenn Soltones

*Mama, Papa, Bunso, Kuya  
Alam kong miss na natin ang isa't isa  
Ngunit ako'y nandito pa  
Nag-aaral, para sa ikabubuti ng ating  
pamilya.*

*Sa dinami-rami ng okasyon na aking  
pinalagpas  
Umaasa akong pagmamahal ninyo'y di  
nababawas*

*Sana ako'y inyong maintindihan  
Pagka't kayo'y gusto ring makita't mahagkan.*

*Ang araw dito ay mabilis nang lumulubog  
Kasabay ng mga kampanang nagsisitunog  
Lumalamig na nga ang hangin  
Ang mga pailaw ay nagsisilabasan na rin.*

*Konting tiis pa at makauwi na ako  
Masilayan mga ngiti ninyo kahit papaano  
Dahil kayo ang siguradong bubuo  
Sa aking kuwento, ngayong Pasko.*

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*Handuhay*  
PATNUGUTAN

**TAGAPAGPALATHALA:** Fr. Henry Ferreras  
**PUNONG PATNUGOT:** Rogelio Nato, Jr.  
**KAPATNUGOT:** Amor De Jesus  
**MGA KAWANI:**  
Matt Dom, Minette Genorga, Spencer Go,  
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# The Mighty One Loves His Child, His Church

by Carlo S. Dureza

Reeling until now from Sacred Scripture's account of the "greatest story ever told", we still find ourselves locked in wonder about the babe who is the savior of all but was born in a dingy animals' stable. The readings at Mass some days past following the birth of Jesus still continue to linger and captivate us. Clearly, we may have felt completely justified in our faith because the promised Messiah has indeed come. Applause...applause! Heaven's gate has opened!

But just like in the breath-taking comic serial "The Adventures of Superman" or in the intriguing daily television soap opera "Falcon Crest," Christ's birth is just like the beginning of a never-ending tale of adventures that see the forces of good and evil endlessly outdo each other until goodness triumphs forever.

One post-Nativity biblical account to note is the Flight to Egypt. At a glance, its story is anti-climactic to the theme of Christmas but its significance reveals the essence of Christ's birth -- salvation. Historically, God appeared to Joseph in a dream and instructed him to take the Baby Jesus and Mary to Egypt until the death of King Herod. Reason: Herod would kill the baby Jesus. Herod thus ordered the slaughter of all young boys aged two years and below in Galilee. Sordid

is Rachel's disconsolate wailing because she had lost her two sons in Ramah. The Feast of the Holy Innocents becomes a sore misfit in the slew of joyful liturgical readings in the season of Jesus' birth. It's a sad and infuriating crime story.

Oh what a grave crime indeed to commit is to hurt harmless, defenseless and innocent children! Spurned by jealousy and a self-absorbed fear, Herod used his empty power to destroy whom he had perceived to be his chief adversary. In our times now, we become distraught about news of children at the crossroads of war. We became disheartened upon seeing the bruised faces of frightened little ones in the war-ravaged Middle East and Africa. Seeing them as victims of human folly and frailty is unbearable. Young lives lost and wasted!

Here at home, we endured gazing at the looks of hapless children in Marawi splashed on the papers, shown on television and loaded in the Internet. Such a war was the culprit of ruinous emotional, physical, and psychological consequences. Ditto with the government's war on illegal drugs. Furthermore is the glaring social malady of corruption. All these cause the disintegration of the human person, rendering ill effects on his or her immediate social circle, especially the family.

Whatever, whichever, the worst fatalities of wars and consequences of social chaos and corruption are always children. They either get directly hit by bombs and bullets or lose their parents in the cruel rough-and-tumble of human savagery.

Most pitiful is that they could not carry their own cudgels. They cannot defend themselves alone. Their lives hang on the balance amidst the swirling stench of death. They are all left completely to the Mercy of God. Hessed.

It is also worthy to note that children are the life of a family. It is always the children who are the rallying point of concern and inspiration, the fount of hope and happiness. When anything happens to the little ones in a family, everyone else gets stirred. Elders are vulnerable to children. It is in this vein that God illumines His might on these little ones. The Mighty One comes to them. It is in their weakness that God's grace and glory gush forth abundantly.

Thus the theme of the Campus Ministry Office's lantern for this year's Lantern Parade. It depicts the story of The Flight to Egypt. God has called His Son that he may not fall prey to the wiles of selfish human freedom. This highlights the love of God for the Baby Jesus and his mother, Mary. He entrusted His care to Joseph. God so loves His child, as the only begotten Son and the Holy Family as His church on earth that has given them His grace of salvation.

In the crucible of danger and death, God will always save His Child and His Church. He, the Mighty One, will do justice against those who persecute them. In the quagmire of our harried lives at present, when living becomes physically, emotionally, and morally daunting, God will always call us to take

*Continued on page 6*



**PARISH PRIEST:** Fr. Henry Ferreras

**GUEST PRIESTS:** Fr. Tizan Jose & Fr. Binu Scaria

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL**

**COORDINATOR:** Nathaniel Diola

**SECRETARY:** Janeth Mabaquiao

**TREASURER:** Lorenzo Clavejo

**MINISTRY HEADS:** Ma. Sheilah Napalang, *Formation* - Luis and Josephine De Luna, *Family & Life* - Erlinda Cinco, *BEC* Ruben Lumberas, *Catechetical* - Rogelio Nato, Jr., *Campus* - Benedict Lapuz, *Public Affairs* - Nanette Pelaez, *Vocation* Alice Paguio, *Worship* - Severa Arias, *Social Services* - Emerson Gabriel, *Youth* - Mar Philippe Lopez, *Media*

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Joseph Arellano & Leo Ferreras, *Sacristans* - Jaime Subalid, *Gardener* - Armando & Rolando Cedullo, *Maintenance*

Marpe Amper & Jocelyn Cedullo, *Cooks*

refuge under the mantle of His loving protection because we are His children, His Church. This is the lantern’s message.

Nothing is more precious and sacred in the season of giving than when a child of God and his family receives God’s gift of togetherness, protection and salvation.

**When?**

Rian Fritz D. Jalandoni

*I was sitting beneath a tree  
When You saw me there so lonely  
You came to me and greeted me  
Oh how the clouds fade and the day became sunny*

*And then You said ‘I need to leave’  
But left a promise to come back  
So Your words I held on and believed  
And tried to make my hope intact*

*Oh my beloved! For when will that be?  
You precious arrival, for years I long to see  
After a year? a decade? or maybe a century?  
When will you be here right beside me?*

*When? Never yet have I shut my eyes  
Even roses turned thorns, flames turn to ice  
When? For my faith in You is shaking  
About to give up for the day of Your coming*

*But I knelt and pray to strengthen my heart  
Knowing that nothing will keep us apart  
And keeping my faith as strong as a boulder  
Hoping that one day we’ll be together*

Our bishops are inviting us to continue to support and pray for the clergy and consecrated persons especially those who minister to us in our churches, parish communities, schools and religious institutions. A most opportune time for us to pray for them is on December 8, the patronal feast day of the Philippines, whose principal patroness is the Blessed Virgin Mary in her Immaculate Conception.

Annually, on December 8, the Universal Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. One of the Marian dogmas, the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception holds that “the most Blessed Virgin Mary, in the first instance of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege granted by the Almighty God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the human race, was preserved free from all stain of original sin” (Ineffabilis Deus).

During the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, the Gospel proclaimed to us is the story of the Annunciation as recounted in Luke 1:26-38. In this narrative, “[t]he angel Gabriel...salutes [Mary] as ‘full of grace.’” She was “enriched by God with gifts appropriate to [her] role [as] the mother of the Savior. She [was] whole borne by God’s grace” (Catechism of the Catholic Church). In spite of the unique place reserved for Mary in the history of salvation, she remained the humble servant of the Lord. When “the angel Gabriel was sent from God” to tell her that she was to give birth to the “Son of the Most High,” her modest response was one of total surrender to the will of God. Mary said, “I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.”

May the story of the Annunciation remind our dear clergy and consecrated persons of their own calling to participate in the mission of the Church. May Mary’s Fiat remind them of their acceptance of the invitation to be instruments of God’s work in this world. May they follow the example of the Blessed Mother who completely dedicated herself to Jesus that she stood by him even at the foot of the cross. And like Jesus, the Good Shepherd, may our clergy and consecrated persons always be “servant-leaders who care most especially for the least, the lost and the last” (Pastoral Exhortation on the Occasion of the Opening of the 2018 Year of the Clergy and Consecrated Persons).

Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, pray for all clergy and consecrated persons.

Rex Lago Paras is the Chair of the Lectors and Commentators Group of the Parish of the Holy Sacrifice.



**CELEBRATING THE SACRAMENTS AT THE PARISH OF THE HOLY SACRIFICE**

**WEEKDAY MASSES:** 6am, 12nn, 6pm **FILIPINO SUNDAY MASSES:** 6am, 8am, 10am, 6pm

**ENGLISH SUNDAY MASSES:** 7am, 9am, 12:15PM, 5PM, 7PM, 8PM

**INDIVIDUAL BAPTISM:** Tuesday - Saturday, *by appointment*

**CONFESSION:** Mon - Thu, *during and after 12nn and 6pm Mass | Friday, during & after 12nn Mass*

**GROUP BAPTISM:** Saturday, 11:15am **ANOINTING OF THE SICK:** *by appointment*