



Laudate Dominum

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

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).

Feature Story

From a Decorated Combat Soldier to a Soldier of God:

Bro. Emil Lucero was recently elected as the new coordinator of the Filipino Catholic Charismatic Communities (FCCC) of the Archdiocese of San Francisco for a second term. As coordinator of the FCCC, Bro. Emil oversees the activities of 15 charismatic prayer communities namely, Amor Dei, BLD, El Shaddai, Light of God, Our God Reigns, St Patrick, Shalom, God's People, Lord's Flock, Immaculate Conception, Perpetual Help, God's Word, Our Lady of Angels, FCA/JAC and recently, Elim.

He is an active member of the Amor Dei Charismatic Prayer Community, and was baptized in the Holy Spirit in 2000. He is also the AFCCPC North Pacific Regional Coordinator.

Prior to his involvement in the charismatic renewal, Bro. Emil is a 1976 graduate of the Philippine Military Academy and has served in the Philippine Constabulary, now Philippine National Police. He likewise earned a Law degree in 1986 from the Baguio Colleges Foundation.

He attributes to the encouragement of his wife Chilla, his transformation from a decorated combat soldier to a soldier of God.

To briefly describe Bro. Emil, he is that spiritual leader that has the emphasis on optimism, energy, hard thinking, and decisiveness.

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FCCC Commissioning Mass ... and Christmas celebration

On Sunday, December 30, 2012 at the Church of the Visitation in Sunnydale Avenue, San Francisco will be the commissioning of incoming FCCC Officers.

The commissioning will be preceded with a recitation of the Rosary and concelebrated Mass by Msgr Fred Bitanga, Fr. Ray Reyes, Fr. Charito Suan and Fr. Boie Espeletta.

Dinner, Musical Presentations by several prayer communities, Raffle of Prizes and dance follows.





Exactly two weeks, to the day, after the tragic slaying of twenty schoolchildren and the six adults who sought to protect them, several Christian communities (Roman Catholics, Anglicans, Lutherans) celebrate the annual "Feast of the Holy Innocents," a memorial which appears on the liturgical calendar each year on December 28.

The Year of Faith, from this perspective, is a summons to an authentic and renewed conversion to the Lord, the one Saviour of the world. In the mystery of his death and resurrection, God has revealed in its fullness the Love that saves and calls us to conversion of life through the forgiveness of sins.

The Year of Faith begins on October 11, 2012, the fiftieth anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican council. It will conclude on the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus, Universal King, on November 24, 2013.

The Holy Innocents (December 28th)

During this octave of Christmas the Church celebrates the memory of the small children of the neighborhood of Bethlehem put to death by Herod. Sacrificed by a wicked monarch, these innocent lives bear witness to Christ who was persecuted from the time of His birth by a world which would not receive Him. It is Christ Himself who is at stake in this mass-murder of the children; already the choice, for or against Him, is put

clearly before men. But the persecutors are powerless, for Christ came to perform a work of salvation that nothing can prevent; when He fell into the hands of His enemies at the time chosen by God it was to redeem the world by His own Blood.

Our Christmas joy is tempered today by a feeling of sadness. But the Church looks principally to the glory of the children, of these innocent victims, whom she shows us in heaven following

the Lamb wherever He goes.

The senseless murder of children can never be justified, even in an attempt simply to make sense of such a tragedy. This is one of the reasons why this annual memorial is so difficult and challenging, made more incomprehensible in light of the massacre at an elementary school in Newtown, CT two weeks earlier.

"Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Mt 19:14

On The Lighter Side

Jesus is Better Than Santa

Santa lives at the North Pole.

JESUS is everywhere.

Santa rides in a sleigh

JESUS rides on the wind and walks on the water.

Santa comes but once a year

JESUS is an ever present help.

Santa fills your stockings with goodies

JESUS supplies all your needs.

Santa comes down your chimney uninvited

JESUS stands at your door and knocks.. and then enters your heart.

You have to stand in line to see Santa

JESUS is as close at the mention of His name.

Santa lets you sit on his lap

JESUS lets you rest in His arms.

Santa doesn't know your name, all he can say is "Hi little boy or girl, What's your name?"

JESUS knew our name before we did.

Not only does He know our name, He knows our address too. He knows our history and future and He even knows how many hairs are on our heads.

Santa has a belly like a bowl full of jelly

JESUS has a heart full of love.

All Santa can offer is HO HO HO

JESUS offers health, help and hope.

Santa says "You better not cry"

JESUS says "Cast all your cares on me for I care for you.

Santa's little helpers make toys

JESUS makes new life, mends wounded hearts, repairs broken homes and builds mansions.

Santa may make you chuckle but

JESUS gives you joy that is your strength.

While Santa puts gifts under your tree

JESUS became our gift and died on the tree.

It's obvious there is really no comparison.

We need to remember WHO Christmas is all about.

We need to put Christ back in Christmas.

Jesus is still the reason for the season.

Yes, Jesus is better, he is even better than Santa Claus!

A Christmas Story

It was a bright December morning, several weeks before Christmas, and I was out at our front yard. I saw children making rounds, singing carols. Numerous people, from garbage collectors, electricity and telephone bill collection agents, to people from different sects, were roaming around giving envelopes, hoping for a generous donation. But several things bothered me: business was down, and the scenario of not having a bright Christmas hangs over my head. I still haven't done shopping for gifts, and I haven't planned what to eat on our *'Noche Buena'*. The Christmas lights and lanterns need to be fixed, or worse, replaced. Things like these gave me a headache.....Christmas....

A boy suddenly appeared at the gate. He was thin and wore shabby clothes. He wore no slippers and he was holding a sack. He was a garbage scavenger. He asked if I have some plastic bottles or old newspapers to be sold to the junk shop. Even though I felt a little bit irritated, I was amused and jokingly asked him of what Christmas meant to him. He looked far away but said in a loud and joyous manner "Christmas is grace! Money! There's plenty of money...because there's so many garbage!!!"

I was surprised at his reply. Here I was, worrying and having a hard time while full of excitement and enthusiasm. I was so out of focus that I forgot the real meaning of Christmas. I was ashamed. I forgot the most important message of all. I forgot about L-O-V-E.....



As I was pondering on it, the boy stood up, starting to leave. I told him to wait, and grabbed the old tin cans, newspapers, plastics and other items I collected and gave it to him for free. He was surprised and was so happy. The sack was full, and I told him to go and sell it immediately. He didn't bother to thank me but I didn't mind. In fact, I was thankful, because it took another poor boy again, like the poor baby in the manger, to open my 'eyes' to remember the true message of Christmas.

As a conclusion to this story, let us remember the word of the great lyricist, the late Levi Celerio. We don't have to wait for Christmas. We don't have to pass the time to smile, to share, to repent, to forgive and most of all, to love. We can do it every day. And as we celebrate the season of Christmas, let us be like the garbage boy, full of excitement and joy as we remember the birth of our God's only begotten Son, and let us eagerly await for the second coming of our Savior, our Lord Jesus Christ. The story doesn't end here. I know you have a Christmas story to tell. Merry Christmas ----

Perfect toward Him

"...I will walk within my house with a perfect heart." (Psalm 101:2)

Reflection: This time of year, people often take time to reflect and set goals for the New Year. But have you ever set "perfection" as a goal on your list?

Now, that may seem a little strange or unobtainable to many; but really, in God's eyes, perfection isn't about performance. In fact, it isn't about behavior at all. What God is looking for is a heart that is perfect toward Him. Scripture says that man looks on the outside, but God looks at the heart. That means He is more pleased with someone who has a heart toward Him who may mess up than He is with someone doing all the right things for all the wrong reasons. The condition of your heart is extremely important to God. When you have a right heart, you are humble before Him. You seek His ways. You get up each day with a desire to please Him. You submit every area of your life to Him, and you are willing to make adjustments and receive correction so you can grow and come up higher.

As you prepare for the coming year, make knowing Him your number one priority. Yield yourself to Him and let Him shape your character. Serve Him with all your might and let your heart be perfect toward Him!

Joel Osteen

A PRAYER

Father in heaven, thank You for all of Your blessings in my life. I declare today that You are good and thank You for Your mercy. I set my heart and mind on You and ask that You have Your way in me. Help me to love You perfectly and keep me close to You in Jesus' name. Amen.

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Laudate Updates:

We are now on our fourth issue of this publication (November-December). Thanks for our Lord's guidance.

Circulation so far is via online and we pray that it has reached everyone in the renewal and beyond. We encourage the printing of hard copies for those who don't have access via computer. This is one way of evangelizing most especially those who are lost and hungry for God's word.

Finally, we are happy to inform you that this publication can now be seen in SFSpirit.com website. Our appreciation goes to the San Francisco Archdiocese Catholic Charismatic Renewal.

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. **(Deadline for submission: 1st week of each month).**

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

NEW YEAR, NEW BEGINNINGS

Mary's example is a good one to emulate as we prepare for a new year. We can approach this feast as an opportunity to reflect on the past—the good and the bad—and use those insights to help us shape the future. In other words, we can use our New Year's Resolutions to help us grow closer to God. What are our weaknesses, and what can we do to make our lives better reflect God's vision for us?

Try these tips to make your spiritual goals “stick” this year:

Be Specific. Nebulous goals, like “grow closer to God” or “read more scripture,” are next to impossible to fulfill. Break them down into specific pieces; specific goals are, by definition, measurable.

Make Them Measurable. Being able to gauge your progress helps you stay motivated. Examples of measurable goals: Attend Mass once a week. Read the Bible three times a week.

Be Realistic. If you you're likely to you want to spend day in contemplation start with five minutes (and your schedule) make it ten.

overreach, burn out. If half an hour a day of prayer, it's better than nothing. Once you have adjusted,

Call for Help. Spouses, parents, children, siblings, friends ... all can be cheerleaders for each other, offering encouragement and discipline when the going gets tough. Perhaps you and loved ones can set common goals.

Think beyond the Obvious. Every human endeavor, whether overtly religious or not, has a spiritual dimension. Any goal that improves your relationships with family, friends, or your self also puts you into healthier relationships with God. Approach whatever goals you set with prayer and a desire to do God's will, and see what can happen!

As we celebrate the Word of God made flesh in Jesus,
we also celebrate the way in which every member of FCCC
makes Him present again
as we gather in thanks and praise, singing
“Glory to God!”.

May the joy and peace of this holy season
Linger on throughout the New Year of 2013!