

BASILICA BULLETIN

A Weekly Publication of Our Lady of Penafrancia Basilica and National Shrine, Naga City, 4400 Philippines

March 18, 2012

www.penafrancia.net

4rd Sunday of Lent

Time to Rejoice

Fr. Luisito A. Occiano

This fourth Sunday of Lent is known as 'Laetare Sunday'. In Latin laetare (re-joyce) is the first word of the entrance antiphon: "Rejoice, Jerusalem...." Joy is the theme of today's Liturgy.

Why do we have to rejoice within this lenten season?

We rejoice because lent is not a season of mourning and sadness but a season of joy. As our gospel tells us, we have many reasons to be happy.

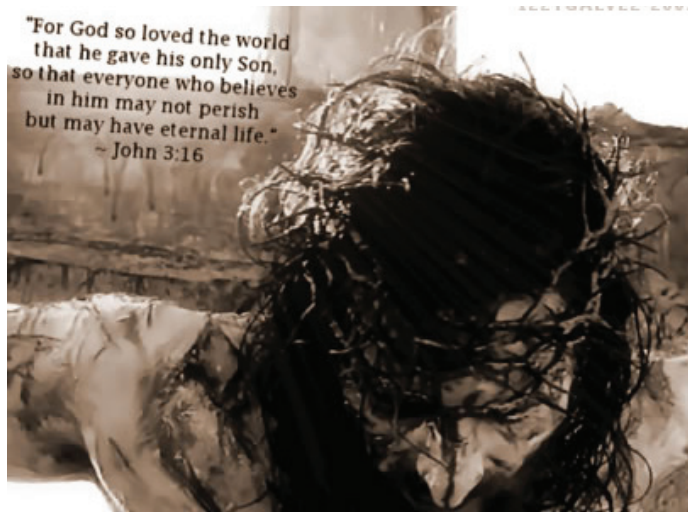
Primarily, we rejoice because we have a God who loves us unconditionally. In fact, He even us gave His only begotten Son – not to condemn us but to give us eternal life. God loves us: this is the source of our joy, whether we actually experience it or not at the moment. St John wrote, "This is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us" (1 John 4:10). "We love because God first loved us" (1John 4:19). And

through this, we experience light with his presence.

However, there is often a time in a long journey when we find the going hard. The enthusiasm with which we set out has faded, and there is still a long way to go. We see nothing but despair and darkness. At this stage in our Lenten journey we may be inclined to identify with Nicodemus of today's gospel. He

came "by night" to consult Jesus, weighed down in his heart, by an interior darkness of confusion and embarrassment. In our disappointment with our lives, the darkness seems so real and overwhelming.

Just as when we experience brownouts, we long for light. We all know the importance of light. Without light, we are blind to the beauty around us.



On another level, light helps us see right from wrong, good from bad. In this way, light enables us make informed decisions.

Unfortunately we often get rid of this light. When God gives, man always gets. But when God forgives, man easily forgets. When we fail to recognize the love of God, that's the time when darkness overcomes us. Hence, rejoicing will be impossible without the radiance of the love and light of Christ. "We can easily forgive a child who is afraid of the dark; the real tragedy of life is when men are afraid of the light." (Plato)

Let us rejoice therefore within this Lenten season by letting the light of Christ shine in our life. Lent is indeed a time to smile and rejoice.

Daily Readings of the Week

Mar 18 Sun:	2 Chr 36: 19-23/ Eph 2:4-10/ Jn 3:14-21
Mar 19 Mon:	2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16/Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22/Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a
Mar 20 Tues:	Ez 47:1-9, 12/ Jn 5:1-16
Mar 21 Wed:	Is 49:8-15/ Jn 5:17-30
Mar 22 Thurs:	Ex 32:7-14/ Jn 5:31-47
Mar 23 Fri:	Wis 2:1a, 12-22/ Jer 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
Mar 24 Sat:	Jer 11:18-20/ Jn 7:40-53

Sunday Gospel

John 3:14-21



"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him will not be condemned, but whoever does not believe has already been condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the verdict, that the light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light, because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come toward the light, so that his works might not be exposed."

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son"

St. Joseph was an ordinary manual laborer although descended from the royal house of David. In the designs of Providence he was destined to become the spouse of the Mother of God. His high privilege is expressed in a single phrase, "Foster-father of Jesus." About him Sacred Scripture has little more to say than that he was a just man—an expression which indicates how faithfully he fulfilled his high trust of protecting and guarding God's greatest treasures upon earth, Jesus and Mary.

The darkest hours of his life may well have been those when he first learned of Mary's pregnancy; but precisely in this time of trial Joseph showed himself great. His suffering, which likewise formed a part of the work of the redemption, was not without great providential import: Joseph was to be, for all times, the trustworthy witness of the Messiah's virgin birth. After this, he modestly retires into the background of holy Scripture.

Of St. Joseph's death the Bible tells us nothing. There are indications, however, that he died before the beginning of Christ's public life. His was the most beautiful death that one could have, in the arms of Jesus and Mary. Humbly and unknown, he passed his years at Nazareth, silent and almost forgotten he remained in the background through centuries of Church history. Only in more recent times has he been accorded greater honor. Liturgical veneration of St. Joseph began in the fifteenth century, fostered by Sts. Brigid of Sweden and Bernadine of Siena. St. Teresa, too, did much to further his cult.



At present there are two major feasts in his honor. On March 19 our veneration is directed to him personally and to his part in the work of redemption, while on May 1 we honor him as the patron of workmen throughout the world and as our guide in the difficult matter of establishing equitable norms regarding obligations and rights in the social order.

St. Joseph is invoked as patron for many causes. He is the patron of the Universal Church. He is the patron of the dying because Jesus and Mary were at his death-bed. He is also the patron of fathers, of carpenters, and of social justice. Many religious orders and communities are placed under his patronage.

NOVENA PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH

○ St. Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the Throne of God, I place in you all my interests and desires. ○ St. Joseph, assist me by your powerful intercession and obtain for me from your Divine Son all spiritual blessings through Jesus Christ, Our Lord.

So that, having engaged here below your heavenly power, I may offer my thanksgiving and homage to the most loving of Fathers.

○ St. Joseph, I never weary contemplating you and Jesus asleep in your arms. I dare not approach while He reposes near your heart. Press Him in my name and kiss His fine Head for me, and ask Him to return the Kiss when I draw my dying breath. St. Joseph, Patron of departing souls, pray for me. Amen

Love and Serve the Church Like St Joseph

Pope John Paul II

"Here is the wise and faithful servant, whom the Lord has put in charge of his household" (cf. Lk 12: 42).

This is how the gospel presents St Joseph, Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Guardian of the Redeemer. He was the wise and faithful servant who, with obedient docility, accepted the will of the Lord, who entrusted him with "his" family on earth to watch over it with daily devotion.

St Joseph persevered in this mission with fidelity and love. The Church, therefore, offers him to us as an exceptional model of service to Christ and to his mysterious plan of salvation. And she calls upon him as the special patron and protector of the whole family of believers. In a special way, Joseph is presented to us on his feast day as the saint under whose powerful protection divine Providence has wished to place the persons and ministry of all who are called to be "fathers" and "guardians" among the Christian people.

"Behold, your father and I have been looking for you anxiously'.... 'How is it that you sought me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?'" (Lk 2: 48-49). In this simple, family conversation between Mother and Son, we find the characteristics of Joseph's holiness. They correspond to God's plan for him, which he, being the just man that he was, would fulfil with marvelous fidelity.

His being a husband and father is totally subordinate to that of God. This is how Joseph of Nazareth was called, in turn, to become one of Jesus' disciples: by dedicating his life to serving the only-begotten Son of the Father and of his Virgin Mother, Mary.

It is a mission that he continues to carry out for the Church, the Mystical Body of Christ, to which he never fails to give his provident care, as he did for the humble family of Nazareth.

Gaining Indulgence during Lenten Season

Some Lenten Season activities by which the Christian Faithful can obtain Plenary Indulgences:

Gaining of Plenary Indulgences. (Ref. Enchiridion of Indulgences, promulgated on June 29, 1968). It can take place in two different ways. Some of them can be gained daily, while others, attached to determined actions, are to be gained on certain days or on certain occasions only. It should be noted that through the same or different title no more than one plenary indulgence may be gained on the same day, except in articulo mortis.

a) Daily Plenary Indulgence may be gained:

1. By Worshipping the Holy Sacrament at least during half an hour
2. By praying the Holy Rosary in a church or oratory or with the family, religious community or pious association. It is enough to recite any of the three orders of the mysteries, though the five mysteries are to be prayed without interruption. The meditation on each mystery should accompany the vocal prayer. When the recitation is public, each mystery should be announced in the usual form.
3. By reading the Holy Bible, at least for half an hour, as one's spiritual reading.
4. By making the way of the cross. It should be done before the stations legitimately erected. However, person who are impeded may gain the plenary indulgence if, at least during half an hour, they read and meditate on the passion and death of our Lord.

Plenary Indulgence attached to determined actions (to be continued next issue)



Annuario Pontificio 2012



On Saturday, Benedict XVI's secretary of state, Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, presented the Holy Father with the 2012 edition of the "Annuario Pontificio" or pontifical yearbook, and the "Annuario Statisticum Ecclesiae".

A note concerning the presentation highlights some of the facts contained in the new edition. In 2011, the Pope erected eight new episcopal sees, one personal ordinariate and one military

ordinariate. One archdiocese and eight dioceses were elevated to the rank of metropolitan see; one prelate, one apostolic vicariate and one apostolic prefecture were elevated to the rank of diocese, and one "sui iuris" mission was elevated to the rank of apostolic prefecture.

The statistical information, which refers to the year 2010, reveals details about the Catholic Church in the 2,966 ecclesiastical circumscriptions on the planet. The number of Catholics in the world moved from 1,181 million in 2009 to 1,196 million in 2010, an increase of fifteen million faithful, corresponding to a growth of 1.3 percent. Over the last two years the presence of baptised Catholics in the world has remained stable at around 17.5 per cent.

Pope Benedict stresses on Silence



Silence has 'the capacity to open a space in our inner being, a space in which God can dwell, which can ensure that his word remains within us and that love for him is rooted in our minds and hearts and animates our lives.'

The constant noise that accompanies modern life is an enemy of God's word being heard in prayer, Pope Benedict XVI said. "Interior and exterior silence are necessary in order to hear that word," and, yet, "our age does not, in fact, favor reflection and contemplation," the Pope said March 7. On the contrary, "it seems that people are afraid to detach themselves, even for an instant, from the spate of words and images which mark and fill our days."

The Pope was addressing 10,000-plus pilgrims who gathered in St. Peter's Square for his Wednesday general audience.

13 Nominations for INA's Movie

The film **Ikaw Ang Pag-Ibig** written and directed by Marilou Diaz-Abaya during and for the Tercentenary Celebration of the Bicolanos' Devotion to Ina, Our Lady of Peñafrancia, received 13 nominations for the 9th Golden Screen Awards. Dubbed as a "family drama" movie, it was nominated for the following categories: Best Motion Picture- Drama, Best Performance by an Actress in a Leading Role- Ina Feleo, Best Performance by an Actor in a Supporting Role- Marvin Agustin and Nonie Buencamino, and Best

Director- Marilou Diaz-Abaya. The film, which started recording months prior to the Tercentenary celebration, captures a fitting semblance of the Bicolanos' devotion to Ina. Through the various depictions of love and the different challenges faced by the characters, one can see a deep dependence on the Blessed Mother; that through her intercession, all things will fall into place. Indeed, it is a story that does not only touch the human heart but also encapsulates the experiences of many of its viewers. (N.Quimlat)

Archdiocesan News

Major Seminary Graduation



Archbishop Leonardo Legaspi, OP delivers his homily before the graduates of the theology

Twenty Four Theologians of the Holy Rosary Major Seminary graduated last March 15. Together with them are 11 religious who finished with Diploma Course in Theology and 2 lay who finished with MA in Theology. 7 of the graduates belong to the Archdiocese of Caceres.

BASILICA NEWS

OLPA Sunshine Committee Formed

The Our lady Of Peñafrancia Association, Basilica Unit has a special group that regularly visits sick and elderly OLPA members called the Sunshine Committee.

Visitations done to fellow ailing OLPANS are highly appreciated. Committee members believe and agree that visiting them is a concrete proof of their devotion of our INA, the Blessed Virgin Mary and to God especially.

The group identifies and visits ailing sisters in the association and stays for an hour of prayer, Marian songs, stories and some OLPA updates. Also, fruits and some goodies are provided for them. OLPANS visited and their family members are deeply touched

by this gesture of love.

Zeida B. Garfin, OLPA President heads this committee with her are the following volunteer active OLPANS always ready for this project- Alice Alcarloto, Belen Niño, Eugenia Martinez, Paring Rejante, Zeny Villareal, Pat and Luz Nale, Tita Tabing, Hortence Medina, Rose Pante, Aida Alcana, Remy Bajo and Aida Boroc. Other names of volunteers will be mentioned next time.

Msgr. Rodel M. Cajot, OLPA's New Spiritual Director feels happy about this and wish that the Sunshine group members continue to spread and radiate rays of love, bring smiles to those who are in need of them. (S.Garza)

Basilica Schedule of Activities for the Holy Week 2012

21 – 30 March - Novena in Honor of Jesus Nazareno
5:15 pm – Novenary Mass
5:45 pm - Procession around the Basilica Grounds (except Sunday)
March 30 5:00pm – Mass/Procession around the Patio
Feast of Jesus Nazareno

1 April (Palm Sunday)

5:45 A.M. - BLESSING OF THE PALMS

6:30 A.M. MASS - Msgr. Rodel M. Cajot, H.P.

Note: The Blessing of the Palms will be done right after the succeeding masses.

2 April (Holy Monday)

5:45 P.M. Lenten Retreat/Confessions

Lenten Talk – Fr. Alfonso Grageda

Confession: Fr. Buena /Fr. Zaldy Zapian

3 April (Holy Tuesday)

6:00 P.M. Lenten Retreat/Confessions

Lenten Talk Fr. Danilo Imperial

Confession: Fr. Tria / Fr. Ibanita

4 April (Holy Wednesday)

6:00 P.M. Lenten Retreat/Confessions

Lenten Talk – Fr. Louie Occiano

Confession: Fr Grageda /Fr Cortes

Cont. Back



Basilica Ongoing Projects

- a. Staff Quarter (Left Picture)
- b. Bodega
- c. Basilica Office (Former Bas. Kaffee)
- d. Confessional Box

Future Projects

- a. Museum
- b. JP2 Garden

Penafraancia Basilica Minore Financial Report For the Month ended February 29, 2012

Receipts:

Mass Collection / Collection Boxes	P 402,723.50
Donations	P 35,900.00
Total Receipts	P 438,623.50

Less: Disbursement

Utilities (Electricity, Tel., Internet, Cable)

P 128,738.03

Honoraria, salaries, Wages

P 165,618.60

Altershiem/Rectory Expenses

P 37,027.50

SSS/Philhealth

P 9,436.55

Repair Maintenance

P 20,388.05

Other Expenses

P 16,658.05

Total Disbursement P377,866.89

Cash Balance 60,756.61

Less (Deficit last Month) P101,104.20

Deficit P (40,347.59)

5 April (Holy Thursday)

Mass in the morning will be celebrated only in the Cathedral for the Commemoration of Institution of the Priesthood and the Blessing of the Crism and Oil for the sick.

4:30 P.M. -Washing of the Feet/Holy Mass

Msgr. Rodel Cajot

Transfer of the Blessed Sacrament to the Eucharistic Chapel Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

Confessors: All Priests

6:30 PM - Assembly of the Pilgrims for Visita Iglesias

(c/o Peñafrancia Pilgrimage Foundation and Lectors)

7:00 PM – Start of Visita de Iglesias

Route of the Visita Iglesia

1. Basilica Minore c/o Lay Ministers
2. Penafraancia Shrine c/o Lady Lectors
3. Franciscan Chapel c/o Pilgrimage Foundation
4. Mater Salutis Parish c/o Auxiliaries
5. St Jude Parish c/o PYP
6. Carmelite Monastery c/o Voyadores
7. Immaculate Concepcion Parish c/o Lady Lectors

6 April (Good Friday)

6:30 A.M.-VIA CRUCIS / CONFESSIONS

4:30 P.M.-VENERATION OF THE CROSS (Lord's Passion)

Communion- Msgr. Rodel Cajot

7 April (Black Saturday)

6:30 A.M.-VIA CRUCIS / CONFESSIONS

9:00 P.M.-EASTER VIGIL – Msgr Rodel Cajot

8 April (Sunday)

EASTER SUNDAY(same Sunday schedule)

Announcements:

1. For those children who want to join the Hosanna, please call 4733644 for more details.

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