

# BASILICA BULLETIN

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

April 22, 2012

www.penafrancia.net

3rd Sunday of Easter



One of the least printed photos is a picture of a tomb, except when it belongs to the very famous personality. We just do not want to think of death and when it happens, we want to think that it happens to someone else, not to us.

One picture of a tomb I saw in a magazine had a set of statues. One was that of a Father lying in a coffin. Beside him kneels his daughter, with her hand clasped in prayer, her face a picture of grief. Between the dead father and the weeping daughter, the sculptor place a commanding figure of Christ, extending his hands over both. In the background, like a ray of sunshine breaking through a cloud, are the words. "I am the resurrection and the life."

Although it is two weeks after Easter, we should still be thinking about the Resurrection of our Lord.

In the gospel Jesus appears again to his disciples. He tells them, "It is written that the Christ, should suffer and on the third day rise from

## Remembering the Resurrection

Fr. Alfonso Grageda



the dead." Jesus wanted His disciples to be absolutely sure that He has risen.

Death is around us every day. The only certain thing about life is that it will end, at the same time the outstanding fact of all history is that Jesus rose from the dead and promised that we will rise from the dead.

The marble figure of Christ holding His arm over the dead father and the weeping daughter in the pic-

ture I saw, is a picture of something real. Christ is holding His hand over everyone of us and declaring: "I am the resurrection." Easter is not a day to be celebrated and then forgotten. Easter goes on everyday because death goes on every day. When newspapers and TV report death, when we drive by a cemetery or funeral parlor, when death is announced in our neighborhood and especially, when a dear friend or a

loved one is taken from us, "through our grief and tears we must think of the final fact: there will be a resurrection. As followers of Christ, we should think of His words: "I am the resurrection" and His promise that we too will rise someday.

As we think of our own death, whether it seems near or far, we will find our only strength and hope in the words of Jesus: "I am the resurrection".

Mass relieves and reminds us of the resurrection in the preface: "For our sake He revealed the resurrection." "In memory of His death and resurrection. . . we offer you Father, this life giving bread, this saving cup" "Remember our brothers and sisters who have gone to their rest in the hope of rising again" "Make us worthy to share eternal life . . . as we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Savior . . . May the mingling of the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ bring eternal life to us who receive it"

Remember the resurrection everyday, especially when you assist at Holy Mass, and everyday will be Easter for you.

### Daily Readings of the Week

April 22 Sun:	Acts 3:13-15, 1Jn 2:1-5a/ Lk 24:35-48
April 23 Mon:	Acts 6:8-15/ Jn 6:22-29
April 24 Tues:	Acts 7:51--8:1a Jn 6:30-35
April 25 Wed:	1Pt 5:5b-14/ Mk 16:15-20
April 26 Thurs:	Acts 8:26-40/ Jn 6:44-51
April 27 Fri:	Acts 9:1-20/ Jn 6:52-59
April 28 Sat:	Acts 9:31-42/ Jn 6:60-69



### Sunday Gospel

Luke 24:35-48

Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread. As they were saying this, Jesus himself stood among them. But they were startled and frightened, and supposed that they saw a spirit. And he said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do questionings rise in your hearts? See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself; handle me, and see; for a spirit has not flesh and bones as you see that I have." And while they still disbelieved for joy, and wondered, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate before them. Then he said to them, "These are my words which I spoke to you, while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the law of Moses and the prophets and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be preached in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

"He was known to them in the breaking of the bread"

**J**ohn Mark, later known simply as Mark, was a Jew by birth. He was the son of that Mary who was proprietress of the Cenacle or “upper room” which served as the meeting place for the first Christians in Jerusalem (Acts 12:12). He was still a youth at the time of the Savior’s death. In his description of the young man who was present when Jesus was seized and who fled from the rabble leaving behind his “linen cloth,” the second Evangelist might possibly have stamped the mark of his own identity.

During the years that followed, the rapidly maturing youth witnessed the growth of the infant Church in his mother’s Upper Room and became acquainted with its traditions. This knowledge he put to excellent use when compiling his

Gospel.

Later, we find Mark acting as a companion to his cousin Barnabas and Saul on their return journey to Antioch and on their first missionary journey. But Mark was too immature for the hardships of this type of work and therefore left them at Perge in Pamphylia to return home.

As the two apostles were preparing for their second missionary journey, Barnabas wanted



to take his cousin with him. Paul, however, objected. Thereupon the two cousins undertook a missionary journey to Cyprus. Time healed the strained relations

between Paul and Mark, and during the former’s first Roman captivity (61-63), Mark rendered Paul valuable service (Col. 4:10; Philem. 24), and the Apostle learned to appreciate him. When in chains the sec-

ond time Paul requested Mark’s presence (2 Tim. 4:11).

An intimate friendship existed between Mark and Peter; he played the role of Peter’s companion, disciple, and interpreter. According to the common patristic opinion, Mark was present at Peter’s preaching in Rome and wrote his Gospel under the influence of the prince of the apostles. This explains why incidents which involve Peter are described with telling detail (e.g., the great day at Capernaum, 1:14f). Little is known of Mark’s later life. It is certain that he died a martyr’s death as bishop of Alexandria in Egypt. His relics were transferred from Alexandria to Venice, where a worthy tomb was erected in St. Mark’s Cathedral.

His feast is celebrated on April 25.

## MARIAN CATECHESIS

### Who is the Virgin Mary?

**T**he New Testament begins its account of Mary’s life with the Annunciation, the appearance to her of the angel Gabriel heralding her divine selection to be mother of Jesus. However early non-biblical writings state that she was the daughter of Joachim and Saint Anne. The

Bible records Mary’s role in key events of the life of Jesus from his virgin birth to his crucifixion. Other apocryphal writings tell of her subsequent death and bodily assumption into heaven.



Some parts of Christianity hold a number of important doctrines concerning Mary. Primary among these are that Mary lived a sinless life, and that as mother of Jesus, she became Theotokos, literally the “God-bearer”, or “Mother of God”. This doctrine was confirmed by the Ecumenical Council of Ephesus in the year 431. Christians of the major ancient traditions

including the Catholic and the Orthodox offer prayers to God through Mary and venerate her as intercessor and mother of the church. Many Protestants, however, dislike these devotions. Mary is also honoured in Islam as the virgin mother of Jesus.

## On Married Life

**A**lmost every marriage starts out as a huge celebration. Together with their family and friends, each couple is full of hopes and dreams for their future life together. But the road to a happy marriage is far from easy. And as today’s divorce statistics demonstrate all too well, many couples opt not to complete the journey.

It would be easy to blame our high rate of marital failure on things like not spending enough quality time together, allowing bitterness and resentment to build in our hearts and failing to keep communication lines open. There’s no end to books, articles and seminars that tell you how to improve these and many other aspects of your relationship. But while quality time, forgiveness and communication are vitally important to creating a happy marriage, if such things aren’t happening, it’s usually a sign of a much deeper problem. And until this problem is addressed, no amount of external behavior modification will work.

To get a hint of what this deeper issue might be, let’s take a look at the following Scripture passage:

*One of them, an expert in the law, tested him [Jesus] with this question: “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”*

*Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.” (Matthew 22:35-40)*

I believe that virtually every marital problem can be traced back to one or both partners failing to abide by these two laws. The same is true of any relationship. The minute we begin to focus on our own wants and needs over those of God or our partner, we’re destined for trouble.

Experiencing communication problems in your marriage? How often do you really focus on listening to what your partner (or God) has to say instead of insisting on more airtime? Feeling bitterness and resentment growing toward your partner? When was the last time you brought him or her before the Lord in prayer and truly thanked God for your relationship? Struggling to find quality time together? How about praying with your partner and asking God how he would like you to use your time?

by Kevin Miller  
www.thoughts-about-god.com



### Pope Benedict Celebrates Birthday

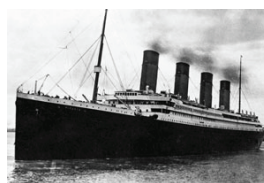


Benedict XVI celebrated his eighty-fifth birthday last April 16. He was born in the German village of Marktl am Inn in 1927.

On Thursday 19 April, he also celebrated the seventh anniversary of his election to the Papacy. For these two occasions, a Mass of thanksgiving was celebrated this morning in the Pauline Chapel of the Vatican Apostolic Palace, in the presence

of members of the College of Cardinals and a group of bishops from the Pope's native region of Bavaria. Inevitably, however, these milestones also prompt speculation about what Vatican officials and observers refer to diplomatically as "papal transition."

Pope Benedict, after all, is already the sixth-oldest pope since the 1400s, when records became available. It has been almost two years since he told a German interviewer, "My forces are diminishing" and that, when it comes to public appearances, "I wonder whether I can make it even from a purely physical point of view."



### 3 Priests in Titanic Remembered

An eyewitness account of the 1912 sinking, published in the Jesuit journal "America," described how "all the Catholics on board desired the assistance of priests with the greatest fervor."

The priests led passengers in recitation of the Rosary, and "aroused those condemned to die to say acts of contrition and prepare themselves to meet the face of God. According to the eyewitness, they were "engaged continuously giving general absolution to those who were about to die."

Fr. Byles and Fr. Peruschitz had offered Mass on the morning of Sunday, April 14, only hours before the supposedly "unsinkable" ship struck an iceberg in the North Atlantic.

Three Catholic priests, including one hailed by Pope Saint Pius X as a martyr for the faith, were among the victims of the Titanic disaster remembered during its 100th anniversary on April 14-15.

All three of the European-born priests – Father Juozas Montvila of Lithuania, Father Josef Peruschitz, O.S.B. of Bavaria, and English rector Father Thomas Byles – are said to have declined lifeboats in order to offer spiritual aid to travelers who perished in the shipwreck, which claimed 1503 lives.

### Sacristans hold Summer Camp

The Sacristans of the archdiocese will have a summer camp on April 23-25 at CB-SUA Calabanga CS. The gathering is sponsored by the Commission on Liturgy. According to Fr. Glen Ruiz, there is a need for an ongoing formation of all the ministers of the altar, including the sacristans, so that they will appreciate more the Holy Eucharist.

Moreover, the basilica altar boys will participate in the said gathering. There are 25 sacristans who at their early age are willing to serve the church and the home of INA.

They will have an examination on the basic catechesis to qualify for the summer camp.

### Seminar for Wedding Photographers

The Caceres Commission on Liturgy and Commission on Communications will conduct an affiliation seminar for wedding photographers and videographers on April 23, 2012, 8:00-11:30 am at the Basilica Minore Hall.

The said seminar will give proper orientation and necessary formation to all those who cover weddings. Pictures and videos are important elements of every wedding ceremony, so the people behind the cameras must know the importance of the Liturgy as well as the value of their responsibility.

Fr. Glenn Ruiz and Mr. Ric Perez, of the Multimedia Department of UNC, will be the speakers. Registration fee of P200 will cover the ID, Snacks and Kit.



## Archdiocesan News

### Lay Ministers and Lector undergo Renewal Course

The Lectors and Lay Ministers of the archdiocese are undergoing a renewal course under the Commission on Liturgy headed by Fr. Glen Ruiz. Every Saturday from April 14, 21 and 28, they will gather at the USI Auditorium. The main topic is about the catechesis on the New Translation of the Roman Missal which is now implemented around the United States and most of the English-speaking Catholic world

since Advent, 2011.

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines voted for the adoption of the new English translation of the Roman Missal for the Philippines during its plenary assembly in January 2010. It was agreed to be implemented in Advent 2012.

The Archdiocese of Caceres will soon use the New English Translation though it has already been implementing the New Bicol Translation of the Mass since 2009.



## BASILICA NEWS

### Basilica Has 13 Candidates for Reyna Elena



The Reyna Elena Candidates with Msgr Rodel Cajot and their Parents

Our Lady of Peñafrancia Association, Basilica Unit is inviting everyone particularly devotees of INA to be part of a noble project, the Construction of a new Museo de Peñafrancia and Center for Marian Studies at the Basilica grounds by supporting our 13 pretty candidates who will vie for the title Reyna Elena 2012.

Last April 14, these candidates together with their parents were formally presented to Msgr. Rodel M. Cajot, Rector of the Basilica during OLPA's Corporate mass.

Likewise, the first canvassing was a success with the help of the able members of the board of can-

vassers. But the big day to watch is on May 12, 2012 at 2:00 pm. at the Basilica Hall for the 2nd and last canvassing and eventually declare our Reyna Elena 2012. Let's support this project and be one with us for our INA, Our Hope, and Our Mother.

The candidates are: Danielle Marie C. **Boncodin**; Jozavielle Riza A. **Cedo**; Michelle **Cetra**; Czarmaine Pia A. **Chavez**; Anna Dominique P. **Delloro**; Daryl Dawn B. **Garfin**; Charlotte Camille A. **Hugo**; Lily Alyanna N. **Marasigan**; Rosemarie A. **Paraiso**; Rachel Y. **Preconcillo**; Razel Rose C. **Romero**; April P. **Roxas**; Florianne Mikee G. **Vibares**.

**PENAFRANCIA BASILICA MINORE**  
**Statement of Receipts and Disbursement**  
**for the Month Ended March 31, 2012**

**Receipts:**

Mass Collections/Collections Boxes	460,740.00
Donations	45,580.00
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>506,320.00</b>

**Less: Disbursements:**

Utilities (Light, Water)	109,932.54
Honoraria, Salaries & Wages	203,379.75
Altarshiem/Rectory Expenses	50,114.50
SSS/Philhealth	10,036.51
Church Expenses(LCD, Microphone)	89,412.50
Repair & Maintenance	61,153.00
Other Expenses	21,595.00

Total Disbursements	545,623.80
Cash Balance	(39,303.80)
Less: Deficit for the Month of february	(40,347.59)

DEFICIT as of March 31, 2012                      php (79,651.39)



**Penafrancia Basilica Minore and National Shrine**  
**Naga City, Philippines**

# *Penafrancia de Mayo*

**May 5-26 2012**

**All Saturdays starting May 5**  
**Marian Pilgrimage to the Basilica**

**May 22 (Tue)**  
**INA's Visit to the Naga City People's Mall**  
**•6:00pm – Candlelight Procession**  
**(from Basilica to People's Mall)**

**May 23 (Wed)**  
**Mass (2nd day of Triduum)**

**May 24 (Thurs)**  
**Confirmation**

**May 25 (Fri.)**  
**Mass for the Fiesta sa People's Mall**  
**(with Marriage Validation)**  
**Baptism**  
**Fluvial Procession**  
**(From People's Mall to Basilica via Naga River)**  
**Mass after the Fluvial Procession**

**May 26 (Saturday)**  
**30th Dedication Anniversary of the Basilica**  
**and Santacruzán Procession**  
**Ground Breaking: Museo de Peñafrancia**  
**Reyna Elena/Santacruzán Procession**

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