

BASILICA BULLETIN

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

May 13, 2012

Mother's Day

6th Sunday of Easter



A Friendship Sunday

Fr. Wilmer Tria

We often talk about love, but not about friendship. We often fall in love, but not fall in friendship. In our language, we often hear the word pagkamoot, but not pakip-agkatood. To refer to a friend, we use the Spanish word amigo. We only hear the word katood in the scriptures, as if friendship only exists in the scriptures, but not in our homes, at our work place, or in the streets.

The gospel this Sunday teaches us about friendship. Right after the last supper, when Jesus knew that his time was running out, he gave these last minute instructions. "Love one another as I have loved you." "Remain in my love."

The apostles would soon be engaged in a spiritual warfare. They were to conquer hostile territories in order to convert peoples to Christianity. The only guarantee for the success of such a daunting mission is to abide in the love and

friendship of Jesus. To abide or to remain, in its original Greek word meno, means to persevere in doing something with a great level of intensity. It is so intense that a friend could even offer his life for his friend. And Jesus showed that to his friends.

Then, Jesus says: "I shall no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know what his master is doing." Jesus is an open book. He tells us about his Father, about his mansions, about his Kingdom. He is generous in

teaching us everything he learnt from his Father. Can we find a friend who is an open book to us? Are our political and spiritual leaders true friends?

Further, Jesus says: "You did not choose me. I chose you." Like the apostles, we must be lucky to have been born in a family with a religion and culture that knows about Jesus. We need no effort to learn about him. We heard about him since childhood - in our bed time stories. This alone is already a gift. Jesus is offering his hand in the name of true friendship.

Lastly, Jesus assured them: "I commissioned you to go out and to bear fruit, fruit that will last." A true friend of Jesus works ardently for the building of God's Kingdom, never for the building of one's ego. Humans love to make their own monuments - to ensure that they will not be forgotten. Unfortunately, many of these monuments do not last. Some are even destroyed right before the ego-builder's very eyes.

The building of God's Kingdom on earth is the business of every faithful Christian. It is a spiritual edifice that can only successfully be constructed in the name of love and friendship of Jesus.

Today, we also remember the mothers in our parish community. May every mother be an instrument of God's love so that every human family will both have a mother and the friendship of Our Lord. Happy Mother's Day.

Daily Readings of the Week

May 13 Sun:	Acts 10:25-26, 1 Jn 4:7-10/ Jn 15:9-17
May 14 Mon:	Acts 1:15-17, 20-26/Jn 15:9-17
May 15 Tues:	Acts 16:22-34/ Jn 16:5-11
May 16 Wed:	Acts 17:15, 22 Jn 16:12-15
May 17 Thurs:	Acts 18:1-8/ Jn 16:16-20
May 18 Fri:	Acts 18:9-18/ Jn 16:20-23
May 19 Sat:	Acts 18:23-28/ Jn 16:23b-28



Sunday Gospel

John 15:9-17

Jesus said to his disciples: "As the Father loves me, so I also love you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love."

"I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and your joy might be complete."

This is my commandment: love one another as I love you.

No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.

You are my friends if you do what I command you. I no longer call you slaves, because a slave does not know what his master is doing. I have called you friends, because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father. It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you. This I command you: love one another." No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord.

I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again.

I have received this command from my Father."

"This I command you: love one another."

Born to a peasant family at Torre Hermosa, in Aragon, on Whitsunday, he was christened Pascua in honor of the feast. According to accounts of his early life, Paschal labored as a shepherd for his father, performed miracles, and was distinguished for his austerity. He also taught himself to read. Receiving a vision which told him to enter a nearby Franciscan community, he became a Franciscan lay brother of the Alcantarine reform in 1564, and spent most of his life as a humble doorkeeper. He practiced rigorous asceticism and displayed a deep love for the Blessed Sacrament, so much so that while on a mission to France, he defended the doctrine of the

Real Presence against a Calvinist preacher and in the face of threats from other irate Calvinists. Paschal died at a friary in Villareal, and was canonized in 1690. In 1897 Pope Leo XIII declared him patron of all eucharistic confraternities and congresses. Since 1969, his veneration has been limited to local calendars.

He was born at Torrehermosa, in the Kingdom of Aragon, on



24 May 1540, on the Feast of Pentecost, called in Spain "the Pasch (or "Passover") of the Holy Ghost", hence the name Paschal. His parents, Martin Baylon and Elizabeth Juibera, were poor peasants. He spent his youth as a shepherd. He would carry a book with him and beg passersby to teach him the alphabet and to read, and as he toiled in the fields he would read reli-

gious books.

In around 1564, he joined the Reformed Franciscan Order (Alcantarine Reform) as a lay brother. He chose to live in poor monasteries because, he said, "I was born poor and am resolved to die in poverty and penance." He lived a life of poverty and prayer, even praying while working, for the rest of his life.

He was a mystic and contemplative, and he had frequent ecstatic visions. He would spend the night before the altar in prayer many nights. At the same time, he sought to downplay any glory that might come from this piety. He died on May 17, which is his current feast day, in 1592.

ORIGIN OF MOTHERS' DAY

The earliest history of Mothers Day dates back to the ancient annual spring festival the Greeks dedicated to maternal goddesses. The Greeks used the occasion to honor Rhea, wife of Cronus and the mother of many deities of Greek mythology.

Ancient Romans, too, celebrated a spring festival, called Hilaria dedicated to Cybele, a mother goddess. It may be noted that ceremonies in honour of Cybele began some 250 years before Christ was born. The celebration made on the Ides of March by making offerings in the temple of Cybele lasted for three days and included parades, games and masquerades. The celebrations were notorious enough that followers of Cybele were banished from Rome.

Early Christians celebrated a Mother's Day of sorts during the festival on the fourth Sunday of Lent in honor of the Virgin Mary, the Mother of Christ. In England the holiday was expanded to include all mothers. It was then called Mothering Sunday.

The Mothering Sunday

The more recent history of Mothers Day dates back to 1600s in England. Here a Mothering Sunday was celebrated annually on the fourth Sunday of Lent (the 40 day period leading up to Easter) to honor mothers. After a prayer service in church to honor Virgin Mary, children brought gifts and flowers to pay tribute to their own mothers.

Custom of celebrating Mothering Sunday died out almost completely by the 19th century. However, the day came to be celebrated again after World War II, when American servicemen brought the custom and commercial enterprises used it as an occasion for sales.

Mother's Day: Julia Ward Howe

The idea of official celebration of Mothers day in US was first suggested by Julia Ward Howe in 1872. An activist, writer and poet Julia shot to fame with her famous Civil War song, "Battle Hymn of the Republic". Julia suggested that June 2 be annually celebrated as Mothers Day and should be dedicated to peace. She wrote a passionate appeal to women and urged them to rise against war in her famous Mothers Day Proclamation, written in Boston in 1870. Julia tirelessly championed the cause of official celebration of Mothers Day and declaration of official holiday on the day. Her idea spread but was later replaced by the Mothers' Day holiday now celebrated in May.

Source: <http://www.mothersdaycelebration.com>

Catechesis on the 4 Dogmas of Mary



The expression perpetual virginity, ever-virgin, or simply "Mary the Virgin" refers primarily to the conception and birth of Jesus. From the first formulations of faith, especially in baptismal formulas or professions of faith, the Church professed that Jesus Christ was conceived without human seed by the power of the Holy Spirit only. Here lies the decisive meaning of expressions such as "conceived in the womb of the Virgin Mary," "Mary's virginal conception," or "virgin birth." The early baptismal formula (since the 3rd century) state Mary's virginity without further explaining it, but there is no doubt about its physical meaning. Later statements are more explicit. Mary conceived "without any detriment to her virginity, which remained inviolate even after his birth" (Council of the Lateran, 649).

Although never explicated in detail, the Catholic Church holds as dogma that Mary was and is Virgin before, in and after Christ's birth. It stresses thus the radical novelty of the Incarnation and Mary's no less radical and exclusive dedication to her mission as mother of her Son, Jesus Christ. Vatican II reiterated the teaching about Mary, the Ever-Virgin, by stating that Christ's birth did not diminish Mary's virginal integrity but sanctified it. The Catechism of the Catholic Church ponders the deeper meaning of the virgin bride and perpetual virginity (499-507). It also maintains that Jesus Christ was Mary's only child. The so-called "brothers and sisters" are close relations.

to be continued....

source: <http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/resource.php?n=424>

New Swiss Guards

Pope Benedict XVI encouraged the new class of recruits for the Swiss Guard to draw close to Christ as they embark on their roles as the pontiff's guardians.

'To give love to others it is necessary to draw upon the furnace of divine charity, thanks to prolonged periods of prayer, constant listening to the Word of God, and a whole life centered on the mystery of the Eucharist,' he said May 7.

'The secret of the effectiveness of your work here in the Vatican, as well as in all your projects is, therefore, the constant reference to Christ.'

Pope Benedict addressed the Corp of the Swiss Guard a day after they welcomed 26 new recruits. The newcomers' family and friends were also present for Monday's papal audience in the Vatican's Apostolic Palace as well as representatives of the Swiss civil authorities. In his remarks, the Pope told them to take advantage of their time spent in Rome in order 'to develop your friendship with Christ, to increase your love for his Church and to advance towards the goal of each true Christian life: sanctity.



Pope thanks the Faithful

From the first moment of my election as Successor of St. Peter I have always felt supported by the prayers of the Church, by your prayers, especially at moments of greatest difficulty, and I thank you from the bottom of my heart", said Benedict XVI today during his general audience. "Constant choral prayer is also an important way to overcome any trials that may arise on life's journey, because it is by being profoundly united to God that we can also be profoundly united to others".

As part of a series of catecheses dedicated to the early Church, this morning the Holy Father focused his remarks on the last episode of St. Peter's life recounted in the Acts of the Apostles, when he was imprisoned by Herod Agrippa then freed by an angel of the Lord. The Pope reminded the 10,000 faithful gathered in St. Peter's Square that, while the Apostle was in prison, the Church prayed for him constantly. Thus, the Holy Father explained, "the power of the Church's incessant prayer rose up to God; the Lord listened and sent His angel to ensure the Apostle was freed by an inconceivable and unexpected act of liberation".

SIMBANWAAN IS BACK!



On the Feast of the Ascension, May 20, 2012, the Caceres Commission on Communications will celebrate the 46th World Communications Day with the theme, Silence and Word: Path of Evangelization.

On this special occasion, the 4th Season of the TV Evangelical Program, **Simbanwaan**, will be launched as well. It will be shown every Sunday at 8:30-9:30 AM (PBN TV5) and at 3:00-4:00 PM (GNN Naga Channel 48). The said program had its first airing in 2007.

Archdiocesan News

Baao Children's Choir Champion



The winning Children's Choir of St. Barthomew Parish, Baao, Camarines Sur

With much pride and joy, the Archdiocese of Caceres congratulates the Baao Children's Choir for taking the first place in the 18th Youth Torrevieja Habaneras Contest in Spain last April 27-29, 2012. Held at the Teatro Municipal de Torrevieja, eight chorale groups from all over the world sang their way to Spain as finalists. The Baao Children's Choir received three thousand euros along with a glass trophy as their prize.

BASILICA NEWS

PENAFRANCIA DE MAYO STARTS



The Rinconada priests who celebrated the pilgrimage mass last May 5 at the Basilica

The Penafancia de Mayo commenced with the pilgrimage of the Rinconada Parishes headed by their priests. Around 400 pilgrims attended the mass presided over by Fr. Rogelio Largoza, vicar forane of St Bartholomew Vicariate and Fr. Jomar De Hitta, vicar forane of OL Perpetual Help Vicariate. Fr. Cesar Bongon RPA President was also around. After the mass, children offered flowers to INA for the Flores de Mayo. The next Saturdays will also welcome the pilgrims of Partido, Bay and Central Vicariates.

The highlights of the Penafancia De Mayo will be the candlelight Procession on May 22 to People's Mall, Mass Baptism, confirmation and wedding at the peoples mall; the Fluvial Procession on May 25 and Santacruzán on May 26.



Fr. Ongen sprinkles the Holy Water to the pilgrims within the mass

MEET OUR REYNA ELENA CANDIDATES



Danielle Marie C. Boncodin



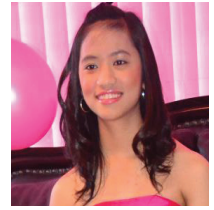
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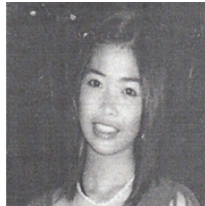
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Penafrancia Basilica Minore and National Shrine
 Balatas Rd, Naga City 4400
 Tel No. 473-3644
www.penafrancia.net