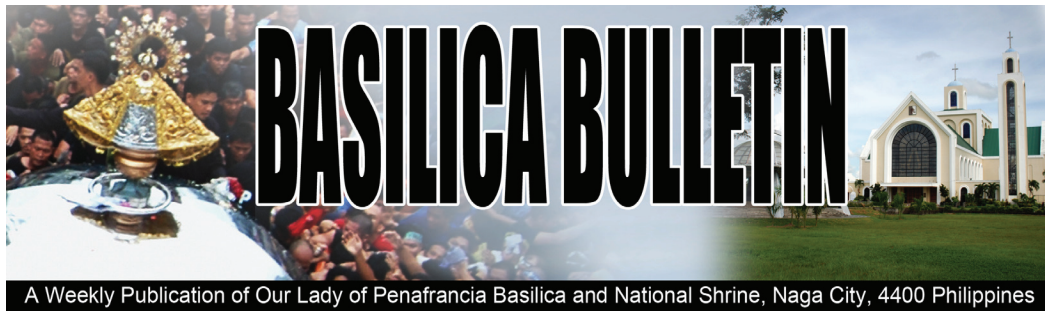


The only true wisdom is in knowing you know nothing.



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



September 23, 2012

www.penafrancia.org.ph

25th Sunday Ordinary Time

Greatness Means Humble Service

Msgr. Rodel M. Cajot

The first part of our Gospel reading this 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Mk 9:30-32) narrates the second time that Jesus announces to his disciples his passion, death and resurrection. This takes place while Jesus and his disciples were journeying from Galilee to Jerusalem. Jesus tells his disciples what awaits him in the holy city of Jerusalem. However, the disciples cannot understand why Jesus has to suffer and die. They fail to realize that suffering is part of the Lord's mission as Messiah. Their thoughts are not God's, but man's (cf. Mk 8:33). They do not know that this idea comes from God himself. And because they do not understand, they begin to be afraid.

In the second part (vv. 33-37), we find an important message of Jesus to his disciples after the announcement of



his impending suffering and death. It is a response to an incident where the disciples argue as to who is the greatest among them. To his question, Jesus proclaimed his teaching: He who desires to be first must

be last and be a servant to all (v. 35). In these words, Jesus teaches the true meaning of greatness within his new community. Greatness is measured by service.

Then Jesus takes a small child to emphasize his teaching about true greatness that can be seen in accepting a small child. A true disciple of Jesus is great before God's eyes and in the presence of the community, not because of his rank or position, but according to his service of the least, the outcasts of society, the weak and feeble, like a small child. This is the mark of a true disciple of Jesus.

Therefore, Jesus' pronouncement about his impending suffering and death cannot be understood by anyone who is not ready and willing to be the servant of all. For a Christian, true greatness means consistent service, being last and being a servant of all. And Jesus himself shows this by submitting himself to the humiliation of the cross for the sake of us all.

DAILY READINGS

Sept 23 Sun: Wis 2:12,17-20/
Jas 3:16-4:3/
Mk 9:30-37
Sept 24 Mon: Prv 3:27-34/
Lk 8:16-18
Sept 25 Tues: Prv 21:1-10/
Lk 8:19-21
Sept 26 Wed: Prv 30:5-9/
Lk 9:1-6
Sept 27 Thurs: Eccl 1:2-11/
Lk 9:7-9
Sept 28 Fri: Eccl 3:1-11/
Lk 9:18-22
Sept 29 Sat: Dn 7:9-14/
Jn 1:47-51

Sunday Gospel

Mk 9:30-37

Jesus and his disciples left from there and began a journey through Galilee, but he did not wish anyone to know about it. He was teaching his disciples and telling them, "The Son of Man is to be handed over to men and they will kill him, and three days after his death the Son of Man will rise." But they did not understand the saying, and they were afraid to question him.

They came to Capernaum and, once inside the house, he began to ask them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" But they remained silent. They had been discussing among themselves on the way who was the greatest. Then he sat down, called the Twelve, and said to them, "If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all." Taking a child, he placed it in the their midst, and putting his arms around it, he said to them, "Whoever receives one child such as this in my name, receives me; and whoever receives me, receives not me but the One who sent me

"If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all"

Lorenzo Ruiz is the first Filipino saint. He is also the first Filipino martyred for the Christian Faith. Lorenzo Ruiz was a layman, married, and had two sons and a daughter. Born in Binondo, Manila, about 1600's, he was educated in the school of the Dominicans there. He served as an altar boy and later was a helper and clerk-sacristan in the church of Binondo.

He was a member of the Confraternity of the Rosary. He made his living probably as a calligrapher, one who renders documents in beautiful penmanship for private or official use. To be sure, that work denoted an accomplished and educated person, especially at a time when many an illustrious personage were far from excelling in this art. An adverse event made him leave the Philippines in 1636.

When he was in his late twenties or early thirties, he became involved or was accused of being involved in a criminal case, the circumstances of which are far from clear. Whether he was involved or not, one thing was clear, he was afraid that, as a consequence



of a trial or mistrial, he might be given a death sentence. Upon landing in Japan where Christians were being persecuted, he was arrested and imprisoned together with his companions. He underwent inhuman tortures and valiantly confessed his Christian Faith. Refusing to renounce his Faith, he told his executioner that he was ready to die for God and give himself for many thousands of lives if he had them. On September 27, 1637, he was hung from a gallows by his feet, his body falling into a pit. After two days of agony, he died of bleeding and suffocation. His body was cremated and the ashes thrown into the sea.

He and fifteen companions, martyred in the same persecution, were beatified by Pope John Paul II in Manila on February 18, 1981 and elevated to full honors of the altar by canonization on October 18, 1987 in Rome. Their feast day is on September 28th.

MEET OUR NEW ARCHBISHOP OF CACERES



The more than a million Catholics in Camarines Sur have a new archbishop. Archbishop Rolando Octavus Joven Tirona, OCD, DD, was appointed by the Holy See as the 34th bishop and/or 4th Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Caceres last Sept. 8, 2012.

Tirona, 66, who headed the Prelature of Infanta in Quezon province prior to his assignment

here, will take over the archdiocese from Archbishop Leonardo Z. Legaspi, OP, 76, who led the Catholics in Camarines Sur for 28 years.

The designation of Tirona was announced by Legaspi himself during the Holy Mass he officiated at the cathedral here Sunday.

Tirona, whose family hails from Kawit Cavite, was born in Sampaloc, Manila, on July 22, 1946, and finished his elementary and secondary education at Centro Escolar University in 1952 and 1958, respectively. He completed a degree in political science at San Beda College before he entered San Carlos Seminary in Makati to finish philosophy in 1968.

He was ordained priest on April 21, 1974, in Rome. He was named auxiliary bishop on Dec. 29, 1994, in Manila Cathedral.

He was installed Bishop of Malolos on January 28, 1997. In June 2003, the late Pope John Paul II appointed him as Bishop-Prelate of Infanta where he has been serving for nine years now.

At present, the archdiocese has 230 priests, 175 of whom ordained by Legaspi. Aside from the parishes, 34 religious congregations for women and eight religious congregations for men are located within the area of jurisdiction of the Archdiocese of Caceres.

ARCHBISHOP: SHEPHERD OF THE LOCAL CHURCH



The Catholic Church is made up of dioceses, or geographical areas, each of which is headed by a bishop, who is the leader of that local Church. The bishop of the more important cities, or of historically important places, is given the title of Archbishop, to show a level of seniority or honour.

An archbishop or metropolitan, in the present sense of the term, is a bishop who governs a diocese strictly his own, while he presides at the same time over the bishops of a well-defined district composed

of simple dioceses but not of provinces. Hence none of these subordinate bishops rule over others. These bishops are called the suffragans or comprovincials. The archbishop's own diocese is the archdiocese. The several dioceses of the district form the archiepiscopal, or metropolitan, province.

In the case of the Archbishop of Caceres, he heads the Metropolitan See of Caceres, under which are the other dioceses of Bicol region - namely, the Dioceses of Legaspi, Sorsogon, Virac, Masbate, Daet and Libmanan.

Jesus Christ himself appointed twelve apostles who were given the task of continuing his mission on earth; to tell everyone what he told them. He commissioned them to teach, to help others come to know God, and to receive his grace, (which is a special type of inner strength from God) through being baptised. He instructed them to lead the people, telling them that he would be with them by his Spirit at all times (Mt 28.16-20)

Anglicans and Orthodox to attend the 50th Year of Vat. II

The Orthodox Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople and the Anglican Archbishop of Canterbury will join Pope Benedict XVI's celebration of the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council.

Representatives from the Orthodox Church and Anglican Communion were observers at the 1962-65 council, which officially embraced and promoted Catholic involvement in the ecumenical movement. During the January celebration of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Pope Benedict said the Second Vatican Council placed the search for Christian unity "at the center of the life and work of the church," because it was Christ's desire that his followers be united.



Pope names Synod Fathers

Upcoming General Assembly To Focus on The New Evangelization
Pope Benedict XVI has named the Synod Fathers for the upcoming XIII Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops.

The Synod Fathers are those who are chosen to participate in the synod. They include Patriarchs, Archbishops, Metropolitans and Bishops of the Eastern Catholic Churches, Bishops elected by the Episcopal Conferences, ten representatives of clerical religious institutions, heads of the various departments of the Roman Curia.

The prelates named are those who have received a personal invitation from the Holy Father. The various cardinals, archbishops, and priests represent the major countries, episcopal conferences, and charisms that exist within the church.

Archdiocesan News

Team Caceres: UBC Champions

Caceres won the Championship for the second time in Basketball but also for the third consecutive year in Volleyball, in the recent annual Union of Bicol Clergy (UBC) held last September



11-13, 2012 at the Minor Seminary. Slated at the Holy Rosary Minor Seminary, the three-day gathering did not only foster unity and camaraderie among the Bicol Clergy but also provided them respite from their day-to-day activities. Composed of eight teams of Bicol Dioceses and guest team of the Military Ordinariate, a concelebrated Pontifical Mass at the Naga Metropolitan Cathedral presided by Most Rev. Jose Bantolo, D.D., Bishop of Masbate, capped the said event.

Caceres to Welcome New Archbishop

The Archbishop-Elect Rolando Tirona, OCD, DD is scheduled to arrive at the Archdiocese of Caceres on November 13, 2012. This was known after their meeting in Manila with Msgr. Rodel Cajot, Vicar General, Fr. Roy Remo, Chancellor and Fr. Aba Florida, Oeconomus. The date of the formal turn-over and installation will be on November 14 at 10:00am at the Metropolitan Cathedral. The CBCP together with the Apostolic Nuncio to the Philippines, Most. Rev. Guiseppe Pinto, DD are expected to grace the occasion. It will be another historic celebration of the local church as we welcome the 34th bishop and the 4th Archbishop of Caceres.



BASILICA NEWS

Archbishop Tagle: "I learned a lot about faith in the Fluvial Procession"



cession that caps the nine-day spiritual journey with the beloved Ina, Our Lady of Peñafrancia, Patroness of Bicolandia, was held at past five in the afternoon. This returns the Lady to her dwelling place, the Basilica Minore de Peñafrancia, from the Naga Metropolitan Cathedral, seat of the Archdiocese of Caceres. Upon her arrival, the Pontifical Mass was celebrated at six-thirty in the evening. Many devotees and pilgrims from all over the country came to witness the said occasion.

I missed two feasts for this one," said Most Rev. Luis Antonio Tagle, Archbishop of Manila, on the solemn concelebrated Pontifical Mass he presided at the grounds of the Basilica Minore de Peñafrancia last September 15, 2012 (Saturday). The Fluvial Pro-

Evaluation Time



After the Penafrancia Fiesta, the Liturgy Committee conducted an evaluation meeting with Msgr. Rodel Cajot. On Sept 22, the procession committee will also convene for an evaluation. This will help a lot in the next fiesta celebrations.



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