

# BASILICA BULLETIN

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

May 6, 2012

www.penafrancia.net

5th Sunday of Easter



## The Vine and the Branches

Fr. Jose Cortes

**W**hat happens to a branch attached to the vine? Nourishment continues to flow to it. And there is reason for this sustenance - that the branch may likewise do what the vine does: to bear good fruit. If detached from the vine, the branch withers and dies.

A very simple picture is presented to us with Jesus as the vine and we as the branches. This relationship defines so much who we are and what we have to clearly strive after.

We are attached to Jesus the vine. On Him we depend for nourishment. If Jesus is the grapevine, then we will have to bear good grapes that would be beneficial to others.

The meaning of our life is sustained by our attachment to Jesus. Jesus redeemed the world and our being one with Him, bearing the good grapes he wants us to produce, gives us that participation in sharing our life's produce with others. And we draw our responsibility here as branches attached to Jesus.



The redeeming work of Jesus is continuing to our days. It is true that Jesus had already suffered, died and risen from the dead and thus offering us all the fruits of redemption. The question is: Have

we taken advantage of His redeeming grace? Has the world heeded His call for peace and love for one another? Why are wars still existing, or even threats of them made?

Confronted by these realities, we have to ask ourselves what we have done or what we have shared as branches of Jesus the vine. The sustenance we have constantly received from Him hopefully made us fruitful.

Indeed, Jesus is calling us to bear much fruit that others may share of. In doing so, we give meaning to our attachment to Jesus the vine.

### Sunday Gospel

Jn 15:1-8



Jesus said to his disciples:

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower.

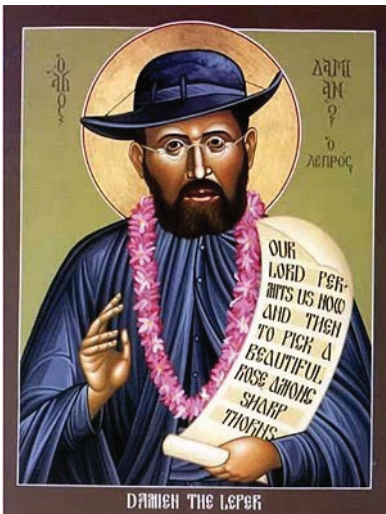
He takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and every one that does he prunes so that it bears more fruit. You are already pruned because of the word that I spoke to you. Remain in me, as I remain in you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me will be thrown out like a branch and wither; people will gather them and throw them into a fire and they will be burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you.

By this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

### Daily Readings of the Week

May 6 Sunday: Acts 9:26-31/  
1 Jn 3:18-24/  
Jn 15:1-8  
May 7 Monday: Acts 14:5-18/  
Jn 14:21-26  
May 8 Tuesday: Acts 14:19-28/  
Jn 14:27-31a  
May 9 Wednesday: Acts 15:1-6/  
Jn 15:1-8  
May 10 Thursday: Acts 15:7-21/  
Jn 15:9-11  
May 11 Friday: Acts 15:22-31/  
Jn 15:12-17  
May 12 Saturday: Acts 16:1-10/  
Jn 15:18-21

**"Remain in me, as I remain in you"**



When Joseph de Veuster was born in Tremelo, Belgium, in 1840,

few people in Europe had any firsthand knowledge of leprosy (Hansen's disease). By the time he died at the age of 49, people all over the world knew about this disease because of him. They knew that human compassion could soften the ravages of this disease.

Forced to quit school at age 13 to work on the family farm, Joseph entered the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary six years later, taking the name of a fourth-century physician and martyr. When his brother Pamphile, a priest in the same congregation, fell ill and was unable to go to the Hawaiian Islands as assigned, Damien quickly volunteered

in his place. In May 1864, two months after arriving in his new mission, Damien was ordained a priest in Honolulu and assigned to the island of Hawaii.

In 1873, he went to the Hawaiian government's leper colony on the island of Molokai, set up seven years earlier. Part of a team of four chaplains taking that assignment for three months each year, Damien soon volunteered to remain permanently, caring for the people's physical, medical and spiritual needs. In time, he became their most effective advocate to obtain promised government support.

Soon the settlement had new houses and a new church, school and orphanage. Morale improved considerably. A few years later he succeeded in get-

ting the Franciscan Sisters of Syracuse, led by Mother Marianne Cope (January 23), to help staff this colony in Kalaupapa.

Damien contracted Hansen's disease and died of its complications. As requested, he was buried in Kalaupapa, but in 1936 the Belgian government succeeded in having his body moved to Belgium. Part of Damien's body was returned to his beloved Hawaiian brothers and sisters after his beatification in 1995.

Damien was canonized by Pope Benedict XVI on October 11, 2009.

When Hawaii became a state in 1959, it selected Damien as one of its two representatives in the Statuary Hall at the U.S. Capitol.

source: [www.americancatholic.org](http://www.americancatholic.org)

## WHY IS MAY A MARIAN MONTH?

The practice of dedicating the month of May to our Lady was popularized especially by the Rosary Encyclicals of Leo XIII – beginning in 1883 and concluding in 1889, the Pontiff wrote twelve encyclicals and five apostolic letters on the Rosary. The Catholic Encyclopedia discusses the rather recent origin of May Month:

"The May devotion [to our Lady] in its present form originated at Rome where Father Latomia of the Roman College of the Society of Jesus, to counteract infidelity and immorality among the students, made a vow at the end of the eighteenth century to devote the month of May to Mary. From Rome the practice spread to the other Jesuit colleges and thence to nearly every Catholic church of the Latin rite (Albers, "Bluethenkränze", IV, 531 sq.). This practice is the oldest instance of a devotion extending over an entire month." (Catholic Encyclopedia, "Special Devotions for Months")

### In the Philippines

A catholic festival held in Philippines throughout the month of May, Flores de Mayo is dedicated to Virgin Mary. Introduced to the region by Spaniards, the festival takes place during the most pleasurable month in the Philippines when the scent of fragrant flowers floats in the air as the rains start to pour.

The altars and aisles of Parish Churches are beautifully decorated to celebrate the Flores de Mayo which translates to "Flowers of May". The majority celebrate it with community congregating to offer flowers to the Virgin Mary, pray the rosary and share homemade snacks and delicacies. At many parishes, the festivities conclude with "Santacruzan" an elaborate procession to the Church where an evening mass is held. A religio-historical beauty pageant, 'Santacruzan' is held in many towns, cities and small communities as one of the most interesting features of the festival. The pageant depicting the discovery of the Holy Cross by Queen Helena sees the participation of many television and movie personalities

## Catechesis on the 4 Dogmas of Mary



Mary's divine motherhood was proclaimed at the Council of Ephesus in 431.

Various names are used to describe Mary's role as mother of Jesus. She is called "Mother of God" which translates the more accurately stated greek term "Theotokos" or "Birth-giver of God."

The Council of Ephesus (431) attributed to Mary the title, Mother of God. This needs to be read against the Council's declaration that in Christ there are two natures, one divine and one human, but only one person. Indeed, according to the Council the holy virgin is the Mother of God since she begot according to the flesh the Word of God made flesh. This decision was further explained by the Council of Chalcedon (451) which says with regard to Mary's divine motherhood:

"...begotten from the Father before the ages as regards his godhead, and in the last days, the same, because of us and because of our salvation begotten from the Virgin Mary, the Theotokos, as regards his manhood; one and the same Christ, Son, Lord, only-begotten..."

Mary's Divine Motherhood was not the object of an independent or exclusive dogmatic declaration. The statement is embedded in texts defining the person and natures of Jesus Christ. Thus, the dogma of Divine Motherhood becomes an integral part of the christological dogma. This does not diminish its definitive and binding character. The dogma of Divine Motherhood is generally accepted by all Christian denominations.

to be continued....

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



## Pope's Intention for May



**B**enedict XVI is praying this month for the defense and promotion of the family. The Apostleship of Prayer announced the intentions chosen by the Pope for May.

His general intention is "that initiatives which defend and uphold the role of the family may be promoted within society."

And the Pontiff's mission intention is "that Mary, Queen of the World and Star of Evangelization, may accompany all missionaries in proclaiming her Son Jesus."



**M**ay 1st 2012 is the first anniversary of the beautification of Pope John Paul II. The annual celebration of Blessed John Paul II has been inserted into the liturgical calendars

of the Diocese of Rome and all the Dioceses of Poland as a "memorial" to be observed on 22 October.

"Blessed John Paul's heroic witness of faith, love and courage has helped believers throughout the world not to be afraid; not to be afraid to be called a Christian, not to be afraid to belong to the Church or to speak of the gospel."

## 1st Anniversary of Beautification

## A Month of Fiestas

**M**ay is known to be a month of fiesta. Fiesta is held to celebrate the Patron Saint's feast. Here in Caceres many parishes will celebrate their pintakasi (fiesta) this May

On May 1, St. Peregrine, Calabanga and Lagonoy; May 2- Our Lady of the Remedies, Curry, Pili; May 3 - Holy Cross Parish, Nabua, Maguiring Calabanga and Tabuco, Naga; On May 6- Our Lady of Salvation, Iriga; on May 8 - St. Michael the Archangel, Caramoan CS; on May 17 - San Pascual Baylon, Tinambac and Maangas, Presentacion and Sta. Josefa Maria, Payak Balatan; on May 19 - St. Joseph Parish, Palsong Bula and San Jose CS, on May 25 - St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Buhi CS also last Sunday of May - Sabang, San Jose and Gijalo, Caramoan CS.

## Reyna Elena Candidates Prepare for the Last Canvassing



Msgr Rodel meets the parents of the candidates for the Reyna Elena. The final canvassing will be on May 12, 2012 at 2pm. The proceeds of the fund raising will go to the Museo de Nstra Sra. De Penafrancia.

## Archdiocesan News

### Good Shepherd Feast at the Archbishop's Residence



**I**t was an afternoon of thanksgiving and fellowship with the shepherds of Caceres. The celebration of the feast of the Good Shepherd was held last April 30 at the Archbishop's Residence garden with Msgr Rodel Cajot, HP, Vicar General as the Main Celebrant together with some priests-concelebrants. In the homily, Msgr Cajot stressed the role of a shepherd in taking care of his flock.

The occasion was also attended by some religious organizations and benefactors of the archbishop's residence.

After the mass was a banquet that was offered to all those who attended the mass.

## BASILICA NEWS

### Daughters of Mary Profession



**L**ast May 1, 2012, Sr. Glenda Agao DM made her Perpetual Profession together with Srs. Concesa Sallena, DM, Kelly Icamen, DM, Hannah Haber, DM, Joely Ornelosa, DM, Michelle Goyena DM, and Caren Dacuba, DM who all took their temporary vows before their Superior General Mo. Heidi Vitalicio, DM. Bishop Jose Rojas, DD was the Main Celebrant.

A religious profession denotes the act of embracing the religious state by the three vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience according to the rule of an order canonically approved; it involves then a triple vow made to God, and binding oneself to the rule of a certain order

## Basilica Schedule of Services

### SUNDAY MASSES:

6:30 am(Bikol) (1st Sunday - Latin) 8:00 am(Bikol)  
9:30 am (English) 11:00 am(Tagalog) 4:00pm(Bikol)  
5:00 pm(English) 6:00 pm (English)

### SATURDAY

6:00 a.m. (Bikol) 7:00 a.m (English) 5:00 pm Anticipated (English) 6:00 pm - Procession around Patio  
6:15 pm - Healing

### WEEKDAY MASSES

6:00 a.m. (Bikol) 7:00 a.m.(English) 5:15 p.m.(English)

### CONFESSIONS

Sunday 6:30 a.m. to 12:00 Noon 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

### Weekdays

Wednesday - 3:30p.m. - 5:30p.m.  
Thursday - 2:00p.m. - 4:00p.m.  
First Friday - 5:00p.m. - 6:30p.m.  
Saturday - 9:00a.m. - 11:00a.m.

## PENAFRANCIA BASILICA AND NATIONAL SHRINE

## ARCHDIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE AND FLORES DE MAYO

7:00 AM  
EVERY SATURDAY

MAY 5  
RINCONADA DISTRICT

MAY 12  
PARTIDO DISTRICT

MAY 19  
BAY DISTRICT

MAY 26  
CENTRAL DISTRICT



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 Santacruzian Procession  
Ground Breaking: Museo de Peñafrancia  
Reyna Elena/Santacruzian Procession

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Elianna Enriquez New York, USA	Benjamin Santuyo Naga City
DAUGHTERS OF MARY (DM) SISTERS call 472 4613	Mrs. Rosario Dy Lo Naga City
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