

BASILICA BULLETIN

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

April 1, 2012

www.penafrancia.net

Palm Sunday

Christ Reigns From the Cross

Fr. Dioscoro Ibanita



Sunday Gospel

Mark 11:1-11

As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples, saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and just as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you doing this?' say, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here shortly.'" They went and found a colt outside in the street, tied at a doorway. As they untied it, some people standing there asked, "What are you doing, untying that colt?" They answered as Jesus had told them to, and the people let them go. When they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks over it, he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread branches they had cut in the fields. Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted, "Hosanna!"

"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!" "Hosanna in the highest heaven!" Jesus entered Jerusalem and went into the temple courts. He looked around at everything, but since it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the Twelve."

The Cross on which Christ has chosen to suffer and die, has become a powerful instrument by which He conquered sin and death. After He was betrayed by Judas Iscariot and after being tried for the offenses he did not commit, He was finally crucified on the cross. His death was the most dreadful and shameful of all deaths. His sufferings were so real and almost impossible to endure.

The Cross upon which Christ has freely chosen to suffer and die, has become a source of strength to reign over the forces of evil. He also used it as a form of weapon so that man will return to God. Christ indeed reigns from the cross because through the cross it



gathered together all the sorrows in the world. His death on the cross seemingly was a moment of defeat in the eyes of the world, but it was really a complete victory over sin and death. It helps us wipe away our sufferings and miseries in life.

Let us remember that our Lord Jesus Christ has suffered and died on the cross

for the love of His almighty Father and mankind. This clearly manifest to us in the saying "LOVE conquers all". Christ would like to teach us that suffering will always accompany true love. He also would like to teach us the supremacy of love over and above everything else. When we love God and neighbor, we must be ready to face trials, problems, sufferings and even death.

Indeed, Christ reigns from the cross because through the cross He became the suffering servant of God upon which He ultimately became the Son of Glory.

Daily Readings of the Week

April 1 Sun: Is 50:4-7/Phil 2:6-11/
Mk 14:1--15:47
or 15:1-39
April 2 Mon: Is 42:1-7/Jn 12:1-11
April 3 Tues: Is 49:1-6/Jn 13:21-33, 36-38
April 4 Wed: Is 50:4-9a/
Mt 26:14-25
April 5 Thurs: Chrism Mass:
Is 61:1-3a, 6a, 8b-9/Rv 1:5-8/Lk 4:16-21
Eve Mass of the Lord's Supper:
Ex 12:1-8, 11-14/1 Cor 11:23-26/Jn 13:1-15
April 6 Fri: Is 52:13--53:12/
Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9/
Jn 18:1--19:42
April 7 Sat: Rom 6:3-11/
Mk 16:1-7

We invite everybody to attend the
Lenten Recollection
every 5:45pm @ Basilica Minore

Holy Monday - Topic: 7 Dolours of Mary

Speaker: Fr. Alfonso Grageda

Holy Tuesday - Topic: Stabat Mater

Speaker: Fr. Danilo Imperial

Holy Wednesday - Topic: Christ is Risen

Fr. Louie Occiano

"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

The Liturgy of HOLY WEEK

Holy Week is the final week of Lent. It commemorates the events of our Lord's last week before His death. The chief festivals of Holy Week are Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil (Holy Saturday). Holy Week, together with Easter, is the most sacred part of the Christian calendar -- the celebration of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. In 1955, Pius XII restored Holy Week to the prominence it had had in the early church...as the heart of the Church's year; through the rites of this week we relive the central elements of the paschal mystery. This pastoral consideration prompted Pius XII to insist on the active participation of the people in the Holy Week rites so that the whole Church is drawn into the celebration. (Catholic Encyclopedia, 2003)

PALM SUNDAY

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday, the Sunday before Easter. On this day, Jesus, accompanied by His disciples, entered the city of Jerusalem in triumph (Matthew 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:29-44; and John 12:12-19). An enthusiastic crowd greeted Jesus by spreading palm branches along the road and shouting Hosanna, a Hebrew expression meaning "save us."



GOOD FRIDAY

On Good Friday we observe fasting and abstinence. It is the time when Jesus suffered and died on the cross. During noon-time, the church commemorates the Seven Last Words of Jesus. Priests and lay give reflection on every word. At 3:00pm, the time Jesus expires, we open the service with readings, especially a dramatic recitation of the Passion, followed by solemn prayers of intercession. We then venerate the Holy Cross and conclude with a Communion service.



HOLY (MAUNDY) THURSDAY

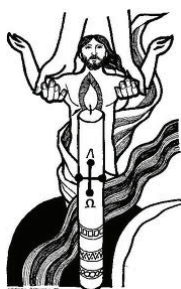


There is a long standing tradition that it takes place on the morning of Maundy Thursday in the Cathedral, where the bishop is surrounded by the priests of his diocese, whose presence demonstrates their unity with him. As Maundy Thursday is the day on which both the Mass and the priesthood were instituted, Pope Paul VI introduced the renewal of the priestly commitment into the liturgy. This is followed by the blessing of oil of sick and the consecration of Chrism.

In the afternoon, the commemoration of the institution of the Holy Eucharist is held. The Mass of the Lord's Supper begins the solemn celebration on the evening of Holy Thursday. We commemorate Christ's institution of the Eucharist, re-enact His humble washing of the disciples' feet, and process with the Blessed Sacrament to the Altar of Repose.

BLACK SATURDAY

Today marks the day when the good Lord descended to the dead. Also as Holy Saturday, it is commemorated as the only day when God as man was dead. There are no accounts related by any of the four evangelists about this 'Black Sabbath' -- except about the chief priests and pharisees, (in Matthew, 27:62-66), requesting Pilate to post guards at the tomb, "lest His disciples steal the body and say to the people 'He has been raised from the dead'". Today we also continue to observe reverential silence.



The **Easter Vigil** is the first and definitive celebration of Easter, the greatest feast of the Church and the summation of our faith. The Paschal Candle passes among us, spreading the Light of Christ; the singing of the Exsultet proclaims the victory of Christ over sin and darkness; readings and psalms recount the fall and redemption of mankind; we renew our baptismal promises during rites of Christian initiation; and we close with a most festive celebration of the Eucharist.

Seven Last Words of Jesus

Theme: "An Dalan kan Cruz: Dalan sa Sakong Pagmidbid sa Dios Asin Pagsaboot kan Sakong Katolikong Pagsabuhay"

Objectives:

- 1) To understand our Faith in the light of Christ's Way of the Cross.
- 2) To reflect on the Paradoxical Characteristics of Faith based on the Catechism for Filipino Catholics (CFC # 141-159).

INTRODUCTION:

To highlight the preparation period for the Opening of the Year of Faith. The reflection will focus on the understanding of the Paradoxical Characteristics of Faith.

FIRST WORD: "Ama, patawada sinda huli ta dai ninda aram kun ano an saindang ginigibo (Lk.23:34)."

Faith: A Gift, yet Our Doing. Focus: An Pagtubod: Sarong Gracia nin Dios asin satong; Pagsimbag sa Diosnon na Balaog.

SECOND WORD: "Sa katotohanan, sinasabihan taka:ngonian man sana makakaibahan taka sa Paraiso."

Faith: Reasonable, yet Beyond Natural Reason. Focus: An Pagtubod: Dalan sa Pagmidbid sa Dios sa oro-aldaw Niatong Pagkabuhay.

THIRD WORD: Babae uya an saimong Aki... Uya an saimong Ina.

Focus: Mary: Model of Faith: Si Virgen Maria, Modelo kan Sa-tong Pagtubod.

FOURTH WORD: Dios ko, Dios ko, tadaw ta pinabayaan mo ako.

Faith: Certain, yet Obscure Focus: An Pagtubod: Sarong hararom na Pagsarig sa Dios sa tahaw nin Pagtios asin Pagsubok sa buhay

FIFTH WORD: Napapaha Ako.

Faith: Free, yet Morally Obliging Focus: An Pagtubod: Sarong Talingkas na Pagsunod asin Pakikipagkatood sa Diosnon na Pagkamoot

SIXTH WORD: Natapus na

Faith: An Act, yet a Process. Focus: An Pagtubod: Sarong Pakipagnum-pungan asin Habang-buhay na Pagbaklay para sa Dios, an Kagtao nin Buhay.

SEVENTH WORD: Ama, sa saimong kamot idinodolot ko an sakong Espirito.

Faith: As Personal, yet Ecclesia Focus: An Pagtubod: Pagdusay kan bilog na Buhay sa Kabotan nin Dios asin sa Simbahan, an Banwaan nin Dios.

Pope visits Mexico and Cuba

On Monday, Benedict XVI concluded what was, in his own words, a "brief but intense" visit to Mexico and flew to Cuba, where he was hailed on his arrival at the airport. It was 5 am in Leon, Guanajuato, and some of us journalists, accredited by the Holy See, attended the Mass that the organization of- fers us every day in the hotel.

It was now a few hours before our departure for Cuba. We gave one another the sign of peace and reviewed mentally the images of the Mass that the Holy Father celebrated in Bicentenary Park.

Not only Mexicans were smiling, but also others who shared their smiles with the Pope. The Holy Father's facial expression was more than eloquent, especially when he wore a traditional Mexican sombrero while riding in the popemobile



Statistics of Mexico and Cuba

The statistical information, updated at the end of 2010, comes from the Central Statistical Office of the Church.

Mexico has a population of 108,426,000, of whom 99,635,000 (91.89 percent) are Catholic. There are 93 ecclesiastical circumscriptions, 6,744 parishes and 7,169 pastoral centres of other kinds. Currently, there are 163 bishops, 16,234 priests, 30,023 religious, 505 members of secular institutes, 25,846 lay missionaries and 295,462 catechists. Minor seminarians number 4,524 and major seminarians 6,495.

Cuba has a population of 11,242,000, of whom 6,766,000 (60.19 percent) are Catholic. There are 11 ecclesiastical circumscriptions, 304 parishes and 2,210 pastoral centres of other kinds. Currently, there are 17 bishops, 361 priests, 656 religious, 24 members of secular institutes, 2,122 lay missionaries and 4,133 catechists. Minor seminarians number 13 and major seminarians 78.

Media Lenten Recollection



The Media Recollection last year at the Villa Caceres

The Media practitioners of the archdiocese attended the Media Recollection last March 31. It was sponsored by the CCCom in cooperation with the KBP and the Community Advisory Board headed by Mr. Robert Obiedo.

Fr. Monching Aldana SDB is the facilitator of the said recollection. The activity has been done for the past 4 years already.



Archdiocesan News

CONCAS Assists Parishes



The Concas pre-fielding at the Catechetical Center last March 29-30 before being sent to parishes

The Conference of Caceres Seminarians (CONCAS) will once again report to the parishes of the archdiocese for their pastoral exposure this summer. This year they will be under the care of the Caceres Mission Office c/o Fr. Andrew Recepcion. They also assists the parishes during Holy Week liturgical activities. After which, they go to barrios to teach catechesis.



BASILICA NEWS

Basilica All Set for Holy Week



After 5 weeks of preparing for the Holy Week, the Basilica is all set for the activities of the Holy Week.

Although not a parish, the basilica observes almost all the liturgical activities of the Holy Week. There will be lenten recollection from Holy Monday to Holy Wednes-

day at 5:45pm. Th priests will be available also for confessions during the recollection. Other activities will be the Holy Thursday - celebration of the Lord's Supper and Washing of the feet of the disciples. This will be followed by Visita Iglesia. On Good

Friday, at 4:00pm there will also be the adoration of the Cross.

On Saturday, 9:00pm, the Easter Vigil will be celebrated with the blessing of Fire and water as well as the renewal of Baptismal promises. On Easter Sunday, the usual schedule will be followed.

Basilica Ongoing Projects



Basilica Bodega. This is at the back of the hall. It is almost completed.



Basilica Office which is the former Basilica Kaffee.

nb: No picture: Additional Rest Room near Canteen

Staff Quarters which is located at the back of altersheim



BASILICA MINORE SCHEDULE

MASSSES & CONFESSIONS

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

Balatas Rd. Basilica Compound, Naga City 4400 Philippines
Telephone/Fax No: (054) 473-3644 / 473 6914

Website: www.penafrancia.net

BASILICA STAFF

Rector: Msgr. Rodel M. Cajot PC
Vice Rector: Fr. Luisito A. Occiano
Treasurer: Sr. Elen Aguilar DM
Secretaries: Rosette Preconcillo / Eva Roxas

HAPPY 25TH ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY

FR. DIOSCORO (DIOKS) IBANITA

March 31, 2012
Thanksgiving Mass 7:00am

May the Lord, the Good Shepherd, bless you and
grant you more years of fruitful ministry.

iRUN & iBIKE for INA 2

April 21, 2012, 5:30am at the Basilica Minore
5k, 10k and Mixed Relay Duathlon
(male and female 5k run/15k trail Bike)

5k - P100 - Bib only

10k - P150 Bib only

(Relay) Duathlon - P250 Bib only

For all categories - P300 with Singlet and Bib

Proceeds: For the Pope JP II Prayer Garden at the Basilica

Exciting Prizes
await the winners

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your singlet!

Registration sites:

Basilica Office, SM City, Tri n Run Sports Hub, RCBC Bank

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