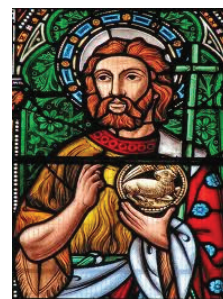


**This my joy  
therefore is fulfilled.  
He must increase,  
but I must decrease..**

**(St. John the Baptist)**

# BASILICA BULLETIN

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



June 24, 2012

www.penafrancia.net

Feast of St. John the Baptist

## Celebrating the Feast of St. John the Baptist

Today is known as “Little Christmas”. It is the birth of the sixth-month older cousin of Jesus. There were some who believed John to be the Christ, but the Gospels make it quite clear that his destiny was to be the forerunner and baptizer of the Christ.

In celebrating the memory of the saints, the Liturgy doesn't celebrate their birthday but usually the day of their death. There are only two exceptions: Mary the mother of Jesus, and John the Baptist. John gets preferential treatment in the Liturgy; it gives him two feast-days a year.

His humility has deeply impressed Christians through the ages. Before anyone had heard of Jesus of Nazareth, people were coming distances to see John the Baptist. Yet he pointed to Jesus and away from himself. “He must increase, I must decrease” (Jn 3:30). According to John's gospel John the Baptist actually encouraged his disciples to leave him

and follow the Lamb of God.

He seems a grim figure; his dress and his way of speaking were equally rough. Yet the gospels associate him with joy. At the presence of Jesus and Mary, he leapt for joy in his mother's womb (Lk 1:44); and referring to him, Jesus said, “The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice” (Jn 3:29). The source of his joy was probably the humility that so characterised him. With power and success there comes a certain



greedy satisfaction, but humility is spacious enough to contain joy. “My spirit rejoices in God my saviour,” cried Mary, “He looks on his servant in her lowliness” (Lk 1:46-47).

Humility is not a fashionable virtue today; it tends to be seen rather as a condition calling for therapy – a mousey

obsequiousness that could probably be traced back to an unhappy childhood. But the mere sight of John the Baptist ought to be enough to dispel that view.

Source: <http://www.goodnews.ie>

## Discovering New Purpose

Reflection

Fr. Alfonso Grageda

The Gospel focuses on the naming of John at his circumcision.

In biblical times, personal names functioned like business names. They aimed to convey what the bearer of the name stood for. John in Hebrew, (yahaman) means, God is gracious

His birth signals the beginning of a New Era in God-human relationship. That this was given to John before his birth shows that God has a purpose and plan for the child: he is the herald of the New Era, John's birth was the dawn of salvation. Hence, its great importance.

This is the point of celebrating John the Baptist's Birth. We celebrate God's faithfulness that brought, with the birth of John, the Daybreak of Salvation.

More than this, we must reflect: life has a reason from God. Let us discover and live that purpose.

## Daily Readings of the Week

Jun 24 Sun: Is 49:1-6/  
Acts 13:22-26/  
Lk 1:57-66, 80  
Jun 25 Mon: 2 Kgs 17:5-8 /  
Mt 7:1-5  
Jun 26 Tues: 2 Kgs 19:9b-11, /  
Mt 7:6, 12-14  
Jun 27 Wed: 2 Kgs 22:8-13;  
23:1-3/Mt 7:15-20  
Jun 28 Thurs: 2 Kgs 24:8-17/  
Mt 7:21-29  
Jun 29 Fri: Acts 12:1-11/2  
Tm 4:6-8, 17-18/  
Mt 16:13-19  
Jun 30 Sat: Lam 2:2, 10-14,  
18-19/Mt 8:5-17

## Sunday Gospel

Lk 1:57-66, 80

When the time arrived for Elizabeth to have her child she gave birth to a son. Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy toward her, and they rejoiced with her. When they came on the eighth day to circumcise the child, they were going to call him Zechariah after his father, but his mother said in reply, “No. He will be called John.” But they answered her, “There is no one among your relatives who has this name.” So they made signs, asking his father what he wished him to be called. He asked for a tablet and wrote, “John is his name,” and all were amazed. Immediately his mouth was opened, his tongue freed, and he spoke blessing God. Then fear came upon all their neighbors, and all these matters were discussed throughout the hill country of Judea. All who heard these things took them to heart, saying, “What, then, will this child be?” For surely the hand of the Lord was with him. The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the desert until the day of his manifestation to Israel.

**“For surely the hand of the Lord was with him”**

Veneration of the two great Apostles, Peter and Paul, has its roots in the very foundations of the Church. They are the solid rock on which the Church is built. They are at the origin of her faith and will forever remain her protectors and her guides. To them Rome owes her true greatness, for it was under God's providential guidance that they were led to make the capital of the Empire, sanctified by their martyrdom, the center of the Christian world whence should radiate the preaching of the Gospel.

St. Peter suffered martyrdom under Nero, in A.D. 66 or 67. He was buried on the hill of



the Vatican where recent excavations have revealed his tomb on the very site of the basilica of St. Peter's. St. Paul was beheaded in the via Ostia on the spot where now stands

the basilica bearing his name. Down the centuries Christian people in their thousands have gone on pilgrimage to the tombs of these Apostles. In the second and third centuries

the Roman Church already stood pre-eminent by reason of her apostolicity, the infallible truth of her teaching and her two great figures, Sts. Peter and Paul.

A plenary indulgence may be gained today by anyone who makes devout use of a religious article blessed by a bishop and who also recites any approved profession of faith (e.g. the Apostles Creed), as long as the usual conditions are satisfied.

The Solemnity of Sts. Peter and Paul is celebrated on June 29.

### Sacred Heart of Jesus Reflection

by: Fr. Alfonso Gageda

A clap of thunder, strong winds and rain sent a little boy running to the bedroom of his parents, and screaming "papa, mama! am scared", as he wedged himself in between them.

"Don't worry Johnny" said his father "God loves you! He will protect you" Johnny yelled back "I know God loves me and will protect me, but right now I need somebody with skin on!"

That is what the Feast of the Sacred Heart is all about. It's God coming among us with not only skin but flesh and bones. It's God revealing himself as one of us. It's God in Jesus Christ.

What image of Jesus do we have in mind when we pray to him? Mine is the image of Jesus forgiving the soldiers who were crucifying Him.

I am reminded of Toti (Jose), a property custodian of Garchitorena. Being an honest man, he was strict with disbursement of supplies. A teacher resented this and boxed Toti so hard, he had to be hospitalized. While in the hospital, the assailant followed him and stabbed him. Luckily Toti survived.

A case was filed against the assailant. But just before a guilty sentence was pronounced, the assailant asked Toti for forgiveness. As was his habit, and knowing that his assailant had a wife and children, Toti readily forgave him.

Jesus, much more magnanimous, has forgiven us not just once but many times. He does not take revenge. Instead, He wins us back by love. That's why He appeared to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, in the 17th century; showed His heart wounded, crowned with thorns, wrapped in flames, topped with a cross.

He commanded her to practice and preach an ardent love and affection for the wounded heart in order to show his unlimited love for men and women and to win some human love in return.

### The New English Roman Missal

Part 3



HOW DOES THIS NEW TRANSLATION OF THE ROMAN MISSAL AFFECT US?

The use of the New English Translation of the Roman Missal opens a great opportunity to bring authentic renewal in our liturgical celebration.

The Axiom *Lex Orandi, Lex Credenda* - what we pray is what we believe - suggests that there is a direct relationship between the content of

our prayers and the substance of our faith. All can make use of the texts for deepening their prayer life.

The New English Roman Missal offers a gift to all of us that is a teachable moment in the life of the church and important moment of catechesis. This is an opportunity to help people come to a deeper understanding of, and appreciation for the liturgy.

Liturgy is the summit of all Christian Life and spirituality. The New English Missal leads our hearts to a true and genuine encounter with the Lord, a deeper spirituality. It offers us not merely the change of texts, words and responses, but it aims for the change of heart. Liturgy is always a school of spirituality.

Truly, this present liturgical change is good for all of us and it is an opportunity to ask God to change our hearts and make us more prayerful as we join in liturgical celebration.



### **Pope to Visit Quake Victims**

**B**enedict XVI will make a morning trip next week to the Italian region of Emilia Romagna, which was struck by an earthquake May 20 and another nine days later. Some two dozen people were killed in the quakes.

The Holy Father is scheduled to arrive by helicopter at the sports ground of San Marino di Carpi at around 10 a.m. where he will be welcomed by the head of the Italian Civil Protection Department. He will then travel to Rovereto di Novi, crossing the "red zone" and visiting the church of St. Catherine of Alexandria, which was seriously damaged by the quake.



### **Archdiocesan News**

#### **Congress on Social Services**

The Archdiocesan Social Action Congress was held on June 15, 2012 at the Basilica Hall, Naga City. Headed by Msgr. Nelson Tria, representatives from the parishes and vicariates together with the religious institutions and communities of Caceres that are involved in social services of the archdiocese, convened to discern as well as to plan for the strengthening of their pastoral programs of the coming years.



### **BASILICA NEWS**

#### **Formation for New Voyadores Starts**



**T**he Cofradia de San Jose, the association of the voyadores started its training and formation of their new recruits last June 16-17 at the Basilica Hall. There were about 25 new recruits (coming from Naga City and also from Cagliliog Tinambac CS) who attended the first Life in the Spirit Seminar-training which was facilitated by Engr William Menes together with the Adonai's Love Community. Aside from the new recruits there were almost 100 more old members who attended the LSS.

This coming July there will be another LSS training for the new voyadores

### **Vatican's Appeal to Media**

**T**he Holy Father's efforts to cleanse and clarify, since his tenure as prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith and now as Pope, have certainly caused and cause annoyance, according to his secretary of state, Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone. The cardinal makes that assertion in an interview with the weekly Famiglia Cristiana, which will be in the newstands this Thursday.

"His action to put a stop to incidents of pedophilia in the clergy has shown that the Church has the capacity to regenerate herself, which other institutions and persons don't have," explained the cardinal.

In regard to the way that some of the media have engaged in aggression against the Pope and some Vatican officials, the secretary of state said: "Many journalists play at imitating Dan Brown. They continue to invent fables and re-propose legends."

Cardinal Bertone called for a greater sense of balance, weighing the real facts, and not letting imaginations running wild regarding the content of the documents allegedly taken from the Pope by Paolo Gabrieli.

### **Bsp. Gainza Trade Fair invites Exhibitors**

**T**his 3rd Bishop Francisco Gainza Trade Fair will start on September 6, a day before the Traslacion and will culminate on the 16th, Our Lady of Penafrancia's Feast Day. It will be held in front of the Veterans Bank along Elias Angeles St.

The Bishop Francisco Gainza Trade Fair is organized by the Archdiocese of Caceres through the Caceres Social Action Foundation, Inc. (CASAFI). It traces back its roots from Bishop Francisco Gainza who pioneered the First Agro-Industrial Fair in Bicol in 1875. The fair is geared towards alleviating poverty through entrepreneurship and solidarity that promotes integral development.

The Organizers of Bishop Francisco Gainza Trade Fair can be reached at 4739550 or through e-mail at bishop-gainza\_tradefair@yahoo.com or facebook.com/bishop-gainza\_tradefairtwitter.com/GainzaTradeFair.

### **Basilica Auxilliaries Invites you**



The Basilica Auxilliaries after their regular meeting with Fr. Louie Occiano, Spiritual Director and Fr. Jose Cortes. They are recruiting for more members who will assist the Basilica especially this coming Penafrancia Fiesta. For inquiries call 4733644.

## PENAFRANCIA BASILICA AND NATIONAL SHRINE

### MASSES & 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.

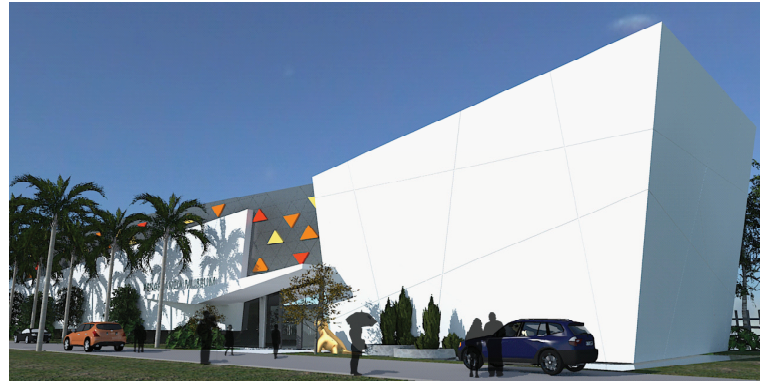
#### Weekdays

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.

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

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Cararayan Naga City  
PBN TV 5 - 8:30am/ GNN 48 - 3:00pm/7:00pm

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