



## Message from the Chaplaincy

When I listened to the inaugural speech of the newly-sworn President of the Republic of the Philippines last June 30, I felt a new sense of hope awakened in me. Indeed, there is still hope for our country. The new president, President Benigno Aquino III, promised to lift our nation out of poverty and to wipe out the crippling corruption at all levels, for indeed, this is one of the causes of poverty and injustice that is prevalent in our country.

Wow, how nice to hear that corruption will finally be fought and weeded out. I guess we are all tired of a corrupt government. We all envision an honest government that will truly serve the common good.

This, of course, entails not only a tremendous task on the part of the government, but it

will also demand that we change our attitudes as individuals. After all, corruption is not only caused by the government but it is also promoted, tolerated and even worsened by the people themselves!

To combat corruption means conversion for all of us. It means embracing a new attitude.

It would mean changing our attitude about getting things done fast by resorting to 'tong' and 'under the table transactions', and instead having the virtue of patience.

It means not resorting to *padrinos* and 'connections' when accomplishing things or projects, and instead having the virtue of respect for others and having a sense of fairness and justice.

It means changing our atti-

tude of over-sensitivity or being easily hurt when a favor or a request is denied us, and instead having the attitude of understanding and sensitivity.

Combating corruption indeed means personal conversion and a new way of relating with our *kababayans*.

I do believe that the task of fighting corruption is a noble one. And huge as the task may be, it can be done. This is our hope for our beloved country. Hopefully, we as individuals will really contribute to making this a reality.

We continue to pray for our country, the Philippines, that with the new government, it will truly undergo a Pentecost experience where all things will be made new for the better and the best.

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## Another Filipino Easter

On 30 June 2010, we celebrated another new Easter in Philippine history, as if we had won against the forces of darkness with the torch of truth. Yes, it is now the reality of what our hearts and minds had spoken: to tersely put it, the need for change. A new spring is finally in place, giving life and hope to what was forsaken, especially the cries of the poor, *kung walang corrupt walang mhirap* and *tungo sa matuwid na daan* (riding on the campaign slogans), no more C5s to build from Aparri to Sulu, and a justice system justice that delivers due process so that rest will finally be possible for certain dead. Yes, the job is tough but whenever concrete reform is formally made in our branches of government, the flow of change will take place as expected. I can understand the concern being felt for the high expectations of the

people. But I also believe that we conditioned ourselves to the country's current situation, as if no system existed over the years. Nonoy is no super hero in our fantasy, but an ordinary person with moral character mandated to act as head of state in our belief and confidence that he will straighten the crooked road, and bring the disgraces of his predecessors to the court of justice. He may not be the Christ who calmed the storm and turned water into wine, but I believe that with faith and constant prayers our new leader will be guided to make changes that will take place day by day for a better Philippines. Mabuhay tayong lahat, and God bless us all.

**Ben Repol**

### Farewell activities for Fr. Joey

- A tribute evening is being planned for Friday, 20 August 2010 at the Marriott Hotel. Please get in touch with Mimi Gonzales to reserve your seats.
- The Community is hosting lunch and organizing a musical presentation on Sunday, 29 August 2010. Please get in touch with Fr. Ely and/or Fr. Jojo for coordination.

# My father, Federico

The call came on a Saturday morning, 30 June 2007: my father is dead! Oh my God, did I not talk to him the day before? He collapsed at a wedding reception and in 15 minutes was gone. He was 69 years old. The whole family was shattered. Why him? The indescribable shock left us numb and frozen. There was a void, an emptiness that could not be filled.

My initial reaction was: I served my father well and to the best of my ability. I helped him achieve his wants and desires. No regrets, no guilt feelings. Or so, I thought. But, then, as the saying goes, regrets will always come at the end.

My father was a rock-solid pillar, a tower of strength in the family. He was a good provider, a protector. While raising his own family, my father also sent his youngest sister to university. His sister, my aunt, is the only child from a brood of seven to finish university. She became a nurse and successfully landed a job abroad. Through the years, my aunt's achievement was a source of encouragement and pride to my father.

I appreciated that my father raised us - his family - in quite an untraditional/unusual way. Growing up in the countryside in the 1950s and 60s, he was often at loggerheads with the elders of the village as he shunned old customs, traditions and superstitions associated with marriages, weddings, baptisms, healing of the sick, wakes and funerals. He succeeded, as shown, for example, by the fact that he neither gave nor asked for dowries when my siblings got married. He would exhaust all means with modern medicine before opting for alternatives. During his wake, we, his children, did not wear mourning dress. At his funeral, we wore white. No comments were heard whatsoever from the elders. We could only surmise that they realized our father would have agreed with what we did.

I love the times when my father used to tell us as little children his wishes and dreams, his fears, his failures, his disappointments, his realizations, his triumphs, and humorous, pitiful, unhappy, weird and sensational stories in the village. We still remember those stories today.

I admired the way my father led his life. He had his imperfections but these were nothing compared to what he went through to give us a good and comfortable life. He taught his children by example. He showed us how we should love our family, and we have carried the caring and open relationship we had as children into our adult lives. My hat is off to him for that! My father may not have been a practicing Catholic but he would not miss an annual visit/pilgrimage to our Lady of Piat nor forget to light a candle on 2 July, the Feast of our Lady of Piat. My father was openly generous to the less fortunate including the *aetas*. He would often buy whatever the *aetas* would sell to us, even sometimes above the normal price. But, more often than not, they bartered wild fruits/vegetables, wild game and wild honey for rice, oil, sugar and salt. My father was sympathetic to the outcast. We had a male cousin - may he rest in

peace - who became a special child because of a vehicle accident. He was rebuffed by people because he was dirty and unkempt. My father talked to him, and, the next time I saw my cousin, he looked smart and proud, was grinning with glee and playing happily with other kids.

I talked to my father the day before he died to close a deal which he promised would be his last. He also promised me that he would no longer participate in the management of our farm. I had often pleaded with him to stop, but he never listened to him. During our 'phone conversation, I inquired for the first time about the status of all his transactions and other issues. The call lasted about an hour, and was the last conversation I had with my father!!

I regretted not telling my father how much I admired him and, most especially, I regretted not thanking him for the good life he had given us. There were many times when I wanted to express appreciation for the things he did for his family, but I didn't, and I will now never know how he would have reacted to words of gratitude and encouragement!

I cry when I remember the times I answered my father back, when I argued with my streak of stubbornness, forgetting that I am only his daughter and he is my father, when he was the one who understood me and gave in by saying - well, that's where we differ - end of discussion - and I felt I had won. It pains me to imagine how hurt my father must have been, and I really wish I had asked for his forgiveness when he was still alive.

At the wake, I often approached and cried at the lifeless body of my father because I wanted to shake and wake him up. There were so many things left unsaid and undone. I was crying at the realization that I did not show the respect my father truly deserved, that my money could not replace the love he ought to have had from me, that no matter how loud I cried or how much remorse I felt - my father could no longer hear nor feel. I longed so much to talk to him.

I would have liked to tell my father that we know he loved us very much, even though he never said it. In our college days, while waiting for the bus to Manila, my father was always nowhere to be seen. It did not matter as he had already given us our allowances. But I would have liked to say goodbye as I stepped onto the bus. Why he is not here, where is he? This question was always at the back of my mind until I finished my studies. One day, my mother revealed to us that my father could not bear to see his children leave, so he went to hide his sadness from us. What an expression of love!!

Coping with the loss of my father was tough, the pain was tormenting! I stopped going to parties and celebrations, and dreaded situations that reminded me of him. The first Christmas and New Year after my father's death was the most awful time. I could not mention my father's name even to my siblings, friends and relatives without pausing to control my tears. I could not stop going through family photo albums. I envied those whose fathers celebrated their 70<sup>th</sup>, 73<sup>rd</sup>, 75<sup>th</sup>, 89<sup>th</sup> birthdays and so on. I shed tears whenever his name was read, when a mass

was offered for him. Those were really hard times!

But God did not abandon us. He comforted us in our trying times. God made us understand and realize that, indeed, even in my father's death, His timing is perfect. My father left us settled in life, he had achieved his dreams, he saw a blissful and joyful rapport among his children, he was blessed with grandchildren whom he loved and adored - a constant source of pleasure and enjoyment. Yes, my father lived life to the fullest, and it was God who pulled the string for my father to stop for He knew what lay ahead of us.

While grieving the loss of our father, we also had to deal with the emotional and financial strain of my brother's life-threatening surgery and other distressing family news. It was really rough, and God spared my father all the *angst*, apprehension, worry, tension, hostility, friction and anger surrounding these worrying and troubling circumstances. Knowing my father, he would have been crushed and destroyed. Understanding that, and recognizing that, yes, it was all in God's plan ..... our healing began.

Three years later, our mourning has slowly turned into good memories. Up to this moment, the loss is still a loss, but we have started remembering the extraordinary and significant moments and stories of my father. Controlling our emotions, we can now laugh again. Despite silent moments and occasional tear-shedding, we can now mention his name and freely talk about him. One remarkable thing, though, is that we still consider and think about his ways, his principles, his values and his standards. My brother regained his health, my niece successfully passed her board exams, and her son - who is now 2 ½ years old - is a constant source of love and inspiration, and our love for one another has become stronger and closer. Praise God!

To all the fathers out there: your children will remember your sincerity, openness, truthfulness, the time spent with them and - most importantly - your love for them. It's worth investing in these, the reward is priceless. As one priest said, life is all about relationships. A loving and a happy childhood is one of the best inheritances that you can give to your children. It will be eternally etched in their hearts and memories. It will be forever recalled and retold.

For the children: honor your parents as God has commanded us - no matter how imperfect and flawed and limited you think they are! Respect them. Now is the time to thank your parents and appreciate what they have been, and are doing to you. Love them! Pray for them to have a loving, long and lasting relationship. Pray that God will give them the strength and wisdom to handle the everyday challenges of being a father, a husband and provider or a mother, wife and a homemaker.

To the reader: I sincerely hope that you gained an insight from this tribute to my father and I pray that you will not have the same regrets as I do about the people that you cherish the most.

God bless,

**Melinda D. Fronda**

## The Leadership Wisdom of Jesus

On May 10, 2010 Filipinos all over the world were given a chance to choose a new LEADER to rule the country, a leader who will make a “difference” in the lives of the Filipino people, and make CHANGE for the better in the governing system.

Change is one of the most feared and avoided phenomena in life. Most people simply are not comfortable with change and will resist it in a variety of ways.

As we often hear politicians are the same all over. But has it ever occurred to you that in our type of government a politician can reach a position of responsibility without having any training, serving no apprenticeship nor attaining masters level of study. In short, anyone can be a national leader: a common *tao*, a bar topnotcher, a soldier, an entertainer. We have had various types of leaders whose performance range from commendable through forgettable and even downright detestable.

During elections, everyone seems to know perfectly well the marks of a true leader: moral integrity and dedication to serve the common good. But once the winner holds office and becomes intoxicated with power, one contacts amnesia and all sweet promises vanish into thin air.

So, what kind of a leader do we need? And what kind of leadership will she/he render to the people. In the following are some notes about leadership lessons from the teachings of Jesus in the Bible scriptures.

It is important to note that much of the wisdom of Jesus’ teachings does not directly address leadership. Nevertheless, His teachings offer a wealth of “ethical” and “practical” guidance for leadership practice. This is relevant to anyone in a position of influence on leadership. Regardless of your religious beliefs, the lessons described below should help shed light on the path to effective leadership.

Of course times have changed over the millennia and some of us will question whether the wisdom of the “ancient past” is relevant

today, especially with regard to wisdom that is often connected with religions. The intent of this article is not to preach or convert readers but to inform and equip aspiring leaders with the power of “wise historical teachings” that have dramatically changed the lives of millions.

Relatively few books on leadership, let alone business leadership, have drawn on the lesson of Jesus but I want to share some lessons from the book of “Leadership Wisdom of Jesus”. Whether you are leading social, civic or religious groups, I hope this helps you in some way, or maybe to evaluate your own leadership style and consider time-tested spiritual wisdom that can make you more effective.

What is leadership?

Usually when we think about leadership we think about one person (the leader) influencing someone else (the followers). In fact, when we are in a position of leadership it is typical to think that our job is to tell others what to do. That is, leaders are expected to evaluate others and tell them how to change and improve, and ultimately those others are expected to do what they’re told.

Jesus’ teachings, conversely give rise to a quite different view of how we should approach the subject of leadership. It entails enormous responsibility and great sacrifice, and at its heart is the model that is provided by the leaders. People pay great deal of attention to what leaders do, how they live and how they treat others.

### Part I—Clean the mirror image

“Logs before specks or lead thyself first” (Matthew 7: 3-5)

The lesson: We are challenged first to examine ourselves and get our own act together before we try to lead others. This is a hard lesson to learn. Be humble and assume that most people know a heck of a lot more about their problem than you do.

“It is what comes out of a person that defines. For it is from within, from the human, that evil intentions come.” (Mark 7:18-23)

How can we expect to lead others successfully if we cannot lead ourselves? The truth is we usually can’t! Our choices and resulting behavior are usually more powerful and important than anything we say. And what is inside of us lays the foundation for what comes out of us.

“Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.” (Mark 9: 33-35)

The lesson: In achieving fame and glory, Jesus suggested that the only sure way to become great is to seek just the opposite. That is an awfully hard pill for most of us to swallow. Jesus sends a clear message that we should not exaggerate our sense of superiority, that we should not become too caught up in our own importance. Don’t seek honor, rather let it seek you in its own way and when the time is right.

Commit to ethical behaviour

In summary, Jesus says “to give to the emperor what is the emperor’s and give to God the things that are God’s.” (Luke 20:20-26)

The lesson: We are being challenged to serve “the emperor” (our organizations) to the extent that is morally and ethically right for them to expect. Similarly in our work lives we are challenged to give to our organizations only what is right for them to expect. People should be treated with dignity.

Let your light shine before others. Matthew 5: 14-16

The lesson: As leaders, our light is always shining and it cannot be hidden under a basket. And indeed we are like lamps that need to be kept “clean and cared for” if we are to share clearly and effectively. Jesus says it is important that we keep our actions consistent with our words – that we walk our talk. How can people trust our message and positively respond to our leadership if they can’t believe what we say? Openness and honesty provide a solid foundation for leadership that enables others (followers) to give confidence and commitments to the leader.

(Parts II, III and IV will be continued in the next issue.)

Timmy de Mata

(Source; 365 days (Bible) and the book – Leadership Wisdom of Jesus)

## Sa kabukiran

Kay haba rin ng panahon na nawala sa gunita Kabukirang sinilangan, doon tayo nagsimula Ala-alang lagi na lang pumupukaw sa 'king diwa Hinding-hindi malilimot hanggang sa aking pagtanda

Tilaok ng mga manok ang urasan sa umaga Sasabayan pa ng tahol nitong aso sa kalsada Ang pagsilang nitong araw sa umaga'y nagbabadya Tila baga nagsasabing, ang buhay ay anong ganda

Maya-maya'y sisigaw na maglalako nitong isda Iba-ibang mga klase lahat ito ay sariwa Mamarang na tumutubo sa gubat ay laksa-laksa At kung gusto mo ng gulay, punong-puno sa tumana

Ang hangin mong malalanghap sa bukid ay kay sariwa At ang tubig sa batisa'y, sadya ngang kamanghamangha Malalaki nitong bato, mga isda'y naglipana Oh kay sarap na pagmasdan, bigay ito ni Bathala

Bakit nga ba iba sa 'tiy tila ayaw ng balikan Ala-ala ng kahapon sa lugar na pinagmulan Bakit ayaw ng isipin masasayang karanasan Na pinanday ng panahon simula pa kamusmusan

Ayaw mo rin bang balikan ang maraming kaibigan Na sa hirap at ginhawa'y, ika'y kanilang sinamahan Sa panahong nalulungkot, nagbigay ng kasiyahan At sa tuwing madarapa, nagbubuhay ay kay inam

Huwag sanang kalimutan ang buhay sa kabukiran Kahit simpleng pamumuhay, puno naman ng sayahan Dito mo rin makikita ang handog ng kalikasan Hindi tao ang may gawa kundi ang kaitaasan

Pero bakit mayrong tao na kay daling makalimot At ang iba naman sa 'tiy, mataas at mapag-imbot Ang taluktok nitong bundok laging gusto na maabot Ni hindi niya napapansin marami ang walang saplot

Ano nga ba ang basihan ng tunay na kasiyahan Sa dami ba nitong pera o payapang kalooban Sana'y muling pagnilayan Balita ng Kaligtasan Pagmamahal sa Lumikha at sa kapwa ay ilaan

Jun Rico

## From our calendar

7 Aug	9 am—5 pm	Mass and Healing Rally of El Shaddai, Vienna Chapter
15 Aug	p.m.	29AD concert
29 Aug	12:00	Community lunch for Fr. Joey, followed by musical presentations
18 Sep	8:00	Our Lady of Peñafrancia fluvial procession to Bratislava
25 Sep	10am —5 pm	Flea-market, joint activity with Austrian community
26 Sep	10 am—3 pm	
26 Sep	11 am	Celebration of Feast of San Lorenzo Ruiz

## FCC Funds flow statement as at Dec. 31, 2009

<b>Source of funds</b>		
Sunday mass—2nd collection		€ 2 536.91
Benefit show		3 135.00
Raffle—tombola		1 209.98
Sale souvenir items		995.78
Donations		330.00
Food festival		<u>250.00</u>
<b>Total funds generated</b>		€ 8 457.67
<b>Application of funds</b>		
Loan amortization	(5 000.00)	
WienStrom—electricity for heating	(2 834.99)	
Deposit "Mano Po 6"	<u>(2 000.00)</u>	(9 834.99)
<b>Others</b>		
Bank charges	(59.92)	
Interest income	<u>18.24</u>	<u>(41.68)</u>
Deficit for the year ended Dec. 31 2009		(1 419.00)
Bank balance Dec. 31 2008		<u>14 567.42</u>
<b>Bank balance Dec. 31 2009</b>		<b>€ 13 148.42</b>

## Pondo ng Pinoy Fund Update

Remitted to Philippines: €1,500

For remittance: €3,874.08

# YOU,

**your family, and your friends  
are cordially invited  
to join our Community services and  
activities!**

Please note that unless otherwise indicated, the venue for **all** our services and activities is:

**Maria vom Berge Karmel Church**  
Stefan Fadinger Platz 1, A-1100 Vienna.

The closest (bus) station is "Gussriegelstrasse" and can be reached by taking:

- Bus 65A from U1 "Reumannplatz", or
- Bus 15A from U4 "Meidling Hauptstrasse" or U3 "Enkplatz"

Or, take tram no. 1 to the end station "Stefan Fadinger Platz"

<b>Donaucity Church</b>	Donaucity-Strasse 2, A-1220 Vienna U1 "Kaisermühlen/VIC"
<b>Mariahilf Church</b>	Barnabitengasse 14, A-1060 Vienna U3 "Neubaugasse"
<b>St. Stephen's Cathedral</b>	Stephansplatz 1, A-1010 Vienna U1 and U3 "Stephansplatz"

<b>Regular services</b>	<b>Sundays</b>	10:30h — 11:15h	Confession
		11:00h	Community Mass
		17:00h	Community Mass, Donaucity Church
	<b>Wednesdays</b>	12:30h	Mass and Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Donaucity Church
		18:30h	Mass and Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Mariahilf Church
	<b>Fridays</b>	18:30h	<b>First Friday</b> , Mass and Novena to the Divine Mercy
		18:30h	<b>Last Friday</b> , Mass and Novena to Our Lady of Peñafrancia
	<b>Saturdays</b>	19:00h	Anticipated Mass, St. Stephen's Cathedral

**PASTULAN**—The Official Newsletter of the Filipino Catholic Chaplaincy  
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**We're on the Web!**

Please visit the Website frequently for church announcements, news, photos from our events, information about our church organizations, private advertisements, etc. Please feel free to send your comments and suggestions for improvement to: webmaster@fcc-vienna.org