

PASTORAL



The Official Newsletter of the Filipino Catholic Chaplaincy, Archdiocese of Vienna, Austria

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Message from the Chaplain



Summertime is within our reach. In fact, the vacation begins in a week or two. John Denver's song, "Leaving on a jet plane" now echoes on the air waves, telling us that "all my bags are packed, I'm ready to go." For some, the travel is to a faraway place, others stay near. For many, home is where summer brings them to. One thing, however, is definite: all roads now lead to the favorite vacation rendezvous.

Human as we are, we all need vacations. Rest is a must for tired bodies and weary minds. A Latin adage would even re-

mind us that, "a healthy body means a healthy mind." Hence, vacations should be tailored to making us healthy and relaxed. Let us keep it happy, simple and safe. It should not make us mentally burned out, physically tired, and financially bankrupt. Vacations that offer us more harm than good are not worth aspiring for.

As we get busy with our individual vacation gimmicks, let us not forget to find time with the Lord. Including Him in our list of vacation buddies will be a meaningful experience. A few minutes or an hour of catching glimpses of His grace in the beauty of nature can also be cool and refresh-

ing. Yes, to rest with and in the Lord is never a waste of time. With Him, vacation is at its best. His offer to us always remains free and fresh, "come to me all you who are weary and find life burdensome, and I will refresh you." Little do we know it but resting with the Lord makes us free as the birds in the sky. It makes us bloom like lilies in the field. It makes us mellow like a vintage wine. It makes us even bear sweet fruits abundantly.

Rest if we must, but let us choose to rest even for a while with the Lord. A few moments with Him are truly enough to get a life of faith and love going in all of us!

I wish you all a lovely summer, and a happy and fruitful vacation!



Inside this issue:

Message from the Chaplain	1
2011 Summer camp and other youth activities	1
On becoming parents	2
And God said so	2
The way to our Curia	3
Queen month of the year	4
Pondo ng Pinoy	5
Community news	5
From our calendar	8

[Filipino Catholic Chaplaincy Youth Ministry](#)

2011 Summer Camp and other youth activities



Since April, the Chaplaincy's youth have been gathering on Friday evenings for fellowship and worship, and have organized such activities as a talents show, a visit to the *Haus des Meeres* and a fun-filled bowling evening.

Youth leaders Russel Bautista, Sharlene Sitthiprom, Sharmaine Heredia, Daira-Joy Dacillo, Monique Albancez, Ingracia Capino, Almar Rosimo, Ralph Pacheco, John Morada and Marvin Lay were introduced to the Pastoral Council and will continue to coordinate activities under the spiritual

guidance of Sr. Claire Marie Obrero. Father Bong Alejo, Father Jojo Villareal and many parents and individuals provide all activities with logistics and other needed support. Efforts are now being focused on a Summer Camp for about 35 participants to be held 7-13 August at the KJUBIZ Centre in Gross-Stelzendorf.

Activities are open to all youth, regardless of membership in other youth organizations.

On becoming parents

Five years ago, if you had told me that I would meet the woman of my dreams and have the most beautiful son I would have chuckled and changed the topic. But today, it is my reality, and I must say that I love every moment of it.

Cay and I realize that the arrival of our son Elijah Rene has made us the happiest we have ever been. It was one thing to get married - to go from dating and engagement into married life. Yes, it was challenging, and yes, there were times when we wanted to tape each other's mouths shut. But to go from not having a child to having a child is another earth-shattering thing altogether.

For Cay, it is noticeably different in every way. First of all, you have this beautiful tiny human that needs its mother in every way possible. Cay can't simply take a break from Elijah (well, she can at times, thanks to grandparents) because he needs to

be fed and comforted. As for me, although I try my hardest to help in this department, I know that there is a bond between mother and child that cannot be substituted. I feel it especially at times when I try to hold him when he is crying and Cay takes him from my arms: he is instantly soothed.



Vince, Cay and baby Elijah

Elijah knows who his mother is!

Asked if she feels this difference, Cay responded with a strong yes.

She said that it just feels different now that he is in the world. She said that she now feels more protective, not just over Elijah, but over me as well. She now knows what it means to sacrifice not just her time, but also her body, for another person. This is extremely profound.

My world, too, has changed: I also

feel more protective. When Elijah was born, the midwives commented that he was a bit small. That led me to pray as I never prayed before for a woman to produce more breast milk! I'm now interested about such things as health insurance and school-systems.

My earlier fears on becoming a father have been replaced with a firm resolution to be the best man that I can be. Not just for Cay and Elijah, but because that is what the Creator designed me to be. Like a soldier defending his country, I am both compelled and bound to this ideal.

Our world changed with the birth of our son: our life is different in an amazing and beautiful way. Cay and I agree that we cannot imagine how we lived before he was born, and we feel that through our marriage we are finally becoming the people that we were intended to be: mother and father. Although we have been parents for only a short while, we can say that becoming parents has been the most rewarding, beautiful, challenging, awesome and transformative experience that we have both gone through.

Vince Granado

And God said so...

How many times have you heard His voice?
How many times have you read His notes?
How many times have you listened to His songs?
Repeatedly, I know you have done it all

We might have stumbled and fallen
We might have been crushed and stepped on
There could be thrown stones and words
We might have been hurt so many times before

But look back and follow the road
Whenever you fall, the voice will ask you to stand tall
Whenever you feel crushed, you will hear His beautiful songs
Whenever you get hurt, Jesus is there to console your soul

There was never a time that you were left alone
In the darkness there is always light
For every rain there is always a rainbow
For every sacrifice there is always a blessing

We might not be able to see the beauty of trials at times

We might not have felt the love of God in the midst of pain
But remember this and remember this well
God said so, believe He will do so....

He gave His only begotten Son for the salvation of our souls
It was written IF GOD IS FOR US, WHO CAN BE AGAINST US
If God said so, He will do so
Believe it, His word is our salvation!

Father Almighty, we glorify Your name
We praise You and believe in Your will
Whatever comes, may Your will be done!
We are just Your servants until Your Kingdom comes!

Loy Vidallon



The way to our Curia

Around 6 years ago, we opened a small Presidium with the help of Sister Astrid Lööf and Brother Jess Messiner. We decided to call it Mary Mediatrix of all Graces, and we had our first meeting in a long corridor in a student home located at *Servitengasse*. As far as I can remember, we had 3 “members”

as friends. These friends progressively became auxiliaries and, some of them became active members. Today, we have 6 images of the Blessed Lady circulating in different households of the community, partly outside of Vienna. This is a joyful experience for us and for the families we visit. It sometimes feels as if



coming irregularly. We also moved quite often, first to the *Churhaus* on *Stephansplatz*, then to the former Legion of Mary Center on *Dorotheergasse*.

With the support of Sister Astrid, who advised and guided us about activities of the Legion, we started to do street apostolate on *Stephansplatz* on Saturdays and by distributing fliers about our activities after the mass of the Filipino community at *Stefan Fadinger Platz* on Sundays. About one year later, with the aim of uniting all the Filipino religious groups under one roof, our former chaplain, Father Jose Demoy, invited us to transfer to the *Maria vom Berge Karmel* church. I think this was really the beginning of our extension. We continued meeting every Monday evening, inviting community members to come and join us. Following a strong Filipino tradition, we started bringing the statue of Mother Mary to different households. This was another big turning point. Our members prayed with their families, introduced the Legion of Mary and we all got to know each other

we are really accompanied by the Blessed Mother, bringing graces to our friends and also to us.

Father Demoy suggested that we give a hand at the *Pensionistenheim Fortuna* on *Holbeingasse* and we have been doing this for almost three years now. I have to say it is very touching that many of the residents show appreciation for the presence of our group. As you know, Filipinos like to sing and one of our members, Sister Evelyn Martin, who has involved herself very much in this activity, is regularly requested to sing something joyful or adapted to the season of the year, for instance at Christmas. I mentioned one of our members specifically, but I think that one of the secrets of growth is the enthusiasm, the commitment and the time given by each of our members to all our endeavours.

There are many religious groups that meet and work under the Filipino Catholic Chaplaincy in Vienna, but I am really convinced that we were able to open a Curia because of the very close bonding and friendship between the members of our Legion

of Mary. Members really enjoy coming to our meetings, sometimes even to the point of cancelling other commitments. In fact, there are so many people and friends who help and support us that it is not possible to mention all of them. It feels as though a long chain of helping and caring hands has been established over all these years between Austrian and Filipino communities in Vienna. I hope that with the prayers and devotion to our Blessed Mother we can continue to grow, and do good work with all our new projects.

This is how another Filipino presidium, Mary Mother of our Savior, was opened 3 years ago. It now has 8 active members and 3 provisional legionaries. Due to the continually growing interest in the community, it was decided in January 2011 to open a third group, called Immaculate Conception, with currently 7 active members and 2 provisional legionaries. With three presidia, the next logical step was to open a *Curia* and this was officially done on 20 May 2011 in the presence Sister Elisabeth Ruepp, Sister Wiltrud Zecha and Brother Leo from the *Senatus*. The officers of the Curia Our Lady of Mount Carmel are:

- Sister Evangeline Wolf—President
- Sister Dina Olasa Godtz—Vice-President
- Sister Kristina Tan—Secretary
- Sister Charito Mina—Treasurer

Six years ago, I would not have imagined the formation of a Curia within the Filipino community. It has only been possible with the chain of support earlier mentioned. Thanks are due the Chaplaincy with Father Ely Dalanon, Father Bong Alejo and Father Cyril Villarreal (the Legion of Mary’s Spiritual Director), and the *Senatus*, with Father Florian Calice and Sister Elisabeth Ruepp, who has been a discrete but prime motivator behind the creation of our *Curia*. Thank you, too, to every Legionnaire for contributing to our work, let us pray for success in all our missions.

Dina Godtz

Queen month of the year

The merry month of May ushered in the *Santacruz* Festival, the Queen of all Fiestas honoring the Blessed Virgin Mary. It was introduced in our country during the Spanish period and continues to be celebrated by Filipinos all over the world. It is the highlight of the *Flores de Mayo* celebrations and is commemorated with different queens representing various aspects of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and other relevant figures.

According to the legend, Saint Helena, the mother of Constantine the Great (the first Roman emperor to convert to Christianity, and who ruled from 306 to 337 AC), went to Calvary 300 years after Christ's death to search for His cross. Not knowing which of the three crosses belonged to Christ, she had her sick servant lie on each one of them. The servant was cured upon touching one of the crosses, and it was that cross that was determined to be Christ's. Thus we celebrate, every year, the anniversary of the finding of Jesus Christ's cross with a very colourful festival.

This year, for the first time, the FCC in Vienna organized a *Santacruz* procession with the support of the different religious groups under the Chaplaincy. The beautiful and floral-bedecked statue of OUR LADY OF FATIMA was the highlight of the procession. Fr. Cyril Villareal led the praying of the Holy Rosary, the Marian Devotees recited the mysteries and led the singing of Marian songs. The procession wound its way clockwise around Stefan Fadinger Platz, and concluded in Maria vom Berge Karmel church for the celebration of Holy Mass and final flower offering for May.

Families, parents and members of the different religious groups were invited to contribute to this occasion by letting their daughters and sons represent the queens, the angels and all the other figures

in the procession. Everyone made a special effort to make the festival a celebration of superb colours, and fantastically beautiful costumes. It was heart-warming to watch the excited faces of our young angels. Perhaps the dresses and decorations were so beautiful that some of us had difficulty to concentrate on the praying of the rosary and the singing. Obviously also, parents and friends came with their *Nikon* and *Canon* to keep a souvenir of this big event but that somehow overshadowed the parade. So many *paparazzi* in action tended to make quite a lot of noise...*please pose, tingin dito, ngiti dito sa kamera*. But, this is our way and I think we all, nevertheless, enjoyed the procession very much.

In all its aspects, *Santacruz* tends to be a community Thanksgiving, and a celebration of our faith. If there's one thing that the FCC faithful can be proud of, it is the use of symbols to express our beliefs.

The festival organizers wanted to connect with young Filipino Austrians by giving them the chance to be introduced to and experience at first hand a sample of Filipino culture and tradition. For sure, the FCC should continue this colorful and unique Filipino tradition, and even now encourages potential participants to consider preparing for the 2012 celebration!

Kristina Tan



Königin Mohr – Filipinos die zum Islam bekehren

Königin Glauben – trägt ein Kreuz, Symbol d. ersten theologischen Tugendes

Königin Hoffnung – trägt einen Anker, Symbol d. zweiten theologischen Tugendes

Königin Nächstenliebe – trägt ein rotes Herz, Symbol d. dritten theologischen Tugendes

Königin Rechtsanwältin – trägt ein großes Buch, Verteidigerin der Armen und Unterdrückten

Königin Verurteilt – Hände sind gebunden, Symbol d. früheren Märtyrer

Königin Gerechtigkeit – trägt eine Waage und einen Schwert

Königin Judit – biblische Witwe, rettete ihre Stadt von den Assyrern indem sie Holofernes tötete; hält seinen Kopf und einen Schwert

Königin Sheba – war beeindruckt von König Salomon's Weisheit, Macht und Reichtum; trägt eine Schmuckkassette

Königin Ester – jüdische Königin von Persien, appelierte an Xerxes um ihr Volk zu retten

Divine Mercy Sunday, 1 May 2011



Father Castor Goliama gives the final blessing at the Community Mass said to mark Divine Mercy Sunday. Our Lord's Mercy grants forgiveness of all sins and punishment on the Feast of the Divine Mercy, Mercy Sunday, mercy for even the most hardened sinners.



On every Sunday in May, we concluded our Community Masses with floral offerings for Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Young and old alike were happy to place flowers at her feet.

Sacrament of First Holy Communion, 15 May 2011



Father Jojo Villareal administered the Sacrament of First Holy Communion to Joshua CLUTARIO, Nika DECHOSA, Hazel ZSHOR-NACK, Claudine CABILDO, Janie ARREZA, Sabrina-Marie GENOVE, Kimberly ARREZA, Jasmin ANTONIO, Aaliyah LUAREZ, Leonard REYES and Arizz NALOG at the Community Mass on 15 May. Lito Ramos and Nicole Savet prepared the children for this important step in their Christian life.

Pondo ng Pinoy remittance

Pondo ng Pinoy donations submitted until 31 May 2011 were counted, and the amount of Euro 3000 remitted to the Archdiocese of Manila. Thank you for supporting our *ka-babayans* who live in the home country under unfortunate conditions.

Community news

Fest der Begegnung, 22 May 2011

Under the theme *Ich bin Christ in Wien* the African, Asian and Latin American Catholic Communities of the Archdiocese of Vienna (ARGE AAG) organized for the first time a festival to showcase the diversity among member churches.

The festival started with the celebration of Holy Mass in the *Votivkirche* by Suffragan Bishop Franz Scharl, continued with agape and a musical program at the Sigmund-

Freud Park and concluded with an open-air *Maiandacht* presided by Cardinal Christoph Schönborn.

All program items included elements from the practice of Catholicism in the five continents.

The festival was so well-received that ARGE-AAG Rector Johannes Gönner and Secretary-General Alexander Kraljic indicated plans to host a similar event in 2012.



Dr. Regina Polak of the Catholic Theological Faculty at the University of Vienna interviewed Lharlhen Biag and John Morada about how Filipino youths born and raised in Vienna live their faith, and learned that religion is very much a part of their lives.



What dance could be more typical Filipino than *tinikling*? Our community was represented this time by youths Mariah Florendo and Jason Santiago (tutored by senior community members) and bamboo clapping assistants Joshua Clutario and Mary Florendo.



It is said of us, that we could dance before we even learned to walk. So, turn up the music and let's goooooo!!!



"Integration ist das große Stichwort... feiern wir mit unseren vielen "anderssprachigen" katholischen Gemeinden in und vor der *Votivkirche* ein Fest des gemeinsamen Glaubens, mit Gottesdienst, und dann mit Musik und Tanz, Essen und Trinken im *Votivpark*, in der ganzen bunten Vielfalt der "Weltkirche in Wien"; den Filipinos (was täten wir ohne diese Krankenschwestern!) und den Indern, den tiefgläubigen, leiderproben Vietnamesen, den Südamerikanern, um nur einige zu nennen. Sie alle haben im gemeinsamen Glauben Heimat in der Kirche Wiens gefunden und bereichern uns mit ihren Kulturen und ihrem Glauben." Kardinal Christoph Schönborn

Lange Nacht der Kirchen, 27 May 2011



More than 3,300 individual events in 715 churches in Austria participated in this yearly undertaking of the Christian churches belonging to the Ecumenical Council of the Church in Austria. The Slovak Republic and Hungary participated this year, using the same logo as in Austria.

For our part, we contributed to the Maria vom Berge Karmel program with traditional songs presented by our FCC Choir under the baton of Father Bong Alejo, and modern dances presented by members of our Youth Ministry.



And, of course, we offered the *pancit* that our Austrian brethren have grown to love.

Sacrament of Confirmation, 2 June 2011



Ronald Ken
Orense, Donita
Anne Pascual,
Raphael Jeff Pa-
tron, Alexander
Raphael Pöhl,
Aaron John
Ponce, Kara Fyan
Riamy Sanceda,
Kara Fyan Riana
Sanceda, and

The following received the sacrament of Confirmation in a Mass officiated by Bishop Scharl: Christien Venirose Abainza, Gilyn Annadel Agbon, Rodel Vincent Agbon, Danika Aguado, Vanessa Mae Aguilon, Cassandra Lee Arellano, Kevin Joshua Bautista, Dominic Larrie Biag, Romer Biscocho, April Marie Borja, Franczeska Yzabelle

Caguicla, Lorraine Mer Cortez, Vanessa De Chavez, Adrian Carl Dimaano, Marvin Elevado, Aaron Espino, Camille Feliciano, Don Galagar, Patrick Höfingler, Beatrix Lovely Krenovsky, Cliff Darrell Mabesa, Mary Joy Malinao, Deanne Mil-lary Maranan, Kevin Louie Maxion, Carla Conchita Mercado, Bienna Ressa Noel, Billy Joe Orense, Larra Jane Orense,

Jorge Emmanuel Villanueva.

The preparations for this sacrament have been undertaken since January under the supervision of Father Bong Alejo and Sr. Claire Marie Obrero with the help of Linda Cervantes, Alice Holitz, Flor Oandasan, and Aida Rodriguez.

Pfarrfest (Austrian community), 19 June 2011

The Austrian community at the Parish of Maria vom Berge Karmel organized its annual *Pfarrfest* with a grill cookout, and traditional *Kaffee und Kuchen*. The Filipino Pastoral Council organized the sale of such delicacies as *siopao*, *empanada*, *suman*, *cuchinta* and *pancit*, and donated the net proceeds of €500 to the Austrian community.

The charity organization GeoChris Foundation was given permission to sell handicrafts from indigenous groups in Palawan and Mindanao, and netted €212.40 for their various projects.

***Maraming salamat po!
Thank you very much! Vergelt's Gott!***



From our calendar

Day	Time	Service / Activity
July 2011		
1	18:30h	First Friday Devotion
3	11:00h	Jesus' Time, at MvBK Community Mass
8-9		Youth ministry Sports Festival
9	9-11h	Voluntary church cleaning: El Shaddai
10		Our Lady of Mount Carmel Feast Day (Patrozinium) Holy Mass with the Austrian community
17	11:00h	Jesus' Time, at MvBK Community Mass
	17:00h	Youth Mass
23	9-5h	Talk on Family by Father Gaston (Vatican consultant on family matters and Rector, Kollegium Filipino, Rome) with pot-luck lunch
24	12:00h	Food Festival (fund-raising for Youth Ministry, coordinated by El Shaddai)
30	9-11h	Voluntary church cleaning: FGS
August 2011		
05	18:30h	First Friday Devotion
7-13		Youth Summer Camp KJUBIZ Gross-Stelzendorf
14	11:00h	Jesus' Time, at MvBK Community Mass
15-21		World Youth Day 2011 (Madrid, Spain)
20	9-11h	Voluntary church cleaning: CFC
28	11:00h	Jesus' Time, at MvBK Community Mass
September 2011		
2	18:30h	First Friday Devotion
9-16	18:30h	Novena Masses for Our Lady of Peñafrancia
11	11:00h	Jesus' Time, at MvBK Community Mass
	16:00h	Holy Mass for Linz Community
17		Fluvial procession in honour of Our Lady of Peñafrancia
18	11:00h	Thanksgiving Mass in honour of Our Lady of Peñafrancia
	17:00h	Youth Mass
25	11:00h	Feast of San Lorenzo Ruiz, Holy Mass and Agape
		Jesus' Time, at MvBK Community Mass
October 2011		
2	18:30h	First Friday Devotion
9	11:00h	Feast of Our Lady of Manaoag, Holy Mass and agape
		Jesus' Time, at MvBK Community Mass
16	16:00h	Holy Mass for Linz Community

YOU,

**your family, and your friends
are cordially invited to 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"

Donaacity Church Donaacity-Strasse 2, A-1220 Vienna
U1 "Kaisermühlen/VIC"

Mariahilf Church Barnabiten-gasse 14, A-1060 Vienna
U3 "Neubaugasse"

St. Stephen's Cathedral Stephansplatz 1, A-1010 Vienna
U1 and U3 "Stephansplatz"

Regular services	Sundays	10:30h — 11:15h	Confession
		11:00h	Community Mass
		17:00h	Community Mass, Donaacity Church
	Wednesdays	12:30h	Mass and Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Donaacity Church
		18:30h	Mass and Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Mariahilf Church
	Fridays	18:30h	First Friday , Mass and Holy Hour
		18:30h	Last Friday , Mass and Novena to Our Lady of Peñafrancia
	Saturdays	19:00h	Anticipated Mass, St. Stephen's Cathedral

Happy summer holidays!

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(African, Asian and Latin American Catholic Communities, Archdiocese of Vienna, Austria)

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