



SANCTUARY

www.magnificatcharismaticcommunity.org

SEPTEMBER 2007

*Lord, prepare me to be a Sanctuary. Pure and holy, tried and true.
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living Sanctuary for You.*



Saint Michael the Archangel

Feast of the Archangels; Michael, Gabriel, Raphael,
Saturday, September 29th.

Prayer to Saint Michael

St Michael the Archangel,
defend us in battle,
be our protection against the
wickedness and snares
of the devil;
may God rebuke him,
we humbly pray;
and do Thou, O Prince
of the Heavenly Hosts,
by the Power of God,
thrust into hell Satan
and all evil spirits
who wander through the world
for the ruin of souls. Amen.

Saint Michael Great Prince and
Guardian of Thy people, come
with Holy Archangels; Gabriel and
Raphael to guard and protect us!
Saint Michael Great Prince and
Guardian of thy people, come with
the Holy Archangels and Saints to
guard and protect us!

Saint Michael the Archangels
Guardian and Protector of the
Church, and the Kingdom of Jesus
Christ on Earth, and Guardian
and Protector of the Most Blessed
Sacrament of, guard and protect
us this day and night. Amen.

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MAGNIFICAT CHARISMATIC PRAYER COMMUNITY

(A Covenanted Catholic Community)

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Magnificat,

TO HAVE "FAITH" WHAT DOES THAT REALLY MEAN?

Everybody knows Mother Teresa of Calcutta who died ten years ago and has been beatified. A new book called "*Come, be My light*", in which Father Brian Kolodiejchuck, the postulator for Mother Teresa's canonization, compiles and edits her writings, is now being published. It caused a storm in the media because her private correspondence with confessors and superiors (many preserved against her wishes) reveal that for the last half-century of her life she felt no presence of God whatsoever neither in her heart or in the Eucharist. It started from the time she began tending the poor and dying in Calcutta. Always smiling in public, Teresa lived in a state of abiding spiritual pain. "I speak as if my heart was in love with God, tender, personal love." If you were there, you would have said: "What hyprocrisy".

When Father read one of her letters to her sisters, their mouths just dropped open. He remarks: "I have never read a saint's life, where the saint had such an intense spiritual distress". We know of many saints that had periods of the "dryness", "darkness", "loneliness" and "torments" that Mother Teresa speaks of. Therese of Lisieux, the little flower, experienced it for nine years and she died at age 24. St. John of the Cross speaks of it as "the dark night of the soul" as a characteristic stage of growth towards mystical union. The darkness is within faith. Thomas Merton compares it with being caught up in a dense jungle hacking your way through. But, he says, if you look up you catch a glimpse of the starry sky. Mother Teresa since 1960 found a way to live with it. She did not abandon her beliefs nor her work.

Of course, the secular press and the atheists got a hold of this as a great sensation. Time magazine puts as title on the cover: *The Secret Life of Mother Teresa*. For our 21st century journalism, reality is brought near through the personal experiences or flaws of a "Star" and is shocked that she experience doubt and had to wrestle with the same life questions like all of us. The atheist Christopher Hitchens says, "She was no more exempt from the realization that religion is a human fabrication than any other person, and that her attempted cure of more and more confessions of faith, could only have deepened the pit she had dug for herself.

For believing people that have experienced some or a lot of doubt, or the absence of God in their lives, it puts in perspective what faith really means. It is not just a soft feeling but a trusting faithfulness. The letters of Mother Teresa will be up there compared with St. Augustine's confessions. As Martin of the magazine, *America* says: Her story and her letters is a "new ministry" for her, just as important as the ministry to the poor, for atheist, doubters, seekers and believers. One of the priests recalls that she told him how he could become a holy priest. "First thing in the morning, kiss the crucifix. Offer Him everything you will say or do or think during the day. Love Him with a deep, personal, intimate love, and you will become a holy priest"

Mother Teresa's confidences show us what faith and faithfulness is and reveal a depth of holiness not seen before in her because she was so "ordinary". She loved Jesus to the fullest and maybe we can say that He shared with her the darkest moment of the Cross: "My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?" She accepted all the interior and exterior sufferings God gave her as a privilege, not with a helpless or passive resignation but rather she radiated the joy of belonging to God, of living with Him. After the passion would come the resurrection. "*What a wonderful gift from God to be able to offer Him the emptiness I feel*". Another quotation: "True love is surrender, the more we love, the more we surrender." If we really love souls, we must be ready to take their place, to take their souls upon us and face the anger of God. It is only then that we make ourselves their means and them our end. In 1946, Mother Teresa had a mystical encounter with Christ in which He said: "Come, be my light". Her mission continues for any one of us (which I suspect may be all of us) who grasp sometimes in the dark and meaninglessness and still know in faith that we are called to be faithful.

God loves you and so do I!

Father Matthew Robbertz.
Magnificat Spiritual Director



Dear Magnificat Brothers and Sisters,

As summer time draws to a close, it's time for the last few days' vacation, it's time for kids to go back to school and it's time to go back to our work routine. Summer is the best time of the year because of its warm weather. This is the perfect time to do outdoor activities and to visit the beautiful places of Canada.

This summer, our hard-working brothers and sisters have continued to volunteer their time and services. Every day and every Saturday, these volunteers are so enthusiastic to go to Regina Mundi to clean, repair and renovate the villas that need to be fixed. Some volunteers enjoy taking care of planting flowers, annual plants and vegetables. Because of them, Regina Mundi is well-maintained and cleaned. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers for their hard work and dedication. Your hard work is much appreciated - *thank you so much!*

Now that we are back to normal work routine, we want to remind everybody about the schedule of Magnificat activities such as our own Saturday Devotion to the Divine Mercy, prayer meeting and anticipated mass. Starting this September, we are moving the start time from 2:30 p.m. to **2:00 p.m.** so that we can devote more of our time to our prayer meeting. The venue is also moved to **Vanier Hall** (Chapel if Vanier Hall is occupied).

We have now a schedule of "*prayer leaders*" for every Saturday prayer meeting at Regina Mundi. During the first Saturday of every month, the Daughters of the King will be leading the prayer meeting. The second Saturday to be led by the Apostles and the third Saturday to be led by the Council Members. Then the last Saturday is the general assembly prayer meeting to be coordinated by the Council Members, Apostles and Daughters of the King. Format will be announced one week before the general assembly prayer meeting. We ask our community members to support our activities at Regina Mundi and would welcome any suggestions on how to implement and/or improve our prayer meetings especially ideas for our general assembly prayer meeting.

Praise and thank God for calling us to be His servants through this Magnificat Community. Indeed, God is so good for giving us this beautiful Regina Mundi Retreat Centre, our second home where God wants us to congregate to give Him praise and glory. This is the place where we all gather, become one in heart and in mind. This is the place where we found God's love. Where there is love, there is God. We know that our loving God is always waiting for us at Regina Mundi every Saturday (or anytime). Therefore, let us say **YES** to God's invitation and show our love and faithfulness to Him. Let us obey his word and be a faithful servant. We can only cultivate faithfulness by obeying God's word. "*If you love me, obey my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you forever.*" (John 14:15-16)

We also would like to remind the members that the Magnificat community is under the auspices of the Archdiocese of Toronto. Deacon Carlos Nogueira of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal Council (CCRC) is the Archbishop's Liaison. Magnificat is part of the CCRC. The CCRC has prayer group members from all the areas of Metro Toronto. Being located in the north zone, Magnificat is under the North Zone Group of the CCRC. Every year, CCRC and the North Zone Group are hosting a big religious seminar for all its prayer group members and this is where we learn great things about our religious faith. Awesome speakers are invited who give inspiration and help deepen our understanding of our religious faith.

We pray that beginning this September, we will all see you at Regina Mundi every Saturday. Remember, *where there is love, there is God* and you will find these at Regina Mundi, the wonderful gift of God to us. May God bless you always!

Your loving servants,

Joe & Annie Lapid

Joe & Annie Lapid
Presiding Elders

MY SOUL REJOICES IN GOD MY SAVIOUR!

July 13, 2007

As I take a walk on the grounds of Regina Mundi, I can feel and taste the goodness of the Lord especially these days that the flowers are already in bloom. I praise and thank the Lord for the privilege to serve Him in the Magnificat Community and in this beautiful place. When I'm in the Philippines, I tell my friends that the only reasons I want to go back to Canada are to be with my family, five children with their spouses and ten grandchildren and to be at Regina Mundi where God's presence is so transparent in the peacefulness and beauty of nature. By the front of St. Elizabeth Seton Church there is a plaque that says: "God's laughter is heard in the sound of the birds". The beauty of nature is seen at Regina Mundi in the bees, the different species of birds, the fireflies at night which you don't see in the city, the trees, the fishes in the creek, the flowers, the greenery of the place, the clean air etc, most especially the Real Presence of the Lord in our chapel where sometimes I feel I can just touch Him. **PTL!**

There are angels who come here practically every day to keep Regina Mundi the way it is now. Paps, Toton, Bobot, and Joe. Paps is very good with the outdoors. Sometimes Tatay, Paps Dad, also comes and help me in the garden. Toton's favorite job is in Vanier Hall, but just recently he also fixed the windows in the Barn. Now the raccoons have no more access into the Barn. Bobot is like the foreman; he has a lot of ideas. Joe is like the supervisor and Johnny is my assistant in the garden and he assists everybody. His specialty is cooking sinigang for lunch. Sometimes I would catch Paps, or Toton, or Bobot praying in the chapel. They inspire me. They are the real St. Joseph of the Community. There are other angels who come often like Bro. Lito and Mary, their son and Bro. Honorio. Bro. Manny & Sis. Lydia, Paul & Ophie also the Daughters of the King (DK): the two Coras, Mercy, Sally. The D.K. led by Thelma & Dean restored the small house into a book & gift shop. Helen waters the plants in the Oratory and she washes the dirty linens in the laundry mat. There are others we can depend on in case of emergency: Sonia, Nora, Lita, Estela, Diana. The Villa Marie was renovated by the Apostles headed by Marc Cusi & Bro. Boy Herrera. Marc also installed our Fire Alarm System, and we saved a lot of money. **PTL!** The St. Joseph's kitchen was fixed by ME 15 with all their resources, e.g. money & manpower. Luisa takes care of the altar & all the linens for the liturgy. Of course, we can call on Jun anytime for anything like drinking water, pangsinigang, rice, etc, and he also helps the "guys". Alice is good with cooking. Bro. Ernie Cruz & Bro. Rene provided the volleyball net and also put it up. (Bro Rene's upo are already big with a lot of flowers). The long beans from Bro. Vic are also doing so well. Bro. Gilbert planted many 'Rose of Sharon' by the statue of Mama Mary in Villa Marie and at the Oratory, and they are all looking well. The pool, Guimoy's "baby", with Paps' help is crystal clean and very inviting.

There are more and more members & families who come here especially on the weekends for picnics, swimming, etc. God is very, very good.

From Psalm 104:

*Lord, you have made so many things!
How wisely you made them all!
The earth is filled with your creatures.
All of them depend on you.*

*May the glory of the Lord last forever!
May the Lord be happy with what He has made!*

*I will sing to the Lord all my life;
As long as I live I will sing praises to my God.
May He be pleased with my song,
For my gladness comes from Him.*

Nanette A. Cruz

SANTA MARTHA 2007



Sta. Marta Feast Day and Annual Picnic Celebration

This year's festivities was, once again, well attended by the devotees and friends of Sta. Marta. Highlight of the annual picnic, among other fun activities, was the celebration of the Holy Mass. And, for the first time in North America, a "fluvial" float parade of Sta. Marta in the small river creek of Regina Mundi Retreat Centre, Queensville, ON where the annual picnic was held. See you all next year!

**Visiting Priest from the Philippines
Fr. Blas Briones of Ibaday, Aklan**



The Magnificat Community welcomes everyone to come and visit our Retreat Centre – a “gift” of God to us. Our Blessed Mother, together with her Beloved Son, Jesus, at the Oratory and our Lord at the tabernacle in the Chapel beckons everyone to come to this serene place where peace, love, prayer and fellowship reigns. This was attested by Fr. Blas a visiting priest from the Philippines who celebrated the Holy Mass with the community members and friends. We thank all our visiting priests (& guests) who have come to Regina Mundi. Hope to see you again.

CCRC Christ the King Conference

Saturday, November 24th - 8:30 am to 6:00 pm

Canada Christian College 50 Gervais Drive (Don Mills & Eglinton)

Separate Youth Track-Skits, Youth Music, Youth Evangelization

Tickets: Adult - \$15 before Nov 9 (\$20 after Nov 9); Youth - \$5

Make cheques/bank drafts payable to: CCRC

Mail to: CCRC - 2671 Islington Ave. Toronto, M9V 2X6

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ACTIVITIES

Saturdays

2:00 – Holy Rosary

3:00 – Devotion to the Devine Mercy
Prayer Meeting

4:00 – Anticipated Sunday Mass

Devotion to the Sacred Heart

*Every First Friday of the Month
(7:30 p.m. – Chapel)*

October 13 – Fall Dinner & Dance

October 23 – Arrival of Fr. Teo Rustia

**Oct. 27 & 28 - Daughters of the King
Retreat**

Nov. 9, 10 & 11 – M.E. #32 Retreat

Dec. 8 & 9 – M.E. Grand Reunion



Magnificat Prayer Community

Fall Dinner & Dance Party

Saturday, October 13, 2007
Time: 6:30pm till 1:00 am
Milliken Mills Community Centre
North Hall and South Hall
7600 Kennedy Road (near 14th Avenue)
Markham, Ontario
Attire: strictly formal
DJ- REMMV Sound Systems
Includes dinner, entertainment & door prizes!!!

Admit One
\$25.00

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