



SANCTUARY

www.magnificatcharismaticcommunity.org

December 2006

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



PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD...1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The season of Advent is upon us, a time when we prepare to celebrate the coming of *Jesus, our Lord and Saviour*. We are caught up in a multitude of tasks; buying gifts, writing cards, baking treats, visiting with loved ones, travel plans, etc. – hoping for the best-laid plans. God's plans, however, are *always* fulfilled. Two thousand years ago, in a stable in Bethlehem, a tiny babe, both human and divine, came into our world. *"The Messiah"* – the greatest gift the world has ever known!

Jesus speaks of the day when he will return *"with power and great glory"*. He urges us to be prepared to stand before him. *"Be on guard,"* he pleads; *"be alert"*. Jesus asks us to free ourselves from early things and prepare for the moment of our redemption.

Paul sums up Jesus' desires for us *"Abound in love for one another and for all"*. As we joyfully await the Feast of Nativity, let us mark our Advent path with the signs of love: acceptance, patience, caring, compassion, and little acts of kindness and forgiveness.



My Dear Magnificat Family,

There are Christmas carols and Christmas carolers. The Magnificat Music Ministry caroling tops them all. No “sariling atin” “love your own” mentality here. It was really something, that 45-minute Christmas caroling which I was privileged to experience. It was a high point in my short visit. It was tops for me because it delivered the message: Give love on Christmas. For this is what Christmas caroling is all about. It hanks back to what Pope Benedict XVI has done. To tell his children in these times of anxieties and fears to hold on to love. For God is love. “Deus Caritas Est”.

With that caroling treat, I realize more than even what is the role of Magnificat and the place of Regina Mundi in this troubled world. To be an oasis of faith, hope and love for all pilgrim families. In my short visit, I read in the daily papers of people queuing for hours, staking their place in a line overnight in subzero weather just to have a piece of cold turkey courtesy of Honest Ed’s. I read how celebrities bare their bosom, may even their very private - paging Britney Spear! - for the sake of being in the news. I realized this is a world gone berserk. All want love. But no God.

The message of Christmas remains. God so loved the world He gave us His only son. Perhaps after all these Christmases, there will come a time people would learn to understand, accept and live with this love. Perhaps Magnificat could be an inspiration even for a few who would get a chance. Like me. The Magnificat carolers did their bit to give love on Christmas. Will the rest of us follow?

I leave with a prayer I found in the Catholic Digest, December 2006 issue (p.55)

“May the love of the newborn Christ surround you, and release in you compassion and care for others.

“May the joy of the Holy family enrich you in traveling through life”

“May the peace of the risen Christ empower you ... in all your longings ...”

“And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you and your families. And all in the family of God’s creation. Now throughout this Christmastime and forever more. Amen”

With love for you,


Fr. Teo Rustia
Spiritual Advisor & Founder of the
Magnificat Charismatic Prayer Community

***“Don’t be afraid! I am here with good news for you, which will bring great joy to all the people. This very day in David’s town your Saviour was born - Christ the Lord!”
(Luke 2:10-11)***

Christmas is one of the most important times of the year because our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, was born.

The feast of Christmas is a very special occasion and a time for us not only to reflect on Jesus’ love for us but also to respond to his love by demonstrating love for each other.

Christmas is and has always been an extraordinary time for sharing and giving. It is a time for peace, love and goodwill among the people. It is the season for celebration and for renewal. It is also a time for us to forget the things that have divided us during the course of the year and to celebrate the things that binds us together as a community and children of God.

This year is the most challenging year for Magnificat Community. But we witness the faithfulness and loyalty of those members who remain in the community. They’re strong and courageous. With their faith in God, they were able to endure. They stay together and follow the divine will of God. *“I command you – be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” (Joshua 1:9)*

The 2006 Christmas celebration is our first time with the Magnificat community as Presiding Elders. As we reflect on our blessings as a community, it is also important that we reflect on the true and eternal spirit of the season. May the spirit of Christmas give our community the sense of love, of togetherness, of unity, of giving and sharing. May this be the time to build the kind of respect for each other that help us to be stronger.

We thank and praise God for His goodness. Thank you God for always in our midst. Thank you God for your guidance and blessings.

May your Christmas and the coming New Year be blessed by the Lord!

With the love of Jesus & Mary,

Bro. Joe & Sis. Annie Lapid

Joe and Annie Lapid: Called to God's Service

They were chosen right from the start, when Fr. Rustia first came to this country in 1987 to heed God's call to bring His Filipino children closer to Him. With Fr. Rustia was a small core group of Filipinos who would be with him, providing support as he started to build his community initially through seminars, prayer meetings, healing masses, weekend retreats and encounters, and even house and business blessings. This small group of five included Dionisia "Mommy Donna" Eusebio, Boy and Ely Ruperto, and with them, a quiet, unassuming and dedicated couple – Joe and Annie Lapid. Anywhere the Spirit took the much-in-demand Father, they were right there beside him. They were among those who helped scatter the seeds of a community about to be born. They cast far and wide and were determined to see it grow like a great tree. And grow it did, the Magnificat Catholic Charismatic Community, which has spread its branches and bore fruit in a twenty-year span.

Twenty years... and all this time, Annie and Joe chose to remain in the sidelines, not expecting anything in return, least of all, any recognition or honour. They were there to serve God and His people. Today, they are no longer in the shadows because they have been called to be in the front lines, as the newly-anointed Presiding Elders of the Magnificat community.

But the road to where they are now has not exactly been a smoothly paved road. Indeed, they often rode the rough waves of life. Years before migrating to Canada, Annie's father passed away unexpectedly. Annie suddenly found herself the big responsibility of looking after her brother and five sisters. Joe, without any hesitation or reservation, stood by her to give support and strength to carry on with her commitment to them. When the young newlyweds left the homeland to find a new life in Canada, they continued to take responsibility for looking after her brother and sisters, even as they struggled to raise their own young growing family and in the intervening years, endeavoured to bring each one of her sisters and their families to this country so that they could live closer to each other and realize a better life in Canada. With typical diligence and care, they succeeded admirably in spite of the numerous challenges and setbacks. Yet through all this, they have never been known to boast of such an accomplishment.

Joe and Annie have been solid supporters of the Magnificat community – they are part of its foundation. Over the years, they have faced difficulties not only in their personal lives, but as members of this community. These challenges have been big enough to make the ordinary person give up and accept defeat. But these two are not ordinary persons. It has to be recognized that for a long time now, Joe and Annie Lapid have had a deep thirst for the Spirit and a solid grounding in God, full of compassion shaped by a sense of community, prayer and service to others.

Someone once wrote "God does not call the prepared: He prepares the called." This is true indeed of Joe and Annie. Just like testing gold with fire, our new Presiding Elders have been through the test of fire. And they are indeed, solid gold. As they begin this journey at the helm of this great community, we can only give them continued support with these heartening words:

Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid...for the Lord thy God, He it is that doth go with thee; He will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. (Deuteronomy 31:6)

Patti Candido

DAUGHTER'S OF THE KING RETREAT WEEKEND December 2 – 3, 2006



"Abound in love for one another and for all." 1 Thess 3

The community is pleased to present to you the graduates of the seventh Daughters of the King Retreat – Vanier Hall, Regina Mundi. Such is the wonderful event that took place during the two-day retreat given by our beloved Fr. Teo Rustia. Conference centered on the theme of "LOVE" – "Love is a many splendored thing"; "What I did for Love"; "Power of Love" and "How do I Love Thee".

Lord, these are your children (19 of them) who have answered to your call to come to know you more, to love you more and to serve you more! They have come looking, searching for You and at last, they have found YOU! Continue to keep the fire burning in their hearts to love and serve you through one another, in their families and in our community.

Our gratitude to all who made this retreat possible and successful! GOD BE PRAISED!





Dear Ate Louie/Kuya Jr.

I hope it's not too late to write this letter but I wanted to tell you that I read with much enthusiasm and interest the latest Magnificat's Sanctuary Newsletter you sent me today and I must say that I was happy to read that the Magnificat Community now has a much respected, loved and deserved elders in Joe and Annie Lapid. When I read it was Joe and Annie, I wasn't surprise at all with the results of the discernment because this couple was very much part of the community right from the start and are anointed to lead. They've been with the Maginificat Community through thick and thin and as I read their "letter" I couldn't help but may be the time was right for them to step up to the plate, be bold and be brave and serve the Lord with gladness by serving the Community in their capacity as elders. But they are not alone, you have people in the community who have great faith in God and faith in one another to support them and, of course, the pillars of spiritual support in the likes of Father Teo and Father Matt. I pray to God that their tenure as elders will bear much fruit not for their glory but for the glory of God we all serve! I couldn't help but imagine Momma Donna smiling up there in heaven.

Also, I like to congratulate you and Ate Louie for a job well-done leading the members in vigil, prayers as they went through intense prayer and discernment. I know it wasn't an easy job to do but it bear fruit – the Holy Spirit led everyone in making the right decision. Keep up the good job! Yes, there is nothing impossible with God. Continue your work in the Lord however small it is do with love. Well, this is it for now. Magnificat will always have a special place in my heart. It molded me to become a person God wanted to be. God is good!

God Bless and send my best regards to the new elders, Annie and Joe Lapid. Remember – “where there is LOVE there is GOD”! Rest assure that the Community and its members are included in my prayers.

Your brother/brother-in-law,

Deacon Ramon Villardo
Our Lady of Fatima Shrine

*"Happy moments, praise God. Difficult moments, seek God. Quiet moments, worship God.
Painful moments trust God. Every moment, thank God."*

For continuous healing of our members, those who are suffering and in pain, most especially;

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Linda Belen | Nenita Espiritu |
| Sally Getigan | Joey Basa |
| Patti Candido | Luisa Claudio |
| Boy Ruperto | Vilma De Sousa |
| Ron & Mildred Mariano | |
| Lenny Visaya | |
| Lilia Quiroz | |
| Lolita Belo | |
| Sarah Reyes | |
| Eddie Yarra | |
| Lydia Ballesteros | |
| Myrna Libatique | |

All the names listed in our "Book of Healing" offered at the Chapel, Regina Mundi

We pray to the Lord.....Lord, hear our prayer!

For those who have died in the hope of eternal life, most especially;

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Rodito Estaires | Antonio Dela Cruz |
| Cesareo Albano | Adelaida Dela Cruz |
| Lourdes Lapid | Mercy Dela Cruz |
| Ramiro Armena | Jess Dela Cruz |
| Jesus & Flora Gutierrez | Cesareo Cludio |
| Manuel Saret | Maximo Junta Jr. |

Family members, relatives and friends
 All the suffering souls in Purgatory
 All the names listed in our "Book of Remembrance" offered at the Chapel, Regina Mundi

"Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.....AMEN!"

Other Feast Days Celebrated for the months of December & January

December

- Dec. 7 – St. Ambrose
- Dec. 8 – THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
- Dec. 9 – St. Juan Diego
- Dec. 10 – 2nd Sunday of Advent
- Dec. 11 – St. Damasus I
- Dec. 12 – Our Lady of Guadalupe
- Dec. 13. – St. Lucy
- Dec. 14 – St. John of the Cross
- Dec. 17 – 3rd Sunday of Advent
- Dec. 21 – St. Peter Canisius
- Dec. 23 – St. John of Kanty
- Dec. 24 – 4th Sunday of Advent
- Dec. 25 – THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (Christmas)
- Dec. 26 – St. Stephen
- Dec. 27 – St. John
- Dec. 28 – The Holy Innocents
- Dec. 29 – St. Thomas Becket
- Dec. 31 – THE HOLY FAMILY OF THE JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

January

- Jan. 1 – The Blessed Virgin Mary Mother of God
- Jan. 2 – St. Basil the Great & St. Gregory Nazianzen
- Jan. 5 – First Friday – Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus
- Jan. 6 – First Saturday – Devotion to Our Lady
- Jan. 6 – Solemnity of Epiphany
- Jan. 7 – Feast of The Baptism of the Lord
- Jan. 13 – St. Hilary
- Jan. 14 – 2nd Sunday In Ordinary Time
- Jan. 17 – St. Anthony
- Jan. 20 – Sts. Fabian and Sebastian
- Jan. 21 – 3rd Sunday In Ordinary Time
- Jan. 22 – St. Vincent
- Jan. 24 – St. Francis de Sales
- Jan. 25 – The Conversion of St. Paul
- Jan. 26 – Sts. Timothy and Titus
- Jan. 27 – St. Angela Merici
- Jan. 28 – 4th Sunday In Ordinary Time
- Jan. 31 – St. John Bosco

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**MAGNIFICAT CHARISMATIC PRAYER COMMUNITY
(A Covenanted Catholic Community)**

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SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

- Dec. 6 – (Wed.) 7:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist with healing Service by Fr. Teo Rustia**
Vanier Hall, Regina mundi
- Dec. 8 – (Fri) 7:00 p.m. CHRISTMAS DINNER/DANCE**
Vanier Hall, Regina Mundi
- Dec. 9 (Sat.) - 1:00 p.m. – Apostles Meeting
2:30 p.m. – Holy Rosary,
Divine Mercy Devotion, prayer meeting
4:00 p.m. Anticipated HOLY MASS
- Dec. 10 (Sun) – One-Day Advent Recollection by Fr. Teo Rustia**
Installation of our Presiding Elders, Bro. Joe & Sis. Annie Lapid
- Dec. 12 – DEPARTURE OF FR. TEO TO THE PHIL.
- Dec. 16 (Sat) 2:30 p.m. – Holy Rosary, Devotion to the
3:00 p.m. Divine Mercy & Prayer Meeting
4:00 p.m. Anticipated HOLY MASS
6:00 – 9:00 p.m. DK Vigil
- Dec. 23 (Sat) 2:30 p.m. – Holy Rosary, Devotion to the
3:00 p.m. Divine Mercy & Prayer Meeting
4:00 p.m. Anticipated HOLY MASS
- Dec. 30 (Sat) 2:30 p.m. – Holy Rosary, Devotion to the
3:00 p.m. Divine Mercy & Prayer Meeting
4:00 p.m. Anticipated HOLY MASS
- Jan. 6 (Sat.) - 11:00 a.m. – Council of Elders Meeting
2:30 p.m. – Holy Rosary,
Divine Mercy Devotion, prayer meeting
4:00 p.m. Anticipated HOLY MASS
- Jan. 13 (Sat.) - 1:00 p.m. – Apostles Meeting
2:30 p.m. – Holy Rosary,
Divine Mercy Devotion, prayer meeting
4:00 p.m. Anticipated HOLY MASS
- Jan. 20 (Sat) 2:30 p.m. – Holy Rosary, Devotion to the
3:00 p.m. Divine Mercy & Prayer Meeting
4:00 p.m. Anticipated HOLY MASS
6:00 – 9:00 p.m. DK Vigil