



# SANCTUARY

www.magnificatcharismaticcommunity.org

MAY 2007

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



## HAIL MARY, FULL OF GRACE

**Our Lady of Fatima** is the title given to the [Blessed Virgin Mary](#) by [Catholics](#) and others who believe that she appeared to three shepherd children at [Fátima, Portugal](#) on the 13th day of six consecutive months in 1917 (starting on May 13, 1917). The title of **Our Lady of the Rosary** is also used in reference to the same apparition; the children related that the apparition specifically identified herself as "*the Lady of the Rosary*".

*MARY is the Mother of Our Lord; Queen of Heaven and Earth and Our Loving Mother!*  
The *Rosary* is a means, a tool, to venerate Mary, not to worship her. Because of Her special relationship to Her Son, Our Lord, she is to be loved and honored.

The month of May is dedicated to our Blessed Mother and the Holy Rosary. Pray that all people may come to a greater appreciation of *Jesus* and his *Blessed Mother* through the mysteries of the Rosary.

*Our Lady of the Rosary, we come on bended knees. To ask you to intercede for us - to Jesus, lovingly.*

**HOLY MARY, MOTHER OF GOD AND OUR MOTHER, PRAY FOR US, SINNERS, NOW AND AT THE HOUR OF OUR DEATH....AMEN!**

### SANCTUARY

MAGNIFICAT CHARISMATIC PRAYER COMMUNITY  
(A Covenanted Catholic Community)

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*Newsletter published every month as means of information for the Community. This newsletter is a supplement to the official publication of Magnificat, the Angelus.*



Dear brothers and sisters of "Magnificat",

Nature is on its prettiest in May and that might have something to do with dedicating this month to Mary. But let us be honest: we are not always enthusiastic about it and not always sure how to take our relationship with her; should we not go directly and always to Jesus, our Mediator? Why all the fuss? I am big enough, do I still need to be mothered?

So let us say something for a moment about who and what is Mary. In the Annunciation story, we see Mary accepting the offer of God the Father and the mission of the Holy Spirit to be the mother of the eternal Son to be born as a man. The angel told her that He, Jesus, would be called Son of the most High and that He was the expected Messiah. How can that be? Nothing is impossible for God. And Mary believed that God needed her, wanted her and she said "yes" "*fiat*", *let God's will be done. I am the handmaid of the Lord*. Then she got up filled with joy and peace. She started her journey of faith immediately reaching out very practically to help her cousin Elizabeth. What most stands out in the Blessed Virgin is her *faith*. She lives as we live: household chores, taking care of food, making and washing clothes etc. We can not say that her life is so extraordinary that we could not possibly imitate her.

But we could say: "*She is full of grace and freed from original sin*". What does that mean? That she was baptized from conception and that she was first to be called to discipleship. I received that same grace and calling when I was baptized. As a sinner, I am blinded and do not know God. I question what He is doing in my life, I doubt Him, I take my destiny and all I want on earth in my own hand. Mary knew God well enough to believe and say "*fiat*", "*let it be done*" in total humility and trust, all her life. That gives her deep joy. But also immediately, the anguish started because God always makes stringent demands and asks to sacrifice everything. There was no smooth ride: what about Joseph? But Joseph was magnificent, helped by Mary's faith.

Not like so the many in the bible like Sara who made her own plan to give Abraham a son when God delayed. Mary was silent and left everything to God: through Bethlehem with no room, the flight to Egypt, thirty years of wondering at home, the opposition against her Son to the final and total rejection of the cross. We want to do big things. Mary was at peace by letting God do the great things in her at His pace, at His convenience. Mary pondered these things in her heart and kept God's word. So she grew in knowing God, the kind of knowing that becomes total intimacy and unity. Without understanding the why of all the anguish, she repeated her fiat and believed that everything was safe in God's hand. Can we begin to understand that Mary was the perfect mother needed for Jesus? Not as some say, just the provider of a body, but forming His Person to be the perfect Son as she was the perfect daughter of the Father, open to the Spirit.

She taught Jesus and at Calvary, Jesus became fully Son and Mary became perfect mother of the Son and also of all the redeemed in Jesus as He states at that moment, "*behold your mother*". *Through faith, we become a member of His Body, we become His flesh and bone and Mary is our real spiritual mother*. As my mother, what is Mary's interest in me? Of course, she wants me to be her son or daughter and being like her. She first formed her Son and then her Son formed her. We need to be formed in the image of her Son for our salvation and the glory of the Father, becoming hand-maid or servant. She does not want to reign. She does not want us to put Her on a pedestal where She has nothing in common with us. *She just wants to be mother, untiring in caring especially for those who fall behind and need her the most*.

The Hearts of Jesus and Mary were united in the Fathers will all the way from breastfeeding to standing under the cross. They were co-workers and they still are in the work of our redemption, Jesus is the only Mediator as High Priest and Mary, bringing us to Jesus, showing us how to glorify the Father, how to receive the Holy Spirit. With Mary we have God as "Abba" and not just as lawgiver and judge.

*So my brothers and sisters, did you ever realize what you let yourself in for when you formed the "Magnificat" community?* It means that you, with Mary, are going to see and trust God in everything that happens to you and use it for His Glory. It means believing that His infinite mercy is at work and His promise of happiness is being fulfilled right now. It means walking with Mary and letting her mother me spiritually as things happen, being at peace and bringing peace to others while at the same time experiencing the anguish of the narrow road of the cross surrounded by a world also in anguish. Each time we lift up the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation at Mass, Mary stands with us encouraging us to connect my demands and pains of that day with the one all embracing sacrifice of Jesus and so to become what I am; a true brother or sister of Jesus, a true child of the Father. It could be that we still feel not completely at home with Mary. We have to keep listening to her message of faith and humility and her never ending love for me personally. She will say, "*Just love me and love My Son, walk in that love, and all will be fine*".

In the love of the hearts of Jesus and Mary,

Father Matt Robbertz  
*Magnificat Spiritual Director*



My Dear Magnificat Family:

When we gather these days at Regina Mundi for our Community Workshop, we greet one another with *"Peace and Life"* or *"Fish be with you"*. They may sound crazy but we have come to find comfort in these greetings. Actually they are old Christian greetings. *"Peace and Life"* was the greeting Jesus used during the post-resurrection events. The *"Doubting Thomas"* episode for example, the gospel of Mercy Sunday proclaims Jesus calming the turmoil of the heart in His loving presence. *"Fish be with you"* is an old Christian greeting. *Fish in Greek is ICHTUS*. For the early Christians, the word was a secret code for Jesus. It meant to them: *"Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior"*.

These greetings help direct our awareness and prepare our heart to look forward with expectation to the great event of 2008, the *49<sup>th</sup> International Eucharistic Congress to be held in Quebec City on June 15-22*, to be participated in by Pope Benedict XVI. The theme of the Congress is: *"The Eucharist, God's Gift for the Life of the World."* "The assembly that remembers becomes the sign of the Church," thus teaches the Document of the Congress (p.53) the Eucharist is the bread of life. Jesus infuses new life into the soul of the faithful disciple and becomes the strength to live a life of love. He told His disciples in John 15, 15: *"I do not call you servants ... you are my friends."* St. Augustine as early as the 4<sup>th</sup> century taught: *"You become what you eat."*

The International Eucharistic Congress offers us inspiration and encouragement to pursue with zeal our commitment to offer a home for the Eucharist in the heart of our Magnificat Family. We become aware more than ever now that Regina Mundi is more than a piece of land; it is an oasis where our family and all who come to us find comfort and strength to live with one heart and one mind. More than a property, the heart is what the Lord wants. He "who searches hearts" deems it worthy to establish His Eucharistic abode in our midst.

How surprisingly the activities we decided to offer during these coming days fit into a pattern of preparation. On May 26 we celebrate the *"Santa Kruzan"* - the pageant of the finding of the cross. On June 3, we begin another tradition in a grand manner, the *Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus*. We offer a special concert celebrating in song and dance *"One Mind and One Heart"*.

*"Jesus King of Mercy show the way to us."*

*"Mary, Queen of our heart, hold us by the hand and lead your children on Thy way."*

Take your place, every one. And let us move on.

With prayer of blessings,

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

Dear Magnificat Brothers & Sisters:

When we assembled inside the Vanier Hall of Regina Mundi on April 15 2007, we were so amazed to see so many people who attended the celebration of the *Feast of the Divine Mercy*. The Vanier Hall was jam-packed with people of faith and trust in God. Three buses loaded of Divine Mercy devotees came to Regina Mundi. Our Italian friends, Asunta de Bellis and Teresa Aretusi. and of course our very own Daughter of the King, Sis. Thelma Nichols were so kind enough to bring these devotees to Regina Mundi. These are the three faithful people who always plan and arrange for buses to bring the devotees to Regina Mundi.

Indeed, the Feast of the Divine Mercy is such a wonderful celebration which proclaims that our devotion to the Divine Mercy is truly a complete trust to God of Mercy.

The programme - welcome and praising songs, Chaplet of Divine Mercy, sharing of Bro. Pops Pag-Ong and Bro. Ed & Sis. Wilma Tanega deeply touched our hearts. Finally, the celebration of the Holy Eucharist with healing service celebrated by our beloved priest, Fr. Teo Rustia, where we all experience God's Mercy and Love, was the highlight of the celebration.

*The message of mercy is that God loves us - all of us - no matter how great our sins.* He wants us to recognize that His mercy is greater than our sins, so that we will call upon Him with trust, receive His mercy, and let it flow through us to others.

Let us, therefore, fulfill the Lord's command to let our life "*shine before people, so that they will see the good things we do and praise our Father in Heaven*". (Mt. 5:16)

To all our members, Italian friends and others who have helped to make this celebration of the Feast of the Divine Mercy an incredible experience, thank you so much.

We pray that we may all accept God's mercy with thanksgiving and be merciful as He is a merciful God. *Jesus, King of Mercy we Trust in You! Amen.*

Love and prayers,

*Joe & Annie Lapid*  
Joe & Annie Lapid  
Presiding Elders

**SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES**

**MAY - JULY, 2007**

- May 11 - 13 (Fri-Sun) MAGYOUTH REATREAT (c/o Bro. Larry/Sis. Josie Estrabillo)**
- May 16 (Wed.) - 7:30 P.M. – Holy Eucharist with healing service, Vanier Hall, Regina Mundi**
- May 17 (Thurs.) - 7:30 P.M. – CHRIST THE KING PARISH, Holy Eucharist with healing service (Fr. Rustia)**  
**3674 Lakeshore Blvd. West, Etobicoke (near Browns Line, between 35<sup>h</sup>**  
**Street and 36<sup>th</sup> Street (Tel. # 416-251-8983)**
- May 23 (Wed.) - 7:30 P.M. – Holy Eucharist with healing service, Vanier Hall, Regina Mundi** **May 25 (Fri.) -**  
**Holy Mass & healing service – St. Margaret Mary Parish, 20 Idlewood Ave., Hamilton**  
**Hamilton, ON – Tel. #905-388-2200**
- May 28 (Sat.) - SANTA KRUZAN (Flores de Mayo)**  
**Mary, Our Lady of the Eucharist (schedule to be announced)**
- May 30 (Wed.) - 7:30 P.M. – Holy Eucharist with healing service, Vanier Hall, Regina Mundi**

**JUNE, 2007**

- JUNE 2 (Sat.) - Catholic Charismatic Renewal Council (CCRC) HOLY TRINITY RALLY**  
**DON BOSCO CATHOLIC SCHOOL (Theme: Comfort My People)**  
**Archbishop Thomas Collins will preside after the closing Holy Mass)**
- JUNE 3 (Sun.) - FEAST OF THE SACRED HEART (Fr. Teo Rustia – celebrant)**
- JUNE 9 - "ONE HEART, ONE MIND" – A MUSICAL VARIETY SHOW**  
**Imperial Oil Auditorium – Ontario Science Centre (Don Mills & Eglinton)**
- July 1 (Sunday) - ANNIVERSARY OF THE ORATORY OF JESUS, KING OF MERCY**  
**ORATORY OF JESUS (on top of the hill - Regina Mundi)**

FEAST OF THE DIVINE MERCY – APRIL 15, 2007



Faithful devotees to the Divine Mercy flocked to our Retreat Centre at Regina Mundi to celebrate and experience the outpouring of the love and mercy of our Lord during “Mercy Sunday” - the Feast of the Divine Mercy.

Our celebration includes praise and worship, stations of the cross, Divine Mercy devotions, solemn recitation of Divine Mercy Chaplet, exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, wonderful testimonies and sharings by Bro. Paps, Bro. Ed/Sis. Wilma and the solemn celebration of the Holy Eucharist by our beloved Fr. Teo Rustia. *JESUS KING OF MERCY – WE TRUST IN YOU!*



“Divine Mercy Sunday”

The **Feast of Divine Mercy** has its origins in the writings of St. Faustina Kowalska, a Polish nun whom the Lord has left messages to spread His unfathomable Mercy. On this feast day, our Lord's **mercy** grants *forgiveness of all sins and punishment*.

“*The Great Hour of Mercy*”: Jesus told Sister Faustina he wants people to ask for his mercy while meditating on his passion—particularly at the moment of agony—at 3 p.m. every day (3 o'clock Devotion and the recitation of the Divine Mercy Chaplet). “*In this hour, I will refuse nothing to the soul that makes a request of Me in virtue of My passion*” (Diary, 1320).



## LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR MAY 5, 2007

We praise and thank our Lord for the four couple speakers during our one-day Life in the Spirit Seminar  
 “God’s Love” – Bro. Joe/Sis. Annie Lapid; “Gift of Salvation” – Bro. Ken/Sis. Diana Henderson (not in the picture)  
 “New Life” – Bro. Bobot/Sis. Alice Mapanao; “Growth & Transformation” – Bro. Johnny/Sis. Nanette Cruz



### LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR (LSS)

This one-day Life in the Spirit Seminar was offered by our community, Magnificat, to everyone who wants to deepen their relationship with the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. It consists of series of talks designed to help people realize the power of the Holy Spirit that is available for every aspect of their lives. The weekend is an exciting strategy which is designed to acquaint the participant with the person, the work and the power of the Holy Spirit (the third person of the Trinity), through the use of scripture and personal testimony (sharing). It is designed to heighten awareness of the Spirit of God working in our personal lives and in the life of the Church, to break down any barriers the participant might have, and to create a greater openness to the fullness of the Holy Spirit.

Indeed, those who have come were “blessed”. Everyone felt the presence, the grace and the love of Jesus Christ. The power of the Holy Spirit became active in the worship, in the short teachings by our beloved Fr. Teo Rustia, the contagious testimonies of faith that were shared by the team members and of our dynamic speakers.

In the “Baptism in the Holy Spirit”, there is new life and a new conscious awareness of God’s power and presence. The awesome outpouring of the Holy Spirit (or fuller release of the Holy Spirit) was felt by everyone – *a truly personal conversion experience!* We hope to offer this program twice a year to our members and friends. We pray you could join us again!

Dear brothers & sisters,

*Happy are they who hope and trust in the Lord!*

We just got home from mass and the readings touched my heart and inspired me to finally send you our greetings and letter.

Days went so fast and our five months & 28 days holiday is almost over. In the midst of our busy schedule; our son, Neil, getting married here, Bishop C. Almario & Father officiated; all my brothers & sisters, twelve of us got together for a family reunion; going places, meeting friends & families; we think of you, pray for you, talk about you.... our Community, Magnificat; our home, Regina Mundi. *We miss most the peace and intimate closeness of Jesus in our Blessed Sacrament in our chapel.*

We have joined the Prayer Society of Our Lady of Bethesda, Father's community here in Manila. We meet with Bro. Cadio & Sis. Nini occasionally. We are going to Punta Fuego (suppose to be the place for the rich and famous ) with their compliments. We have been staying at Rose Bacani's condo here in Greenhills as our Eastwood condo is delayed for closing. Hopefully, we can move into it before the end of Feb. We continue to do our simple apostolate e.g. giving food to the poor in Quiapo as often as we can. We visit our family in Quezon and in Bulacan once a week or once in two weeks. We visited some places here in the Phil. and we just came back last Friday, Feb. 9th, from China; where we visited Macau, Shenzhen, Shanghai, and Beijing. China is impressive with its own Great Wall in Beijing. Like many other historical countries, it has its own Summer Palace where the Royal family lived on the expense of the common people. Its economy is booming and shopping is SUPER CHEAP. Unlike the China town in Toronto, the places we saw were all very clean.

We are visiting Mother Elena and Sr. Susan, THDW, maybe next week. We will attend the memorial mass for Sis. Patti's Mom and her internment on Feb.25.

Syanga pala, you know what? Last November in the crowded, busy Divisoria, guess who we met. Sis. Elvie Tan. What a small world. Yesterday, while we were in the Chapel in Vira Mall here in Greenhills, we met Philip Malolos, used to be Head Servant of BLD.

The Lord has blessed us abundantly and we acknowledge our dependence on Him. What we have and what we are come from Him. We praise and thank Him for all of these. We also praise and thank the Lord for the Leaders of our Community, for your untiring service, devotion and dedication, especially for Bro. Joe & Sis. Annie for their openness to God's call to serve as Head Servants. We continue to lift you all up in our prayers. Fr. Matt thank you for your continuous support and prayers and for updating us with what's happening in our community.

May we be " the tree " mentioned in the book of the Prophet Jer. 17:8 " This tree shall not fear when heat comes, its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit. "

May we also be reminded of what St. Augustin said, *"I trust my past in the Mercy of God, my present in the Love of God and my future in the Providence of God. "*

May we be truly blessed (happy) as we place our trust in God. *"Jesus, King of Mercy. We trust in You. "*

We'll see you at Regina Mundi on Mar. 31. God bless us all.. our Community, Magnificat; our home, Regina Mundi.

In the Love of Jesus and Mary,

Bro. Johnny & Sis. Nanette

*Magnificat Charismatic Prayer Community*

**PRESENTS**



Lilac Caña



Marc Ballesteros

*A Musical Variety Show*

**FEATURING**

**Saturday, June 9, 2007**

**7:30 P.M.**

**Imperial Oil Auditorium  
Ontario Science Centre**

**770 Don Mills Road (corner Eglinton Ave. East, Toronto)**

**Tickets: Range from \$25, \$30, \$35 per person**

Contact: Annie Lapid @ 905-201-7254 or 416-325-3865 email: [AnnieLapid@ipc.on.ca](mailto:AnnieLapid@ipc.on.ca)

This "Musical Variety Show" features distinguished guest performers, local talents, the Magnificat Choir and the Magnificat Youth. *Lilac Caña, Marc Ballesteros, etc.* are just two of the many talented guest performers of this four-part variety show.

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