



# SANCTUARY

[www.magnificatcharismaticcommunity.org](http://www.magnificatcharismaticcommunity.org)

August & September 2008

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



**49<sup>th</sup> International Eucharistic Congress  
Quebec City, Canada – June 15–22, 2008**

*"The Eucharist"  
Gift of God for the Life of the World*

## **SANCTUARY**

**MAGNIFICAT CHARISMATIC PRAYER COMMUNITY**

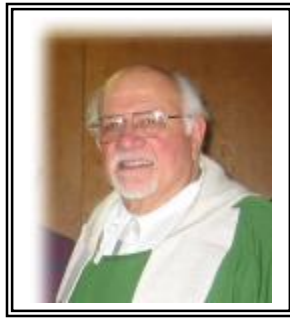
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*Newsletter published every month as means of information for the Community. This newsletter is a supplement to the official publication of Magnificat, the Angelus.*



*With this article I hope to reach **all** the Magnificat members and others who might be interested in living a life closely involved with God and the Church.*

Dear Friends,

Magnificat, our prayer community, was plunged in shock, darkness and discouragement, when we received the news that Father Teo Rustia, by the direction of the Archbishop, could no longer exercise his ministry among us. Just last winter, a special issue of "Angelus" had commemorated Father's twenty years of reaching out to the Filipino People in Canada, building up the Magnificat community and its apostolic works. We felt lost, but not out, as we turned to God to seek His strength and guidance. After all, *this is God's work*, as Father Rustia was first to say. *In that situation, I felt that the Lord wanted me to get more involved to stand by the Council of Elders and help as much as I can.* We talked with Bishop Grecco and we were assured that the Archdiocese admired the work of Magnificat and will look to find a Chaplain in the Diocese to assist. Also a deacon could be appointed.

Activities and liturgical celebrations have continued with good participation and the Council has, with great courage and trust, taken on the challenge leading Magnificat into the future and building God's Kingdom, according to His will, with the vision that Fr. Rustia has left them. There are numerous problems to be tackled, like paying the bills of Regina Mundi that have accumulated, updating the facilities for the retreat centre, work and to organize the many programs coming up. *There is very good news: Mother Anna Maria has taken up residence in the main house and is helping with all groups that come etc.* Recently, she organized a retreat for the members that was well attended and beautiful. The hope and vision is to build a convent on the property.

For myself and for all, I like to say something briefly about the gospel vision of what we are doing. List the works we are involved in and thirdly call us together for action.

## **DISCIPLESHIP AND APOSTLESHIP**

Jesus calls us to be His disciples, to repent of our sins, convert in turning from the values of the world so rebellious to God and to follow Him into the Kingdom of God.

That is the call of our Baptism and our Confirmation is the Pentecost experience of the Holy Spirit poured on us with His gifts to open our hearts fully to God and accept each in his or her own way the call to apostleship which means to be sent "to make disciples of all people". I am talking about each and everyone of us. It is a process that takes from now to the end of our lives.

*The members of Magnificat are on that journey.* They are together as a family, as "church" because none of us can make it alone. Jesus calls us together. The realization of that call might have come during the Marriage Enrichment days or during the Life in the Spirit Seminar or just during their personal prayer. But now their life has changed and they live not for themselves anymore but for God's glory. *Are they sad? No, they never felt so alive, happy and at peace.* But they are still in the world and struggle but *with God*, they go from light to light, from grace to grace. That is why *they are struck but not devastated* when they were tested lately.

Father Henry Nouwen in "Reaching Out" writes: Once God has touched us in the midst of our struggles and has created in us a burning desire to be forever with Him, we will find the courage and the confidence to prepare His way and invite all who share our life to "wait" with us during this short time for the day of complete joy".

Our most important journey of life is our journey into the Heart of God. We learn, we grow. We are weak and fall, but we return even closer than before and we learn to advance in God's love one day at the time. *The Magnificat prayer group is about this discipleship and about this apostleship. We reach out to all people starting with fellow Filipinos, inviting them to be part of our spiritual family.*

## THE APOSTOLIC WORKS

I was interested to make a list to have an overview of the activities in the Magnificat Community and I was amazed and appreciated more the enthusiasm, sincerity and fidelity of so many people. For your interest, here is the list.

1. Every Saturday afternoon at 2.30 is the weekly prayer meeting possibly concluded by the anticipated Sunday Mass.
2. Marriage Enrichment week-ends. By now, I believe 32 have been taken place. You have to talk to the couples who have participated to find out the beautiful fruits of this experience.
3. "Daughters of the King" retreats for single ladies.
4. Magnificat Youth Camps.
5. Life in the Spirit Seminars.
6. Recollection days or just work shops, open to all.
7. Promotion of the Divine Mercy Devotion. We like to multiply pilgrimage groups for a celebration at the beautiful outside Oratorium. We celebrate Mercy Sunday and in July, the Oratory Anniversary.
8. In the Holy week, the Holy Triduum services are celebrated. A special Passion Play is presented by the Apostles. This is a special group of men who serve at the liturgical celebrations and may take on other projects as a group.
9. The First Friday Devotions to the Sacred Heart started eight months ago and are held every first Friday of the month starting at 7.30 p.m.
10. Two groups celebrating their Filipino heritage come each year to Regina Mundi: Pateros Filipino and the St. Augustine Cagayanon group.
11. Facilities are made available five or six times a year for the "Youth for Christ" organization to have their youth camps.
12. Groups of people use the retreat facilities. A group of Presbyterian Koreans and a Vietnamese group are steady customers. The hope is that many groups will come.

## REGINA MUNDI

*It is the place where it all happens, it is our physical home, it is a holy ground, it is sacred trust left to us by the Good Shepherd Sisters who were here before.*

Like our family homes, it needs all the care of upkeep and accumulates the bills of taxes, heating, etc. Just think for a moment how much organization, work and costs are involved here. And don't forget the *big mortgage*. It is staggering. *We need prayers, we need help and we need a great trust in God that this is His will and that He is fulfilling His plans.*

Regina Mundi is also a corporation, legally established to own shares, pay taxes etc. *It would be so much less complicated if Magnificat was the corporation under one ownership and one leadership.* We are, therefore, endeavouring to accomplish that. At the moment, there is no possibility of selling property because according to the law, there cannot be any severance. Part of it is in the Oakridge Moraine and every development is stopped on that. We are exploring how we can minimize the high taxes and maximize some income from the farmland. Income from retreat groups (which is basically apostolic work) will require an *urgent update* of the facilities starting with new mattresses. And as you can imagine the list will go on. These and the bills that are outstanding and those to be expected means that we have to look at fundraising very seriously and that we need many to share in this.

Two projects will get underway: the *Concert in November* and a *lottery* that will stretch into the new year. I am told that Magnificat has some covenanted members who volunteer their services and give financial support to the community. ***I pray that the Lord will move you to stand by and if you have fallen behind in prayer and financial commitment, to be renewed in generosity and fidelity.*** We plan to ask everybody to sell one book of tickets prized at five dollar to make it not too difficult. Mother Anna Maria and myself will make an attempt to personally go to some big companies and ask help with the mattresses.

Dear friends, some members of the Council tell me there is *light* in the tunnel. *That light comes from God who invites us to give it our best and He does the rest.*

***Please any one who reads this, open your hearts for what God is doing in your life. He sure has a plan for you and it maybe that the abundant treasures He has in store for you come right here through our Magnificat family.***



Rev. Fr. Matthew Robbertz, Magnificat Spiritual Director



Dear Magnificat Brothers and Sisters,

*Regina Mundi, God's wonderful gift to Magnificat.* How did Magnificat find this place? It was in 1990 when the Lord's Servants Prayer Community (now Magnificat) was looking for a place where they could hold its Marriage Enrichment (M.E.) Retreat Class No.2. That year, I (Annie) was the secretary/treasurer of the community. As there was no suitable venue that we could find in Toronto for this M.E. retreat, I made an effort to phone various retreat centres. Through prayers, I found Regina Mundi which was then called Regina Mundi, Sisters of the Good Shepherd. Joe & I had a site tour of the Regina Mundi facilities. We immediately love the place for its beautiful surrounding; its serenity and beauty of nature made us feel that this is a Holy ground which is very appropriate for our M.E. Retreat

Since then, Regina Mundi becomes the regular venue for the Magnificat M.E. retreats. In 1994, the Sisters of the Good Shepherd put up the property for sale. It was Bro. Jun & Sis. Lita Malixi who advised the community that the property was for sale. Magnificat and some other religious denominations made an offer to the Sisters of the Good Shepherd and the Sisters accepted the Magnificat's offer. Joe and I were not in full support to Magnificat's idea of buying the said property because it involved a great deal of money. We were afraid then that the community will not be able to put up the money for down payment. But God, in His mysterious way, helped Magnificat. Shareholders, who are also Magnificat members, were invited to put up money to buy a share and this was used as down payment to purchase the property. Problems came after the property was acquired. During winter time, no clients, no revenue and the old buildings need to be renovated. Rental from the retreat facilities is not enough to cover the monthly mortgage, property tax, monthly bills and the cost of repairs of the buildings. But again, God in His goodness gave Magnificat some kind, loving and generous people. Some members (who are still and who are no longer in the community) generously offered to loan their money to Regina Mundi. As well, the Magnificat Community supported Regina Mundi through their covenanted members who help in so many different ways - they volunteer their services, they share their precious time and talents and they give generous donations. They are, indeed, the pillars of Magnificat. We are so thankful to all the covenanted members - you are the reasons why Regina Mundi is still the place of worship and home of Magnificat, now the convent of the Sisters of our Lady - Spouse of the Holy Spirit, and the retreat centre to all religious dominations.

Indeed, God has good plans for the community. This holy place is where we all congregate. This is the place where we do our apostolic works - the Saturday prayer meeting, devotion to the Divine Mercy and anticipated Sunday Mass; the Marriage Enrichment retreat, Singles retreat, Youth retreat, Life in the Spirit Seminar, workshops and recollections, etc. *This is the place that we called our second home, where so many things are happening - happiness and sadness.* We see our brothers and sisters come to Regina Mundi to unselfishly volunteer their services in order to keep the place beautiful and clean. There are some people who share their precious time and who come to Regina Mundi not only during weekends but everyday to help repair and clean the buildings, plant flowers and vegetables, etc. *This is the holy place that is a gift of God to our community where members love each other, love to do wonderful things and work beyond their call of duties in spite of so many struggles.*

We take this opportunity to thank everybody for doing such an excellent job. Your help and generosity is much appreciated. We welcome and thank Sister Linda Bautista (new oblate of the Sisters of our Lady - Spouse of the Holy Spirit) for helping Mother Ana Maria and Sister Mary Collette. Thank you Sister Linda for your kind help and support. Thank you Lord for giving Fr. Matthew Robbertz, Mother Ana Maria and Sister Mary to our community. Fr. Matt, thank you so much for your spiritual guidance, prayers and full support to Magnificat. You are such a wonderful priest and we thank God for the gift of you to our community. Mother, thank you also for your prayers, spiritual guidance, and for doing such an excellent administration of Regina Mundi. You are, indeed, a gift of God. Sister Mary thank you for all your help - for maintaining the grounds of Regina Mundi and for doing so many odd jobs. Your help is truly and greatly appreciated.

Let us all keep up the good work and offer it to our Lord Jesus Christ. Praise and glory to Him!

*Joe & Annie Lapid*

Joe & Annie Lapid  
Presiding Elders



# Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Fatima June 15, 2008



## Our Lady of Fatima Lewiston, New York

Our beloved Fr. Teo Rustia led the Magnificat Family to this annual pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima and where he celebrated the well attended, solemn celebration of the Holy Eucharist. We were so blessed to have the anointing of the Lord during the healing services after the mass.

Magnificat Family then availed themselves of the picnic area on the Shrine grounds for sumptuous fellowship.



# Magnificat Family - Quebec Pilgrimage June 20-23, 2008



## **"Journey to the Heart of Jesus"**

This is the theme of the Magnificat Pilgrims who joined the 4-day pilgrimage to Quebec, in conjunction with the 49<sup>th</sup> International Eucharistic Congress.

As our beloved Fr. Teo Rustia led the pilgrims to these holy Marian places (& solemn celebration of the Eucharist), everyone became witnesses to a wonderful spiritual experience.

Our 1<sup>st</sup> stop to the "Journey to the Heart" is the "Shrine of the Sacred Heart" at Beauvoir, to "Cap de la Madeleine", to "St. Anne de Beaupre", to the "Plains of Abraham" for the Congress and to "Saint Joseph's Oratory" in Montreal.



**Quebec Pilgrimage & 49<sup>th</sup> International Eucharistic Congress  
June 20 - 23, 2008**



**"Plains of Abraham"**

This is the center and high point of the International Eucharistic Congress celebration with a procession of 1,200 cardinals, archbishops, bishops, priests and deacons. Pilgrims all over the world, including our Magnificat Pilgrims who found a good spot, gathered in anticipation for the celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

Sweet memories of this memorable Quebec pilgrimage lingers on as the pilgrims recall the precious moments of togetherness, of laughter, of fellowship, of friendship, of food, of fun, of prayers, of praise & worship & of songs.

To our beloved Fr. Teo Rustia, Mother Anna Maria & Sis. Mary – we thank God for them!  
Till our next pilgrimage!



## 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Oratory of Jesus King of Mercy – July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008



### Oratory of Jesus 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

On this bright, sunny day, the *Oratory of Jesus* on the hill top of Regina Mundi is the scene of the wonderful, spirit-filled celebration of the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Oratory.

Our beloved Fr. Matt Robbertz led the faithful who joined the community to the Stations of the Cross leading to the Oratory, followed by the solemn celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

Fellowship followed at Vanier Hall.



**Silent Retreat - July 18-20  
Vanier Hall, Regina Mundi**



**Vanier Hall, Regina Mundi – Silent Retreat**

The 3 days (sleep-in) “silent” retreat for the Magnificat members was organized by our dear Mother Anna Maria. *It was well attended and beautiful.* The participants, mostly the COE, Apostles and Daughters of the King (DK), experienced the much needed teachings for spiritual growth during the retreat.

We thank the Lord for the gift of Mother Anna Maria to the community. Our heartfelt gratitude also goes to Sis. Mary Collette and Sis. Linda Bautista for helping Mother organize, coordinate and prepare food for the retreatants.



## Silent Retreat - July 18-20, 2008



Retreat program included overnight vigil at the Chapel, silent recollection, prayers, Holy Rosary also participated by our Magnificat children, spiritual teachings & exercises by Mother Anna Maria, procession to the Oratory of Jesus and on the closing day, a solemn celebration of the Holy Mass by Fr. Matt Robbertz.

We thank the Lord for this wonderful experience and we look forward to another retreat!



# 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Magnificat August 16, 2008



A thanksgiving celebration of the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Magnificat started with a procession of the Blessed Virgin Mary followed by the Holy Mass at Vanier Hall. The "brown scapular" of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel was installed to those present by Fr. Matt Robbertz. One of the promises to those who wear the brown scapular, as revealed to St. Simon Stock, is *"not to die in the state of mortal sin"*.

Joyful fellowship concluded the celebration.



*Magnificat Charismatic Prayer Community  
Presents  
A Gala Concert*

# *The Gift of Christmas* *Pasko ng Pilipino*



*Featuring*

*Lilac Caña*

*Marc Ballesteros Emilio Zarris*

*and*

*Fiesta Filipina*

**Dance Troupe of Canada**

**Imperial Oil Auditorium**

**Ontario Science Centre**

**Saturday, 15 November 2008**

**7:30 p.m.** 12

**Tickets: \$35, \$30 & \$25**

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