

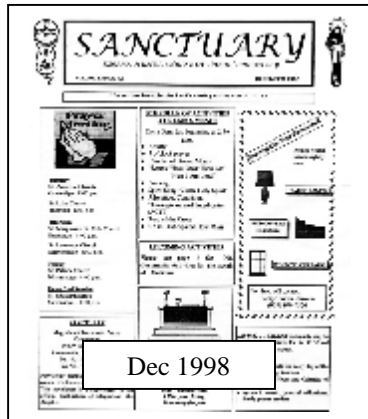


Celebrating
10 years

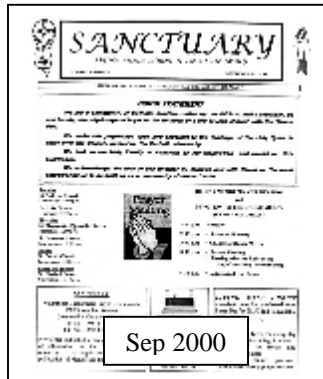
www.magnificatcharismaticcommunity.org

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

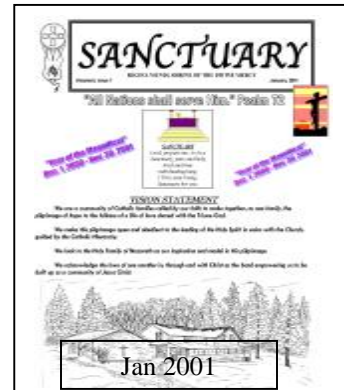
December 2008
Christmas issue



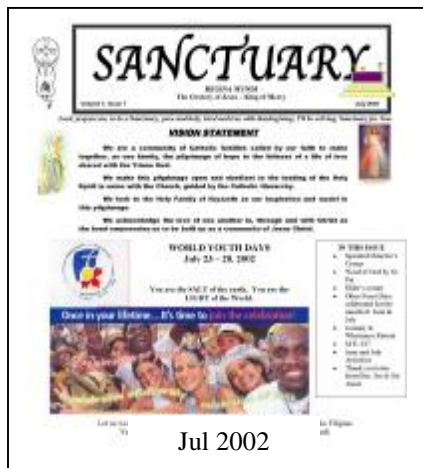
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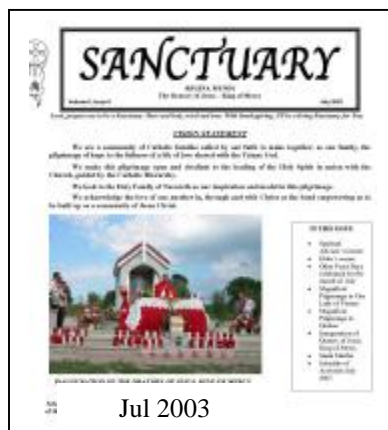
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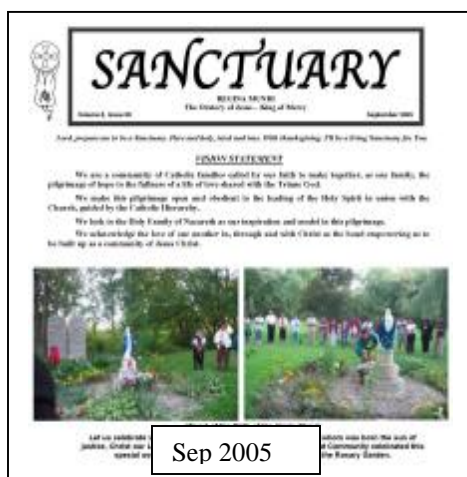
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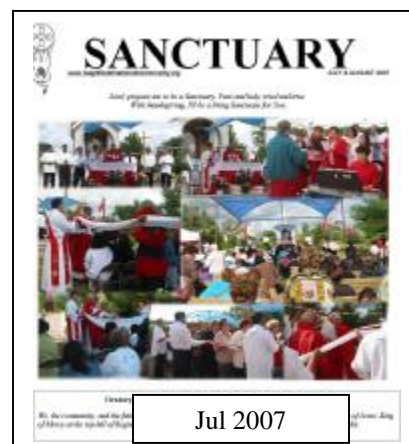
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Jul 2007

SANCTUARY
MAGNIFICAT CHARISMATIC PRAYER COMMUNITY
(A Covenantal Catholic Community)

19309 Warden Avenue, Queensville, ON L0G 1R0 Tel. # (905) 478-4264 Fax # (905) 478-8793

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email: sanctuary-magnificat@rogers.com

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,

All of you must have felt some of the tension in our community as we are striving to come to grips with the challenges before us: financing, re-organization and commitment to the apostolic works. I like to commend you and thank you for your trust in God and your faithfulness to prayer, your giving of time and effort to the successful concert and the volunteering in the renovation work of the retreat facilities. Mother Anna Maria, Johnny, Nanette, Annie and Joe have my special admiration, together with all the COE members.

We were not yet successful in our efforts to get some financial help and we could not get the Raffle going. But the Chancery of our Archdiocese have made some expert lawyers available to us to help. The promised shareholders' meeting scheduled for Dec. 27th will be postponed until we have clarity on how to proceed with the issues.

Bishop Grecco has come through to assign *Monsignor Eduardo Pam* as *Chaplain for Magnificat*. *"Thank you, Monsignor for your generous "yes" to this challenge. Welcome to Magnificat and Regina Mundi. You will discover a loving prayer family and an outstanding group of apostolic workers."* As for me, I hope to stay with the projects we are working on and help out a bit with liturgies if Monsignor get too busy.

ADVENT - CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

For me, it is Christmas, when I hear at midnight Mass, the announcement of the Angel to the shepherds: *"Good News of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the City of David, a Saviour, Who is Christ, The Lord"*.

We are overjoyed and thankful for the Child that is given to us. The Advent liturgies have made us ready for a renewed and deeper appreciation. We listened there to the promises of God made to the prophets: paradise restored, everlasting happiness, people divinized, mortals made immortal, sinners justified, the poor raising to glory. Each promise made in the first reading is shown in the gospel as fulfilled in Jesus, the Good Shepherd. God not only made an official covenant to win our belief, but He also sent a Mediator to establish it. Not an angel, not a prince, but His eternally begotten Son. He took our nature so that He could stand in for each one of us and we could have a new birth, become a new creation in Him.

Sanctuary

Christmas is about the birth of Jesus but also about our birth as sons and daughters of God. In the Incarnation, God, the Blessed Trinity, has revealed the very depth of the Father's being. He is not only power and majesty but, yes, my friends, God is Childhood and Tenderness, because He is Father. He has shown the extent of being a Father by showing us His Son.

In every word and action of His life, Jesus showed God's tender love. He asks us to join Him in showing that same love to his Father and to each other. Two thousand years have passed since Christ was born and gave His life. How are people reacting to God's invitation and gifts?

People have forgotten. People have no use for it. People don't understand it. People don't see it. They keep imagining that greatness and happiness lies in dominion, earthly goods and power.

Poor us, the only time we feel truly great and happy is when we are filled with true love, when we are like the Father, when we follow the Son Who is the Way, when we receive the Holy Spirit Who is the gift of God's Love. We can share in the family life of God, now and forever. What a conversion has to take place in us through ongoing repentance, because our false self, which tells us to dominate keeps re-awakening in us and finds always new ways to trick us.

But what a joy we can experience in faith: we can stop fearing. *Jesus is our Saviour.* We are never alone any longer, never abandoned in our faults, in our shame and despair. This is the reality of God's Kingdom brought by Jesus and is now among us. God Has fulfilled His promises. Christ will come once more to reward the just, deserving His mercy and to separate those deserving His anger.

Our whole life then becomes Advent; waiting, expecting, preparing. This is being Church: getting together in the Spirit of Jesus, sowing the seeds of unity and caring in the midst of conflict and strife. We look at people with the eyes of Jesus and find behind all the facades of anger, crime and addiction, the person who really wants to be recognized and loved.

In this Advent in this year and in the Advent that lasts, all our life we want to be servants of God's Kingdom to make the Good News of Christ known to those whom God puts on our path, sharing as good as we can, the comfort and support that come from the Lord Who took human flesh and Who lives in us.

I will offer my Christmas midnight mass for all of you. (It will be at 10.00 p.m. Christmas Eve at the Monastery of the Carmelite Sisters in Zephyr).

Have a Happy and Blessed Christmas!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Fr. Matthew Robbertz". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'F' and 'M'.

Rev. Fr. Matthew Robbertz
Magnificat Spiritual Director

Sanctuary



Dear Magnificat Family,

The year 2008 is such a challenging year for the Magnificat Community. Unforeseen things happened. We don't know why, but only God knows why. Trials and challenges will always happen. These are normal. With prayers, He will always help if we truly seek Him. (2 Chronicles 15:4 ***But whenever you were in distress and turned to the LORD ... and sought him out, you found him.***) We praise and thank God for giving us the strength and courage to move forward after He allowed us to experience enormous trials – for losing our founder and spiritual advisor. God is always with us. He helps us increase our faith during this difficult time. He gives us hope and helps us to persevere. We thank God to see Magnificat members pulling together, giving all their support and help during this ordeal. This makes the foundation much stronger that no one can destroy the community and Regina Mundi because these are God's wonderful gifts to all of us.

In spite of the challenges that the community is facing, truly God is good and loving. God continually helps and gives us the means to carry on. We have been blessed because God gave two wonderful people to our community - Reverend Father Matthew Robbertz and Mother Ana Maria. They always pray for us, give their full support and spiritual guidance. They care and love the community so much. Fr. Matt has been a great help. He is a low-key person who works in the background and works beyond as our spiritual director. He has been consulting with the Chancery Office of the Archdiocese of Toronto about the Magnificat and Regina Mundi. Also, Mother Ana Maria has been a great help. She helps the Magnificat's spiritual activity and helps in the administration of Regina Mundi. Another wonderful gift to our community is Sister Mary Collette, who helps in the renovation/repair of Regina Mundi facilities. And also we would like to extend our sincere gratitude and appreciation to Hector and Cecille Caissie, who came all the way from New Brunswick. They volunteered their services to do the roof and ceiling of the Good Shepherd Cottage without any remuneration. They are truly wonderful and amazing people. Indeed, God works in a mysterious way. Challenges will always come, but God will always be there to help and do miracle.

We are happy to inform the community that during our meeting on December 2, 2008 with the Most Reverend Bishop Richard Grecco of the Archdiocese of Toronto, he informed us that a priest has already accepted to be the Chaplain of Magnificat Community. His name is Monsignor Edgardo Pan. Thank you Monsignor and welcome to our community.

The last Magnificat Christmas Concert was truly an enjoyable evening and a huge success. Thank you so much to our brothers and sisters who put their precious time and effort for the success of this concert. We thank the three professional singers, Lilac Cana, Marc Ballesteros and Emilio Zarris and as well as, the Fiesta Filipina Dance troupe, the concert director, R.J. Candido and the artistic director, Patti Candido - because of your involvement, enthusiasm, expertise and creative input you made this concert an enormous success. Thank you so much for making the concert truly a memorable one.

We take this opportunity to extend to all the community members our sincere gratitude for all your prayers, generous support and help. Thank you to the members who regularly go, as well as to those members who go during weekends, to Regina Mundi to help clean, repair/improve the facilities and the surrounding area. Thank you covenant members for your generous support. And to other members who in some way or another help our community. As children of God called to serve Him in this Magnificat Community, may we continue to be faithful, united in mind, heart and soul. (Ephesians 4.1-6) ***"I therefore ... beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all lowliness and meekness, with patience, forbearing one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one spirit, just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all, who is above all and through all and in all."***

May you all have a blessed Christmas and a prosperous New Year - a new beginning to all of us! Maligayang Pasko!

With the love of Jesus, Mary & Joseph,

Joe & Annie Lapid
Presiding Elders

Christmas Gala Concert 2008



Magnificat Charismatic Prayer
Community presents

The Gift of Christmas *Pasko ng Pilipino*

Imperial Oil Auditorium
Ontario Science Centre
Saturday, November 15, 2008

A Christmas gala concert – a musical production, an evening of music and dance in celebration of the coming of Christmas, the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the Saviour of all people. A production put together by the community as our *gift* to HIM for His goodness to Magnificat and the joy that comes with life of knowing and serving Jesus as God and King through our Regina Mundi Retreat Centre.





The Concert

An evening of colours, music, dance, joy and pure entertainment as we portray a glimpse of the joyous spirit of Christmas – *Philippine Style!*

We present, with pride and joy, our three outstanding, talented Toronto professionals (and may I also add with pride, that all three are products of our M.E. class):

*Lilac Caña
Marc Ballesteros
Emilio Zarris*

These three talented artists performed flawlessly to entertain, along with the Fiesta Filipina Dance Troupe of Canada, Magnificat Music Ministry and energetic, colourfully dressed children, as part of our cast.

Beautiful colours, costumes, soothing smiles, music, dance and joy filled this wonderful night of entertainment.



*These beautiful,
colourful
pictures says
it all!*

It encompasses
the nostalgic
memories of
traditions in our
native
Philippines –
from native
costumes,
native bamboo
instruments,
songs, dance
and even the
story line of our
mini-pageant
acted upon by
the wonderful
casts.

The Fiesta
Filipina Dance
Troupe
enchanted
audiences with
their exceptional
traditional
Philippine folk
dances and
continues to
perform on
stages in
different places
of the world.
Fiesta has
become an
Ambassador for
both Canada and
the Philippines
through their
international
travels.

Mabuhay Fiesta!



Sanctuary



It was indeed an enjoyable evening!

Our multi-talented performers, *Lilac, Marc and Emil*, continuously entertained the audience with their exceptional performances. It was truly a concerted, unselfish effort from the whole cast!

We hope that through the humble efforts of Magnificat in putting up this concert fulfils our mission to be an instrument of God's love and peace to those who have come to join us and to one another!

All praise, glory and thanks to God for giving His Son, JESUS as His priceless gift to all of us!

Praying for a blessed Christmas and a joyful New Year!

Maligayang Pasko!

Thank you all!





Lastly, we owe a great deal of appreciation and admiration to **all the performers** (especially *Lilac, Marc & Emil*) for their unselfish giving of themselves to the production of this concert.

To those who laboured tirelessly in preparing for this event...the volunteers, stage crew, production workers for their creative efforts. To the Candido Family, especially RJ Candido, Jr. for his great production work as our "Scriptwriter" and to Sis. Patti Candido, our "Artistic Director".

Not to forget the individuals and groups who were crucial in ticket distribution and sponsorship solicitation. Our heartfelt gratitude to the generosity and continuous support of our sponsors, advertisers, patrons/donors and friends. You all have been instrumental in making this event a huge success!

CHRIST THE KING CELEBRATION



Feast of Christ the King!

We are honoured to have Bishop Roman Danylak, a retired Bishop, as our special guest in the solemn celebration of the Holy Eucharist in honour of the Feast of Christ the King!

Our community's Daughters of the King (DK) renewed their pledge of allegiance to the *King* they love and serve through Magnificat at Regina Mundi Retreat Centre.





My dear Brothers & Sisters in the Lord

Peace Be with you!

Merry Christmas! Feliz Navidad! Maligayang Pasko!

How wonderful it is to contemplate the goodness of our God. Truly, He is awesome and wonderful. As Christmas is fast approaching, St. Paul reminds us to prepare our hearts. Let us cast off then deeds of darkness and put on the armour of light.

Christmas is not Christmas if we do not reflect the Lord Jesus Christ in our life. He is the reason for the season - a reminder to us why He came to be like us and He himself awaits at every moment His coming into our hearts. He comes at every moment at our life most especially in the Eucharist and we all know that He will come again to be our judge. Let us not be caught unprepared.

A joyful season for us to celebrate for God became one like us but sins. Yes, let us rejoice and be glad that He has come.

I wish you all my Brothers and Sisters as we celebrate this joyful event in thanksgiving to God for giving us His only begotten Son. As we celebrate the 19th Anniversary of the Magnificat Family, let us truly focus on the Lord who is the centre of every Christian life. *The Eucharist is a thanksgiving, so let us praise and worship our Lord and King.*

May God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit be praised now and forever! And I pray may we all be the Apostles of the last times for God's glory and the salvation of souls. Please always remember me in your prayers.

So come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!

Love and prayers in
Our Lady, Spouse of the Holy Spirit

Mother Ana Maria

Christmas...a Living Reality

John Paul II, in his Angelus message of December 19, 1999, explained that Christmas is not simply the remembrance of an event that took place 2000 years ago when, according to the Gospel, the power of God took on the frailty of a baby. It is really about a living reality that is repeated every year in the hearts of believers.

"The mystery of the Holy Night, which historically happened two thousand years ago, must be lived as a spiritual event in the 'today' of the Liturgy," the Pope clarified. "The Word who found a dwelling in Mary's womb comes to knock on the heart of every person with singular intensity at Christmas."

The gift of the Saviour is an expression of good-will or love to men, and therefore God is to be praised. God's work of redemption is consistently represented in scripture as the fruit of the love of God. No words can adequately express the greatness of that love. His love is beyond our full comprehension. Yet how little does man feel it! And how many of us turn away from the highest love of God, and treat the expression of that love without appreciation! Surely, if God so loved us first, we must also love Him back.

How can we respond when Jesus knocks and asks us to open our hearts to Him? How can we return this great love which surpasses all understanding? We let Him enter our homes, our cities, our nations, everywhere on earth! We give of ourselves in friendship and sincere affection, fraternal help and forgiveness, in shared time and reciprocal listening. We open our hearts to people around us, to the stranger on the street needing something warm to eat or drink, to the friend or relative who seeking company because he is lonely, extending a hand even to those who have nothing but hostility and disdain for us. In all of them, there we will find Jesus. The love that we extend to them is a love we return to Jesus. As He stretches out His hand to us in the spirit of peace, let us take that hand which seeks to take nothing from us, but only to give.

This is the invitation of Jesus, not only during this holy season of Christmas. Christmas is a living reality which we live every day. After all, the whole of our lives is a hopeful and vigilant awaiting of the final coming of Christ.

May the season of Christmas awaken in our hearts memories of God's love and goodness so that we can discern the star of hope. *A Blessed Christmas to one and all!*

Romy& Patti Candido, ME #3



The Life Of Poverty Which Jesus Led From His Birth.

(shared by Fr. Angelo Beda Ison, OFM, from the Franciscan Order in Jerusalem)

Thought:

God so ordained that, at the time when His Son was to be born on this earth, the Roman emperor should issue a decree ordering everyone to go to the place of his origin and there be registered in the census. Thus it came about that, in obedience to this decree, Joseph went to Bethlehem together with his virgin wife when she was soon to have her Child.

Finding no lodging either in the poor inn or in the other houses of the town, they were forced to spend the night in a cave that was used as a stable for animals, and it was here that Mary gave birth to the King of heaven. If Jesus had been born in Nazareth, He would also, it is true, have been born in poverty; but there He would at least have had a dry room, a little fire, warm clothes and a more comfortable cradle. Yet He chose to be born in this cold, damp cave, and to have a manger for a cradle, with prickly straw for a mattress, in order that He might suffer for us.

Let us enter in spirit into this cave of Bethlehem, but let us enter in a spirit of lively faith. If we go there without faith, we shall see nothing but a poor infant, and the sight of this lovely child shivering and crying on his rough bed of straw may indeed move us to pity. But if we enter with faith and consider that this Babe is the very Son, God, who for love of us has come down on earth and suffers so much to pay the penalty for our sins, how can we help thanking and loving Him in return?

Prayer:

O Dear Infant Jesus, how could I be so ungrateful and offend You so often, if I realized how much You have suffered for me? But these tears which You shed, this poverty which You embraced for love of me, make me hope for the pardon of all the offenses I have committed against You.

My Jesus, I am sorry for having so often turned my back on You. But now I love You above all else. "My God and my all!"

From now on You, O my God, shall be my only treasure and my only good. With Saint Ignatius of Loyola I will say to Thee, "Give me the grace to love You; that is enough for me." I long for nothing else; I want nothing else. You alone art enough for me, my Jesus, my life, my love.

O Mary, my Mother, obtain for me the grace that I may always love Jesus and always be loved by Him. Amen.

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE CELEBRATION AT REGINA MUNDI



Feast in Honour of Our Lady of Guadalupe

The Community was graced by the presence of Father Paul Hancko, from the Parish of St. Patrick Schomberg, who celebrated the solemn Holy Eucharist in honour of our Lady of Guadalupe.

The festivity was organized by Mother Ana Maria and was well-attended by our community. Those who have come were, once again, reminded by Fr. Hancko during his homily, of our most merciful Mother, Gentle Virgin with the name *Guadalupe* of the miraculous event when she appeared and spoke to Juan Diego, a Mexican, on a mountain full of roses in winter.

Our Lady of Guadalupe, pray for us & protect our Family!

**HAPPY 10TH ANNIVERSARY TO OUR NEWSLETTER,
“SANCTUARY”**

It was in 1998 that Sis. Sandra Macherelli started working on our community's newsletter, *Sanctuary*. In January, 2001, I took over this responsibility from Sis. Sandra. The different issues of the Sanctuary on our front cover reminds everyone of the hard work, patience and dedication that was poured into creating this all important community's newsletter issue year after year. The Sanctuary is also a concerted effort between me and Sis. Estela who does the editing before it is finalized. Thank you Sis. Estela for all your help. And to everyone who continue to contribute their ideas and articles for our newsletter, thank you!

We pray that He continue to shower us with His divine inspiration, patience, good health and strength to continue to do this worthwhile project for the good of our Community. Please continue to support our “Sanctuary”!

God Be Praised!
Diana Henderson

**Magnificat Activities
Saturdays**

2:00 – Holy Rosary
3:00 – Devotion to the Devine Mercy
Prayer Meeting
4:00 – Anticipated Sunday Mass



19309 Warden Ave. Queensville, ON L0G 1R0

Tel. (905) 478-4264 Fax (905) 478-8793

Visit our website @ www.reginamundi.ca

Directions:

404 North exit Greenlane (turn right), left on Woodbine Ave. first traffic light
– right on Mount Albert Rd. Then left on Warden Ave.



**Join the
Magnificat Community
to the**

Devotion to the Sacred Heart
Every First Friday of the Month
7:30 p.m. – Regina Mundi Chapel
(celebrating 1st year January 2, 2009)

MAGNIFICAT CHARISMATIC PRAYER COMMUNITY

Spring Dinner & Dance 2009



Saturday
April 25, 2009

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Thornhill Community Centre
7755 Bayview Avenue (corner John Street)
(beside the Thornhill Square Shopping Centre)

Thornhill, ON L3T 4P1

Attire: Formal
Includes dinner, entertainment & door prizes!!!

Contact Persons:

Annie & Joe Lapid
905-201-7254 (H)

Nora & Guimoy Puyo
416-288-8898 (H)

Estela & Rene Cruz
905-836-9653 (H)

Linda & Ariel Antonio
905-270-2153 (H)

Ticket price: \$25.00

