



# SANCTUARY

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

FALL 2009 Issue

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

## Magnificat Music Ministry Carolers are ready to visit your home!



### “A CHRISTMAS CAROL” COMES TO YOUR HOME

Caroling is a part of the Filipino Christmas tradition. Christmas is not complete without music, and the season is celebrated by Filipinos through caroling. Once again, Magnificat Music Ministry is on their feet to sing Christmas carols from house to house spreading the spirit of the season through Christmas songs. They are ready to sing with all their heart in spreading the joy and warmth of the Yuletide season. Merry Christmas! Maligayang Pasko!

#### SANCTUARY

MAGNIFICAT CHARISMATIC PRAYER COMMUNITY

(A Covenanted Catholic Community)

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

visit our website: [www.magnificatcharismaticcommunity.org](http://www.magnificatcharismaticcommunity.org)

email: [sanctuary-magnificat@rogers.com](mailto: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.*



## **LET'S BRING BACK CHRIST TO CHRISTMAS**

When I went to visit all classes in the catholic schools in my parish, I asked the kids this question, “Who is the most important person at Christmas?” In one junior kindergarten class I half-expected them to shout “Santa Claus”. Actually, half of them did and the other half, “Jesus”. Then one little boy said, “But its Jesus’ birthday, not Santa’s.”

Little children know that Jesus is the most important person at Christmas and we know it too. However, does the way we celebrate it show this? If after Christmas we feel empty (and our pockets too!), then we celebrated Christmas without Christ. Do we celebrate a birthday without the celebrant?

Let’s bring back Christ to Christmas!

What does it matter if Jesus is born a thousand times in nativity cribs all over the world if he is not born in our hearts? What does it matter if our living rooms are filled with gifts if Jesus has no place in our lives? What does it matter if our house is aglow with Christmas lights but the light of Christ is absent from our hearts? Does it matter if we clean our homes for Christmas but do not cleanse our souls through the sacrament of reconciliation? What does it matter if we know much about current events but do not know that Christ came because of his great love for us? What does it matter if we say “Merry Christmas” but our hearts are devoid of love?

Unless we celebrate Christmas properly we will never appreciate it and we will never spiritually profit from it.

## **LET’S BRING CHRIST BACK TO CHRISTMAS!**

Msgr. Edgar Pan  
Magnificat’s Chaplain



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Being quiet and focused in contemplation of God's Love in action for a moment, we could see that the birth of Christ is the greatest event in the history of the universe besides its creation. God stepped in our shoes, **no**, in our flesh to set us free from our captivity in sin and death and to invite us to share in Christ, His Triune Family.

Let it sink in. It is really true for you and me, sinners as we are. What a joy to celebrate and what praise and thanksgiving to overtake our hearts?

At the same time, unfortunately, we still hesitate to believe and trust God completely. Our rebellious self with its persistent appetite for fleeting earthly things and their satisfaction away from God still beguiles us.

At this Christmas my prayer for all of us is that the Light of our Saviour will reach all the darkness in us and lift us up in His Light.

A Blessed Christmas to all, may Jesus find His home in us and we in Him.

We pray for the rebirth of Magnificat and its future at Regina Mundi. In response to God's Call and Grace may it become once more a vibrant and enthusiastic community in the power of the Holy Spirit. We leave behind us a time of some confusion, discouragement, doubts and uncertainty about the future. Let us not give the evil one a chance to sow division and reign.

We thank God for all of you who stayed steadfast in prayer, leadership and generous gift of yourselves. No need to name names or details here but you are the reason that Magnificat is still alive and kicking, Thanks be to God.

Here is a brief, general line up of things to look at for the near future.

- Up to now, 53 people have renewed their commitment to Magnificat as covenanted members ready to give their all. That is a good start. May many more follow over the New Year.
- Magnificat is like a ship on the rough sea. To pilot the ship against the waves we need to take a firm hold of the rudder. **That rudder is: faith. We have to rely totally on God. He will do everything. Our job is: to Pray, Pay (and not just money) and obey. And then we watch the miracles the Lord does in our midst.**
- Our financial situation is far from comfortable but many good things are happening and so we trust that eventually we will be able to stay on budget. (Pray that we may succeed to have the property tax reduced to a reasonable level).
- **The Saturday prayer meeting is utmost priority, do we understand that? We trust you. Let the Holy Spirit moves you!**

## *Sanctuary*

- Our mission is first to the Filipino immigrants to help them save their faith and share with us the life in the Spirit. The harvest is huge and urgent.
- Secondly our mission is to all the people of our diocese to offer a retreat centre and the spreading of the Divine Mercy Devotion.
- Villa St. Joseph is first on the list to become a first-class facility and advertisable. This includes the fixing up of the basement for added meeting space and the updating of the kitchen.
- There was a good start with the seminars on Discipleship and the Mentorship & Magisterium. We will go on with retreats, Life in the Spirit Seminar, Marriage Enrichment, etc.
- We have to prepare for new elections and the formation of working teams and call on your talents and generosity. Have no fear we will not leave you in the cold.
- At the Regina Mundi Corporation, we need a new board of Directors and work with the Shareholders as friends. Being able to pay back the full loan amount stays a priority. I will work towards forming an association of Friends of Regina Mundi and the Magnificat that could unite all, including past and new friends for our cause.
- We hope that our Oratory and grounds will become a focal point and a centre of the Divine Mercy Devotion in our archdiocese and ready to receive pilgrims from the parishes for a beautiful prayer experience probably every Sunday in July and August.

Finally, I like to mention three people by name to give thanks to God for them especially. The first two are our presiding elders, Joe and Annie Lapid. They have given their total self in hours and days that can not be counted. They stayed steady in all ups and downs. It is my privilege to work with them.

The other one is Monsignor Edgardo Pan. He said "**Yes**" to us as he always does when God calls. Now he has been given a big task of bringing steady shepherd care to a double parish: Keswick and Sutton. I want you to know that he and I are a team. I want to be of help to him and serve under his auspices. Our future is in God's Hands.

**Rejoice to you, a Saviour is born. He is Christ the Lord.**

**In His Love,**

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Fr. Matthew Robbertz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of "Fr.", "Mat.", and "Robbertz" being capitalized and prominent.

Rev. Fr. Matthew Robbertz  
*Magnificat Spiritual Director*



Dear Magnificat Family,

God is truly good. He takes good care of Magnificat in spite of the many big trials that have been happening in the community. As one of the founders of the Magnificat Community, we have seen so many ups and downs of the community. Members will come and go. Members always complain and see the negative things, instead of appreciating the work done by the servant leaders. But we know that this is just normal in any community. There is no such thing as perfect community and perfect members.

Thank God for giving us a strong faith. Since the inception of the Magnificat community in 1988, God helps us to endure the adversities. He made us strong and gave us the courage to go on when life seems too hard. If not for God, we would have been gone from the community for a long time.

In 2006, we were elected as presiding elders of the community. In the past, Magnificat has no presiding elders for almost two years. To oversee the community, as well as the Regina Mundi property, is not easy - it's hard and the responsibility is so much - it is so overwhelming. However, through prayers and trust in God, we manage. Also, through the help of some kind-hearted members of Magnificat, and most especially Fr. Matt Robbertz, Monsignor Pan, Mother Anna Maria and the Council of Elders, Magnificat and Regina Mundi are still here and moving forward. We thank God for all those who care to volunteer their time and service and for the four regular volunteers who have been in Regina Mundi almost everyday to clean and fix the facilities. Without them Magnificat and Regina Mundi will not continue. We pray for all of you that God will bless you for your genuine commitment and sacrifices.

We pray that the Lord will continue to provide all of us the grace to persevere and give us the strength to go on. *"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) Let us all pray for the future of Magnificat and Regina Mundi. Let us all be united in serving and glorifying God. *"Let there be real harmony so there won't be division in the church. I plead with you to be ... united in thought and purpose."* (1Corinthians 1:10-12)

As we are heading to the year 2010, let us completely trust the Lord and forget the work of the devil. Let us move forward with the new beginning. Thank God for giving Fr. Matt to the community. He is always there to help and to guide. Let us all be obedient and faithful to God. Let us attend the activities of Magnificat. Let us give priority to attend to the Saturday prayer meeting. Let us help, support and complement each other. We are in this community not by accident. It is our loving God who called and placed us in this community. This is the place where we were planted by God and He expects us to bloom in this community. So let us be obedient and do what the Lord wants us to be.

As Christmas is fast approaching, let us all rejoice to the coming of Jesus Christ. Let us thank God for giving His Son. We should always remember that Christmas is the Christian celebration of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, the saviour of all people. Christmas is the 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.

We wish you all a blessed Merry Christmas and New Year! Maligayang Pasko!

With prayers for blessings,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joe &amp; Annie Lapid".

Joe & Annie Lapid  
Presiding Elders



**Installation of Monsignor Edgardo Pan  
July 19, 2009**



On Sunday, July 19, 2009, Reverend Monsignor Edgardo Pan was installed as the new parish priest of Our Lady of the Lake Mission Parish, Keswick and Immaculate Conception Parish, Sutton West. Most Reverend Peter J. Hundt, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Toronto, celebrated the Holy Eucharist and the rite of induction.



**INSTALLATION OF REVEREND MONSIGNOR EDGARDO PAN**

The Holy Eucharist concluded with the final blessing. Rev. Monsignor Pan had a special word of thanks for everybody and gratefully acknowledged the presence of his family, friends from St. Barnabas Church and members of the Magnificat Prayer Community.

Most Reverend Peter J. Hundt (Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Toronto), Rev. Fr. Matthew Robbertz (Magnificat's Spiritual Director) and Rev. Monsignor Edgardo Pan (Magnificat's Chaplain) joined the Magnificat members during the picture taking in front of Our Lady of the Lake Mission Parish. It was indeed a wonderful celebration. Visitors gathered outside the church lawn for a picnic and fellowship.

Congratulations Monsignor Pan! May the Lord be with you and fully equip you for the work He has called for you to do. God's richest blessings be yours.



## **6<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary of The Oratory of Jesus King Mercy**



### **Oratory of Jesus, King of Mercy 6<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration – July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

The Magnificat community welcomes the faithful devotees of the Divine Mercy who came to be with us for the 6<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the Oratory of Jesus at the hilltop of Regina Mundi. What a blessed day it was – a true manifestation of the outpouring of the love and mercy of JESUS, KING OF MERCY!





## Sanctuary



The Lord has graced us with a beautiful, sunny, breezy day to do the special prayer program scheduled for the celebration. The presence of the Holy Spirit was evident among those assembled at Vanier Hall where all gathered to start the solemn prayers. The Holy Spirit continues to touch everyone throughout the day. A warm welcome by the community marked the start of the program with joyful, welcome songs, praise and worship and recitation of the Holy Rosary. Fr. Matt Robbertz then led the faithful for the solemn Stations of the Cross.





## Sanctuary



The Stations of the Cross led to the Oratory of Jesus, at the hilltop of Regina Mundi, where the 3:00 o'clock Chaplet of the Divine Mercy was prayerfully sang. The solemn celebration of the Holy Eucharist was celebrated by Fr. Matt Robbertz, concelebrated by Monsignor Edgardo Pan and Deacon Carlos Nogueira, Archbishop's Liaison to the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the Archdiocese of Toronto. The community was blessed to have Deacon Carlos and his wife, Cecilia, to grace us with their presence. It's an affirming gesture of the important apostolic role of Magnificat in the Archdiocese of Toronto.

On behalf of Magnificat, our heartfelt gratitude to all - for their prayers and continued support to the community's activities and mission to spread the Good News.







Fr. John Corapi was the powerful speaker of this very well attended seminar on "Discover the Power of the Holy Spirit – The Lord and Giver of Life" at HSBC Arena, Buffalo, New York last August 15, 2009.



We thank Mother Ana Maria for organizing this pilgrimage trip to Buffalo.

One bus load of community members and some from St. Elizabeth Seton Church were among the throngs of people assembled at the HSBC Area. It was indeed a very enlightening, spirit-filled day.



## One Day Retreat October 17, 2009 with Bro. Don Quilao



### "Retreat/Seminar on DISCIPLESHIP"

By: Bro. Don Quilao, the powerful, energetic speaker with a good sense of humor. The beautiful bible passage below embodies the "true discipleship" of following and serving our Lord, Jesus!

1 Corinthians 15:58 - "So, my dear brothers and sisters, be strong and immovable. Always work enthusiastically for the Lord, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless." Let's stand firm in our faith and be well always in our service to God and the community.

On behalf of the community, we thank Bro. Don for this very valuable teaching. We look forward to his next talk.



*Sanctuary*

**Dinner & Dance Fundraising Event  
Oct. 24, 2009 – Thornhill Community Centre**



*All praise and thanksgiving be unto our God for giving us another successful community dinner & dance fundraising event!*

*It was indeed an enjoyable evening of fun, of music, of songs, of laughter, of joy – of fellowship!*

*It was overwhelming to see the support of our energetic, ballroom dancer groups, community members, guests, family and friends. Your continued support and generosity is very much appreciated. God's abundant blessings be unto you and yours!*

*Hope to see everyone again next year!*



**Fundraising Cash Raffle Draw Event**



**Fundraising Cash Raffle Draw Event**  
*St. Joseph's Hall, Regina Mundi – Nov. 7, 2009*

**WINNERS** of the **November 7, 2009 Magnificat Charismatic Prayer Community Fundraising Cash Raffle draw** are the following: *Top 3 prizes:* Mary Collette (\$3,000); Elvira Castro (\$2,000) and John Gragtmans (\$1,000). *Ten consolation prizes* of \$100 each: Ritza Velianou; Brandon Lapid; George Brady; Carmine Cicci; Desirie Chung; Edmund Bulaclac; Pacita Alcoriza; Arlene Liwanag, Rimbaud Family and Tanino DiMarco (as published in the Newmarket "Era Banner"). *Congratulations to all the winners!*

Our heartfelt gratitude to Fr. Matt Robbertz for initiating this fundraising event and for all the hard work he's put into this. To all who did their part and contributed to the success of this worthwhile fundraising event – **THANK YOU!**

*Thank You dear GOD for being so GOOD ALL THE TIME!*



## Fundraising Cash Raffle Draw Event



### And the Winner is .....!

Excitement, anticipation, joyful noise, music, food, the hustle and bustle of *preparing for the draw* is mounting as generous community members volunteered to help out in any way ... sorting booklets and booklets of tickets to be included in the raffle drum, recording, tallying figures, etc.

Just to be with the crowd that draw night of November 7<sup>th</sup> at St. Joseph's Villa Hall was quite an experience. Everyone did their part ... indeed, what a beautiful sight to see our members **one in heart & mind** for this worthwhile cause – all for the love of Magnificat and Regina Mundi. Thank you all! *Our loving GOD can never be outdone in His generosity!*

### Quote to live by:

**"Trust** always and a great deal in **Divine Providence**; never, never must you let yourselves be discouraged, despite contrary winds. I say it again: **trust in God and Mary Immaculate**; be **faithful** and **forge ahead!**" - *St. Mother Pauline of the Agonizing Heart of Jesus*



*Sanctuary*  
**Congratulations to all the Winners**



Sis. Auring Bulaclac, mother of Edmund Bulaclac, received the cheque of \$100 on behalf of the winner, his son Edmund.



Sis. Mary Collette, the grand prize winner, received her cheque of \$3,000 from Sis. Estela Cruz. (middle picture)

Elvira Castro, the second prize winner, accompanied by her husband, received the cheque of \$2,000 from Rev. Fr. Matthew Robbertz.

**WORKSHOP ON MENTORSHIP & MAGISTERIUM**

**With Deacon Carlos Nogueira**

December 5, 2009



Sis. Annie gave introduction and Biography of Deacon Carlos

*"All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age." (Mt 28:18-20)*

Rev. Deacon Carlos Nogueira, Archbishop's Liaison to the Charismatic Renewal in the Archdiocese of Toronto, conducted the workshop on Mentorship and Magisterium. He is a powerful conference and retreat speaker.

On behalf of the community, we thank Deacon Carlos for sharing his spiritual wisdom and knowledge. It was a remarkable teaching. We look forward to his next talk.