

Kalinga

VOLUME 1, No. 1

FIRST ISSUE

April-June 2004



Diocese of Rockford

Office of Filipino Ministry
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May 17, 2004

To the Officers and Members of the Fox Valley Filipino/American Catholic Ministry,

With God's blessings and directions, may your organization rooted and grounded in Christ bring out the God given gifts in all of you and share them to the community of the people of God.

May your service bring praise, honor and glory to Almighty God. I pray for all of you for your fidelity to the gospel truth of Christ Jesus.

Sincerely yours,


Rev. Perfecto L. Vasquez

ROCKFORD DIOCESE STATISTICAL PROFILE

The Rockford Diocese was established on Sept. 23, 1908.

The diocese includes 11 counties: Boone, Carroll, DeKalb, JoDaviess, Kane, Lee, McHenry, Ogle, Stephenson, Whiteside and Winne-bago. The diocese includes urban, suburban and rural areas, and in many respects serves as a microcosm of the Catholic Church in the United States.

According to the diocese's annual general report to the Vatican for the year ending Nov. 2002:

- There are 418,891 Catholics in the diocese's 11-county area.
- The diocese includes 105 parishes.
- It is served by a total of 166 priests incardinated in our diocese and another 13 priests from other dioceses who serve here.
- There are 48 religious priests, 112 permanent deacons, 250 religious women and 17 religious brothers serving in the diocese.

Source: www.rockforddiocese.org

Three Priests Celebrate First Ordination Anniversary

ON MAY 17 LAST YEAR, ELEVEN DEACONS WERE ORDAINED to the priesthood in a ceremony presided by the bishop of Rockford, the Most Rev. Thomas G. Doran. Of these eleven men, three are Filipinos – born and raised in the Philippines – Father Ariel Valencia, Father Joel Lopez and Father Cesar Pajarillo, Jr. The Filipino community of the Diocese of Rockford has been immensely blessed with the gift of these fine young men who have dedicated their lives in the service of God and the Church in the United States. As

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Fathers Ariel Valencia, Joel Lopez and Cesar Pajarillo in front of the Diocese of Rockford's administration building (May 2004).

part of their first ordination anniversary, the Filipino-Americans in the Fox Valley area have organized a special celebration on May 23, 2004 at Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in Crystal Lake. This celebration will be highlighted by a concert given by the *Ateneo de Manila College Glee Club* and will culminate with the celebration of the Mass to be led by Fathers Pajarillo, Valencia and Lopez.

The presence of Filipino priests in this part of the United States testifies to the church's pastoral concern for the welfare of ethnic minorities, especially Asian and Pacific Americans. Rejoicing at the presence of Asian and Pacific Catholics, the U.S. Bishops state in the USCCB document *Asian and Pacific Presence* that they hope to "concretely strengthen our ties with our Asian and Pacific communities" and will enable "their voice to be heard among ourselves and the Church at large."

As the Asian Catholic population in the U.S. increases, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) recognizes the contributions of many priests from Asia and the Pacific. "In fact, 9 percent of those ordained to the priesthood in the United States in 1999 were of Asian or Pacific heritage even though Asian and Pacific persons were only 2.9 percent of the U.S. Catholic population."

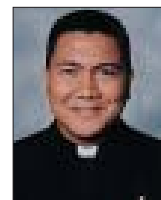
As of now, the Rockford Diocese has 12 Filipino priests serving in different capacities as pastors, parochial administrators and associate pastors. Fathers Pajarillo, Valencia and Lopez, the latest addition to the Filipino presbyterate, are currently serving in different parishes along the Fox River valley. ❧



Father Ariel Valencia hails from Pampanga, but grew up in Quezon province. He attended Mount Saint Aloysius College Seminary in Calauag, Quezon, taught high school for a while, and then left for the United States to pursue studies in theology, graduating with a Master's Degree in Divinity and an MA in Sacred Scriptures from Mount Saint Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland in 2003. He is currently assigned as an associate pastor at Saint Margaret Mary Church in Algonquin. Fr. Ariel teaches sophomores at Marian Central Catholic High School in Woodstock.



Father Joel Lopez, who is currently serving as an associate pastor at St. John Newman Church in Saint Charles, IL graduated with a Master's Degree in Divinity from Mount Saint Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland. He is also a candidate for an MA Degree in Developmental Anthropology at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City. The story of his vocation is both colorful and interesting – he worked for a while with the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) as a "labor and employment officer" and moonlighted as a "talent screener" – responsible for making sure that overseas bound entertainers really possess the required talents correspondimores at Marian Central Catholic High School.



Father Cesar Pajarillo, Jr. was born in Laguna, Philippines and grew up in Marikina, Metro Manila. He holds a degree in Sacred Theology from the Universitas Pontificia Urbaniana in the Vatican and a Master's Degree in Divinity from Mount Saint Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland. He is currently serving as an associate pastor at Saint Thomas the Apostle Church in Crystal Lake, IL and teaches Morality and Church History at Marian Central Catholic High School in Woodstock, IL. When not doing priestly work, Fr. Pajarillo enjoys building computers and communicating around the world with his radio transmitters. His very first 'official act' upon arriving in the U.S. was to secure an amateur radio operator's license, which the FCC granted him after passing the required examinations.

FILIPINO PRIESTS SERVING IN THE DIOCESE

The office of the Filipino Ministry of the Diocese of Rockford is headed by Fr. Pecto Vazquez.

Other Filipino

clergy serving in the diocese are Fr. Burt Absalom (St. Charles), Fr. William Antillon (Lena), Fr. Moises Apostol (Savannah), Fr. Leonardo Jacob (Crystal Lake), Fr. Joel Lopez (St. Charles), Fr. Butch Muede (Huntley), Fr. Rodel Peji (Elgin), Fr. Vic Purgatorio (Algonquin), Fr. Pancho Seco (McHenry), Fr. Les Echevia (Virgil), Fr. Ariel Valencia (Algonquin) and Fr. Cesar Pajarillo (Crystal Lake).



News REPORTS



FILIPINO PRIESTS AND AREA COORDINATORS MEETING

The Fox Valley Filipino-American Catholic Ministry meet last April 24 to discuss details of the forthcoming “Simbang Gabi 2004,” picnic, newsletter and the proposed website. It was stressed during the meeting the importance of parishes’ rosters/directories to reach out and propagate our newsletter with our fellow Filipinos. The coordinators submitted the list of Filipino-American parishioners that are registered in their respective parish. ✍

ATENEO GLEE CLUB TO GIVE CONCERT

The office of the Filipino Ministry of the Diocese of Rockford and the Fox Valley Filipino American Catholic Ministry will present the Ateneo de Manila’s College Glee Club in concert as part of the club’s U.S. concert tour.

The concert will be held on Sunday, May 23, at 3 p.m. at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, 1023 McHenry Ave., Crystal Lake.

The Glee club is the oldest university chorale in the Philippines and has received numerous international awards and recognition. Its repertoire includes selections from Filipino Folk songs to popular tunes and Broadway selections.

The concert will be followed by Misang Pilipino (Filipino Mass) in celebration of the first anniversary of ordination of Fathers Cesar Pajarillo, Jr., Joel Lopez and Ariel Valencia. ✍



OUR MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP NOVENA

Everyone is invited to attend the weekly Novena in honor of Our Mother of Perpetual Help, which is regularly held every Tuesday evening at Saint Margaret Mary Church in Algonquin. The novena starts at 7:30 PM with the recitation of the rosary, followed by the novena prayer to Our Mother of Perpetual help at 7:45 PM, and concluded with a Mass at 8:00 PM.

Saint Margaret Mary Church, through the auspices of the Filipino Ministry of St. Margaret Mary, will host this year’s celebration of the Feast of Our Mother of Perpetual Help on June 27 with a Misang Pilipino at 5:00 PM. ✍

NEW PRESIDENT

The Fox Valley Filipino-American Catholic Ministry has elected their new president. Mr. Ernie



Domingo, very active parishioner of Sts. Peter and Paul parish in Cary, promises to share the best of himself and make the ministry more vibrant and alive during his term.

Mr. Domingo assumed his office immediately after a unanimous vote in an election held during the meeting on March 16, 2004 held at St. Margaret Mary Church in Algonquin. He succeeded Ms. Zeny Engracia. ✍

Fox Valley Area Coordinators

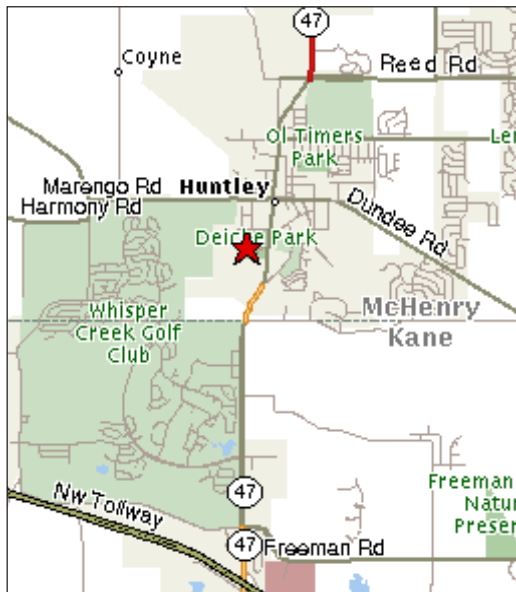
The Fox Valley Filipino American Catholic Ministry is the umbrella organization for churches in the Fox Valley area. The Ministry's mission is to foster the growth of Filipino Christian faith and traditions, promote fellowship and unity among Filipino Catholics in the Diocese, and participate and collaborate with the Church leadership.

Please contact one of the following coordinators with any questions.

Church	Address	Coordinator	Telephone No.
SS. Peter and Paul Church	410 N. First Street, Cary, IL 60013	Ernie and Agnes Domingo	847-516-8829
St. Margaret Mary Church	111 South Hubbard Street. Algonquin, IL 60102	Al Aceron	847-668-1303
St. Thomas More Church	215 Thomas More, Elgin, IL 60123	Emma Rafael	847-931-9684
St. Mary Church	312 Lincoln Ave., Woodstock, IL 60098	Nap and Mercy Abando Ray and Yolly Manalang	815-338-3596
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church	800 McHenry Ave., Crystal Lake, IL 60012	Jess De Jesus	815-444-8565
St. John Neumann Church	2900 E. Main St. St. Charles, IL 60174	Romy and Norma Manabat	312-658-6345
Holy Apostles Church	5211 W Bull Valley Rd. McHenry, IL 60050	Jun and Baby Zaragoza	815-344-3558
St. Mary of Huntley	10911 N Woodstock St. Huntley, IL 60142	Ruben and Josie Ruelo	847-669-3244
St. Thomas The Apostle	Oak St. at State Route 176 Crystal Lake, IL 60014	Gilda Couzins	847-854-4155

Upcoming Event:

3RD ANNUAL PICNIC
June 20, 2004 at
 Deicke Park in
 Huntley from
 10:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
 There will be games
 and entertainment
 for all ages. The
 food is potluck
 so everyone who
 wishes to come can
 bring his or her
 favorite food.
 A Mass will be
 celebrated at
 4:30 p.m.



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Novena to Mother of Perpetual Help
 is held every Tuesday at St. Margaret Mary
 Church, 111 S Hubbard St. Algonquin.
 Rosary: 7:30 p.m., Novena: 7:45 p.m.,
 and Holy Mass 8:00 p.m.

**Misang Pilipino and Feast of Our
 Mother of Perpetual Help**
Sunday, June 27, 2004 – 5:00 pm
 Sponsored by Filipino Ministry of
 St. Margaret Mary Parish (847) 658-7625

**Fox Valley Filipino American Catholic
 Ministry Meeting** is held every 3rd Sunday
 of the month. Please contact your
 coordinator for time and place. Everyone is
 encouraged to register to be included in the
 mailing list of Kalinga newsletter.

If you would like to contribute articles for
 the next issue of the Kalinga Newsletter,
 please contact Father Cesar Pajarillo
 at 815-455-5400 x403 or Ernie Domingo
 at 847-516-8829.

Editorial Board and Contributors:

Editor: Fr. Cesar Pajarillo • **Members:** Fr. Noel Jacob,
 Fr. Butch Muede, Ernesto Domingo, Al Alceron, Agnes Domingo,
 Gilda Couzins and Zeny Engracia • **Page layout:** Lorna L. Socol