



Kalinga

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July–Sept. 2004

San Lorenzo Ruiz

LORENZO RUIZ WAS A layman who worked as a calligrapher for the Dominican parish of Binondo, Manila. As an *escriba*, he was exceptionally gifted, and the Dominican friars relied on him to transcribe baptismal, confirmation and marriage documents into the church's official books. He was also an active member of the Marian confraternity, a man the Dominicans described as someone "they could trust."

The son of a Chinese father and *Tagala* mother who lived in the *Parian* district outside the city walls of Manila, Lorenzo Ruiz married a *Tagala* like his mother and had three children—two sons and a daughter – whose descendants are currently residents of the same area where the original Ruiz family lived.

In 1636, Ruiz was implicated in a murder. He sought help from his Dominican superiors who believed in his innocence. In order to escape what they believed would have been an unjust prosecution for their protégé, the Spanish friars immediately sent Ruiz on a missionary expedition outside of the Philippines. Initially, Ruiz thought he was being sent to Taiwan, where he believed his Chinese roots would enable him to start a new life. Little did he know that he and the missionary expedition led by Fray Domingo Ibanez was actually

headed for Nagasaki, Japan, where feudalism was fanning the flames of Christian persecution. Lorenzo Ruiz was headed straight into the arms of death.

He was arrested almost immediately upon his arrival in Japan in 1636, and subjected to torture by his Japanese captors for more than a year. Tied upside down by his feet and dropped into a well where sharp stakes lined the bottom, his torturers would stop just before he would be impaled, and thereupon try to convince him to renounce his faith.



"Deny your faith and we will spare your life," his persecutors said.

To which Lorenzo Ruiz answered, "I will never do it. I am a Catholic and happy to die for God. If I have a thousand lives to offer, I will offer them to God."

Existing documents attest that the Japanese promised him a safe trip back home where he could be reunited with his loved ones, but Ruiz staunchly chose to remain faithful to his religion.

On September 22, 1637, Ruiz, Fray Domingo and their 14 companions were led up a hill overlooking the bay of Nagasaki. There they were hung upside down with their heads inside the well. Their temples were slit open to let blood drip slowly until they died either from loss of blood or asphyxiation. Many died after several days. Ruiz died last, on September 29, 1637.

Beatified by Pope John Paul II in Manila and later canonized on October 28, 1987, San Lorenzo Ruiz holds the distinction of being the first person beatified outside of the Vatican. He also holds the honor of being the first Filipino saint, the "most improbable of saints," as Pope John Paul II described him during the canonization ceremony.

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“The Lord gives us saints at the right time and God waited 350 years to give us this saint,” the Holy Father said. “It is the heroism which he demonstrated as a lay witness to the faith... which is very important in today’s world. The witness of San Lorenzo is the testimony we need of courage without measure to show us that it is possible. Faith and life for Lorenzo was synonymous and inseparable. Life without faith would have been without value...he proved that sanctity and heroism are there for anybody and the final victory is made to size for each one of us.”

Welcome



We are happy to welcome two fresh faces in our diocese and in the Filipino Ministry this year. Our first new face is **Fr. Dario Indiake**, who is a priest of the Diocese of Lucena, Philippines and is under the jurisdiction of Bishop Emilio Marquez (see *Conversation with Bishop Marquez*).

Fr. Dario arrived on June 2004 from Manila. We are grateful for Bishop Marquez for allowing Fr. Dario to come here and serve in our community for at least the next three years. He is currently serving as Parochial Vicar (Associate Pastor) at St. Thomas More Church in Elgin.

Another new addition to our Filipino Community is **Sister Marian Ladrera, RSM** of the Religious Sisters of Mercy. Sister Marian is from Palo, Leyte, Philippines and the United States is her first foreign assignment. She arrived in this country on September 24 to join Sister Claire who is currently serving as DRE at St. Nicolas Church in Aurora, IL.



Conversation with Bishop Emilio Marquez



The Most Rev. Emilio Marquez, former Bishop of Gumaca, and currently the Bishop of Lucena, is one of the most popular Catholic bishops in the Philippines. He figured prominently in the Philippines news media in the 1990’s during the height of the Communist insurgency because of his role as a peace-maker. Bishop Marquez was responsible for the release of a number of captive soldiers and the establishment of peace talks between the government and the communist guerillas.

Fr. Cesar Pajarillo, Jr. and Bishop Marquez had an interesting conversation during the latter’s farewell dinner at St. Margaret Mary Rectory in Algonquin on September 13, 2004.

Fr. Pajarillo: I understand there are six priests from your Diocese that are on loan to different dioceses in New Jersey, and one here in the Diocese of Rockford. What is the present status of your diocese in terms of the number of priests and candidates for ordination?

Bp. Marquez: We have one hundred and seven diocesan priests in our diocese serving approximately 795,000 Catholics (or approximately 89 % of the total population of the Diocese) in 32 parishes and the number of priests is consistently increasing. We have ordinations every year and as of this year, we have over 50 seminarians in different major seminaries.

Fr. Pajarillo: Would you say that vocation to the priesthood is increasing in the Philippines?

Bp. Marquez: I do not have the figures on top of my head, but I would say that the number of ordination every year is more or less consistent, on the average, if not increasing.

Fr. Pajarillo: Will you still be willing to loan priests to different U. S. Dioceses?

Bp. Marquez: It’s a good thing to do and I am still open to that. Our diocese, at least, has a sufficient number of priests, the majority of whom are young.

Fr. Pajarillo: How is the peace situation in your diocese? Do you still mediate between the government and the communist rebels?

Bp. Marquez: The peace condition is improving. I met Ka Roger twice [*Ka Roger is the commander of the commu-*

News REPORTS

VISIT FROM A FILIPINO BISHOP

The Filipino community in the Diocese of Rockford was blessed to host the Most Rev. Emilio Marquez, Bishop of the Diocese of Lucena, Philippines. Bishop Marquez was in the United States on a personal business, accompanied by his *Oeconomus*, Fr. Jorge. Bishop Marquez celebrated Holy Mass with the people of Saint Margaret Mary Church in Algonquin on September 12, 2004.

Before he left for the Philippines, the Fr. Perfecto Vasquez and the Filipino Clergy in Rockford hosted a farewell party for him at St. Margaret Mary Rectory on September 13, 2004.



MOVING OUT OF STATE

Gilda Couzins, one of our dedicated Filipino leaders, decided to move back with her family to Frederick, Maryland. She was the first Filipino Coordinator for St. Thomas the Apostle's Filipino-American community and was actively involved in promoting and organizing Filipino Masses at St. Thomas.

Her decision to move back to Maryland was business related, but she promised to come back frequently and help us in whatever ways she can. To Gilda, God bless and good luck from all of us at *Kalinga*.



KALINGA NEWSGROUP

Did you know that our newsletter has a web presence? Point your web browsers to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/kalinganewsletter> and you will hit our Yahoo Group. If you want to receive our newsletter electronically, as well as upload/download pictures and documents from this site, all you need to do is to sign up online. *Kalinga Newsletter Online* is a restricted membership group, which means you need the moderators' approval (Fr. Cesar Pajarillo & Fr. Moises Apostol are moderating it) in order to gain access. If you have further questions, or if you need additional instructions for signing up, please feel free to email us at kalinganewsletter@yahoogroups.com.

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nist rebels operating in the Tagalog speaking area of the Philippines where the Diocese of Lucena is located – Fr. CP] when I was mediating the release of captive soldiers. I had to trek the mountains for nine hours to reach their lairs in the middle of the jungle, which was a fruitful effort because the soldiers were eventually set free. The communist rebels were teasing me that I was the only Bishop who stayed with them for 24 hours.

Fr. Pajarillo: I understand that you are celebrating the first anniversary of your installation and taking possession of the Diocese of Lucena exactly on this date (September 13). Congratulations and we wish you well in your Episcopal ministry.

Bp. Marquez: Thank you, and thanks to everyone for hosting this dinner.

Summer Picnics

The 3rd Annual Summer Picnic of the Filipinos in the Fox Valley area was held on Sunday, June 20, 2004 from 11:00 AM to dusk at Diecke Park in Huntley, IL. The affair was sponsored by the Fox Valley Filipino American Catholic Ministry. It was a memorable day of fun, games and karaoke singing. Prizes were also raffled off and different kinds of Filipino delicacies were shared among the participants. About 500 *kababayans*, and a few Anglo-Americans

came to enjoy the food and the nice weather.

The day was concluded with a celebration of Holy Mass at 4:30 PM, led by Fr. Dario Indiake, a priest from the Diocese of Lucena, Philippines (who is now serving in our diocese as Parochial Vicar at St. Thomas More Church in Elgin) and concelebrated by Msgr. James McLoughlin, dean of McHenry Deanery and a number of Filipino priests.



Barbecue ...



Priests and friends ...



Blessing of food ...



Guests ...



Dive!!!! ...



Mass ...



Fun Games for Kids . . .



Also, on July 31, 2004, the Rockford Area Filipino Catholic Community had their first Summer Picnic at Alpine Park in Rockford, IL. The affair was attended by about 250 people and was capped by a Holy Mass celebrated by Fr. Perfecto Vasquez.

Both affairs were successful celebration of Filipino culture and hospitality, and the guests, as well as the participants are looking forward to an even more exciting picnic next year. [Fr. Noel Jacob with additional reports from our Rockford correspondent]



And the gang . . .



Letter

Can we have a clearer understanding of the Filipino-American Church Organizations?

May I just throw three thoughts about this question? First of all, for sometime already we have organized and bonded ourselves. To offer that gift of *kagandahang-loob* or good will among ourselves is the core ingredient for a miracle to take place. Let us be more positive and more aggressive in our appreciation of what we have and what we have accomplished this far. Budding Filipino-American communities among the Catholic parishes in the Diocese of Rockford is an unfolding miracle for us and among us.

Secondly, as Catholics it is a very good sign that we have the Filipino Ministry as part of the official pastoral concern of the Diocese. Sociologically, it is a blessing and an advantage —being still a minority group — to be given access to Church facilities and resources. We no longer are bystander-groups in any parish community because our bishop, the Most Rev. Thomas Doran, opened a door of services and privileges for us. We only need to increase in our human bond as a growing community.

The United States Catholic Bishops have a pastoral commitment for us, as we organize ourselves and achieve growth in our faith and other concerns. They said in a pastoral statement called “*Asian and Pacific Presence: Harmony in Faith*” (November 2001) that: *As the bishops of the Church in the United States, we rejoice in their presence. . . . We acknowledge the contributions of all Asian and Pacific persons, especially their many creative initiatives that assist our ministries in our dioceses and parishes.*

Lastly, the presence of fifteen Filipino priests under the leadership of Fr. Perfecto Vasquez in the Filipino Ministry is another good sign of positive growth and advantage for us in our journey of faith. The presence of these Filipino priests is an importance resource. Together we can bloom in faith with them. In addition, we have tremendous blessings behind the structure of pastoral ministry of Rockford Diocese.

Mabuhay ang Filipino-American Communities of Rockford Diocese!

Fr. Moises Apostol

Fox Valley "Simbang Gabi 2004" Schedule

DATE & TIME	CHURCH & ADDRESS	MAIN CELEBRANT	Contact No.
December 15, 2004 7:00 PM	St. Thomas More Church 215 Thomas More Drive Elgin, IL 60123	Bishop Thomas Doran, DD	(815) 888-1682
December 16, 2004 7:00 PM	St. Mary's Church 312 Lincoln Ave. Woodstock, IL 60098	Fr. Burt Absalon	(815) 338-3377
December 17, 2004 7:00 PM	Sts. Peter & Paul 's Church 410 N. First St. Cary, IL 60013	TBA	(847) 516-2636
December 18, 2004 7:00 PM	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church 1023 McHenry Avenue Crystal Lake, IL 60014	Fr. Noel Jacob	(815) 459-3033
December 19, 2004 6:00 PM	St. John Newmann 2900 East main St. St. Charles, IL 60174	Fr. Joel Lopez	(815) 377-2797
December 20, 2004 7:00 PM	Church of the Holy Apostles 5211 W. Bull Valley Rd. McHenry, IL 60050	Fr. Pancho Seco	(815) 385-5673
December 21, 2004 6:30 PM	St. Margaret Mary Church 111 S. Hubbard St. Algonquin, IL 60102	Fr. Moises Apostol	(847) 658-7625
December 22, 2004 7:00 PM	St. Mary's Church 10307 Dundee Rd. Huntley, IL 60142	Fr. Mario Ronelo Meude	(815) 669-3137
December 23, 2004 7:00 PM	St. Thomas the Apostle Church Corner of Oak St & Rt. 176 Crystal lake, IL 60014	Rev. Msgr. Dan Hermes, HP	

Rockford "Simbang Gabi 2004" Schedule

DATE & TIME	CHURCH & ADDRESS	MAIN CELEBRANT	Contact No.
December 15, 2004	Bernadette Church St 2400 Bell Ave., Rockford, IL 61103	Bishop Arthur O'Neil	
December 16, 2004	Cathedral of St. Peter 1243 N. Church St. Rockford, IL 61103	Fr. Cesar Pajarillo	(815) 965-2765
December 17, 2004	Holy Family Church 4401 Highcrest Rd. Rockford, IL 61107	Fr. Mario Ronelo Meude	(815) 398-4280
December 18, 2004	St. Patrick's Church 2505 School St. Rockford, IL 61101Tel.	TBA	(815) 965-9539
December 19, 2004	St. Bridget's Church 600 Clifford Ave. Loves Park, IL 61111	Fr. Moises Apostol	(815) 633-6311
December 20, 2004	St. James Church 514 Caswell St. Belvidere, IL 61008	Fr. William Antillon	(815) 547-6397
December 21, 2004	St. Edward's Church 3004 Eleventh St. Rockford, IL 61109	Fr. Noel Jacob	(815) 229-0282
December 22, 2004	St. Rita's Church 6254 Valley Knoll Dr. Rockford, IL 61109	Fr. Ariel Valencia	(815) 398-0853
December 23, 2004	St. Bridget's Church 600 Clifford Ave. Loves Park, IL 61111	Fr. Joel Lopez	(815) 633-6311

Priests' Assignments

NAME & DESIGNATION	CHURCH (SCHOOL) & ADDRESS	Phone Number
Fr. Burt Absalon, <i>Assistant Principal</i>	Aquin Central Catholic High School 1419 S. Galena Ave. Freeport, IL 61032	(815) 235-3154
Fr. William Antillon <i>Pastor</i>	St. Joseph's Church 410 W. Lena St. Lena, IL 61048	(815) 369-2810
Fr. Moises Apostol <i>Pastor</i>	St. John the Baptist Church 318 Chicago Ave. Savanna, IL 61074	(815) 273-3961
Fr. Les Echevia <i>Pastor</i>	SS. Peter and Paul 5N939 Meredith Rd. Virgil, IL 60151	(815) 365-6618
Fr. Noel Jacob, <i>Parochial Vicar (Associate Pastor)</i>	Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Church 1023 McHenry Avenue Crystal Lake, IL 60014	(815) 459-3033
Fr. Joel Lopez <i>Parochial Vicar (Associate Pastor)</i>	Saint John Neumann Church 2900 East main St. St. Charles, IL 60174	(815) 377-2797
Fr. Mario Ronelo Muede <i>Parochial Vicar (Associate Pastor)</i>	St. Mary's Church 10307 Dundee Rd. Huntley, IL 60142	(815) 669-3137
Fr. Cesar C. Pajarillo, Jr. <i>Parochial Vicar (Associate Pastor)</i>	St. Thomas the Apostle 272 King St. Crystal lake, IL 60014T	(815) 455-5400
Fr. Rodel Peji <i>Administrator</i>	St. Joseph's Church 10519 Main Street Richmond, IL 6007	(815) 678-7421
Fr. Ariel Valencia <i>Parochial Vicar (Associate Pastor)</i>	St. Margaret Mary's Church 111 S. Hubbard St. Algonquin, IL 60102	(847) 658-7625
Fr. Perfecto Vasquez <i>Parochial Vicar (Associate Pastor)</i> <i>Director of Filipino Ministry</i>	St. Margaret Mary's Church 111 S. Hubbard St. Algonquin, IL 60102	(847) 658-7625
Fr. Pancho Seco <i>Parochial Vicar (Associate Pastor)</i>	Church of the Holy Apostles 5211 W. Bull Valley Rd. McHenry, IL 60050	(815) 385-5673
Fr. Dario Indiake <i>Parochial Vicar (Associate Pastor)</i>	St. Thomas More Church 215 Thomas More Drive Elgin, IL 60123	(815) 888-1682

Announcements:

* Our next Filipino Mass will be held on October 24, 2004 at St. Catherine of Siena Church located at 845 W. Main Street, Dundee, IL 60110 at 5:00 PM.

* Novena to Our Mother of Perpetual Help is ongoing every Tuesday, from 7:30 PM at St. Margaret Mary Church, Algonquin, IL. The Novena is concluded with the celebration of Holy Mass.



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