



Kalinga

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MABUHAY! POPE BENEDICT XVI

POPE BENEDICT XVI, FORMERLY JOSEPH RATZINGER, was born on April 16, 1927 in Marktl am Inn, Germany. He was ordained a priest on June 29, 1951.

His father, a police officer, came from a traditional family of farmers from Lower Bavaria. He spent his adolescent years in Traunstein, and was called into the auxiliary anti-aircraft service in the last months of World War II. From 1946 to 1951, the year in which he was ordained a priest and began to teach, he studied philosophy and theology at the University of Munich and at the higher school in Freising. In 1953, he obtained a doctorate in theology with a thesis entitled: “The People and House of God in St. Augustine’s doctrine of the Church”. Four years later, he qualified as a university teacher. He then taught dogma and fundamental theology at the higher school of philosophy and theology of Freising, then in Bonn from 1959 to 1969, Münster from 1963 to 1966, Tubinga from 1966 to 1969. From 1969, he was a professor of dogmatic theology and of the history of dogma at the University of Regensburg and Vice President of the same university.

Already in 1962 he was well known when, at the age of 35, he became a consultor at Vatican Council II, of the Archbishop of Cologne, Cardinal Joseph Frings. Among his numerous publications, a particular post belongs to the ‘Introduction to Christianity’, a collection of university lessons on the profession of apostolic faith, published in 1968; Dogma and revelation, an anthology of essays, sermons and reflections dedicated to the pastoral ministry, published in 1973.

In March 1977, Pope Paul VI elected him Archbishop of Munich and Freising and on May 28, 1977 he was consecrated, the first diocesan priest after 80 years to take over the pastoral ministry of this large Bavarian diocese. Paul VI elevated him to the College of Cardinals in the consistory of June 27, 1977.

Titular churches, suburbicarian see of Velletri-Segni (April 5, 1993) and suburbicarian see of Ostia (November 30, 2002). On November 25, 1981 he was nominated by John Paul II Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith; President of the Biblical Commission and of the Pon-



Pope Benedict XVI (formerly Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger, Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith), on his first appearance as the new Pope on the loggia of St. Peter's Basilica, here flanked by an unnamed Prelate and by Archbishop Pietro Marini, Papal Master of Ceremonies.

tifical International Theological Commission. Relator of the 5th General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops (1980). Presidential Delegate to the 6th Synodal Assembly (1983).

Elected Vice Dean of the College of Cardinals, November 6, 1998. On November 30, 2002, the Holy Father approved the election, by the order of cardinal bishops, as Dean of the College of Cardinals. President of the Commission for the Preparation of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, and after 6 years of work (1986-92) he presented the New Catechism to the Holy Father. Laurea honoris causa in jurisprudence from the Libera Università Maria Santissima Assunta, November 10, 1999.

You may email your congratulatory messages to Pope Benedict XVI at benedictxvi@vatican.va.

<http://www.usccb.org/pope/popebenedictxvi.htm>

Reflections

(7th last Words)

Editors Note: We are publishing excerpts from the Reflections on the Seven Last Words of Jesus Christ offered by our Filipino Catholic Community leaders during the Good Friday rites at St. Mary's (Old Church) in Huntley.

MY GOD, MY GOD. WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?

Reflections by Ernie Domingo

According to the Gospel of Matthew 27:46, Jesus, on the Cross, cried out in a loud voice these words. He had been psychologically traumatized and physically tortured, and now, aware of his impending physical death, Jesus the man, calls out to his Father on the edge of despair. He suddenly discovers that He has lost his two-way communication with God and He must face the gate of death alone. One can only imagine the tremendous pain and agony Jesus Christ experienced that day.

To me, these are the words of Jesus, the man, Jesus, the human being, at wits end. As Jesus cried out these words, He showed us his humanity. He showed us that God did not ask more of us than He asked of His only Son.

Everyone has, as myself, have had their own trials and tribulations in their lives. It is all around us.

We had A tsunami, in Asia, late last year killed over 100,000 people. Families were torn apart. Parents and children died. Children were struck down before their prime. We will never know the great things these children may have accomplished.

We have a war in Iraq killing our young men and women. There are suicide bombings and missile attacks daily.

Three years ago, we had 9/11. The worst killing of Americans on American soil since the American Revolution. On our streets, we have children killing children. We have rape, murder, and theft daily.

We have young men and women dying of incurable diseases, such as AIDS.

We had floods in the Philippines killing thousands. We have sickness and hunger in many third world countries.

Closer to home, we have unemployment, increased standards of living and little to no increase or worse, a decrease in salaries. People now need to live on less.

Why has God forsaken us?

It is in this pain and suffering, Jesus Christ shows us the way to carry our own crosses, our own trials, and our own tribulations.

In my own life, I have had the death of loved ones, such as my father, mother, sister, father-in-law, mother-in-law, aunts and uncles. I have seen unemployment and financial hardship. I have seen discrimination and bigotry. I have seen greed at my expense. I have seen days where I have tried to learn or do something and it was not working out.

Why has God forsaken me?

It is during these times of strife and conflict, we need to look within ourselves, within our faith, and within our love of Jesus Christ and follow the example He set the day He died. We must believe God never asks so much of us that



Fox Valley area Filipino-Americans who delivered the seven last word reflections on Good at St. Mary's in Huntley: Tony Tech, Ernie Domingo, Romy Manabat, Fr. Rodel Peji (celebrant), Ruben Ruelo, Josie, Emma Rafael and Al Aceron.

we cannot cope with it as long as we have Him by our side. This is what makes us stronger.

“He was crucified, died and was buried and on the third day, He rose again, ascended into heaven, He is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead and His kingdom shall have no end. “

By His death, for us, He has opened the door to His Kingdom. Jesus died on that day. He died so that we may live eternally with Him.

FATHER, INTO THY HANDS, I COMMEND MY SPIRIT

Reflections by Al Aceron

My friends, Behold, the Man! Behold, Our Redeemer! Behold, Jesus! Behold, Him Crucified!

Crowned with thorns! Blood streaming down His face! His eyes shut and swollen! His nose was broken!

His lips are bleeding and torn! His whole body bruised and covered with wounds!

Disfigured!

For 6 long, enduring hours, Jesus is nailed on the cross. The most shameful way for a man to die! Yet, humbly he accepted -doing the will of His Father, Crucified, for you and me so that our sins will be forgiven. Many of us have seen the movie, *The Passion of the Christ*. Many of us were so moved with pity and could not bear to watch the cruelty and the pain that Jesus endured. Many even wept and cried. Yet, no matter how they tried, the movie will never adequately portray the deep horror and the brutality of the crucifixion. It is nothing compared to what Jesus actually experienced on the cross – Beyond human comprehension and description! Yet, this was exactly what the prophet Isaiah foretold of the sufferings of Jesus... “His appearance was so disfigured more than any man, and his form disfigured beyond human likeness.” Even as Jesus was in such horrible pain and suffering. Even as he was in extreme agony.

Even as he was hanging on the cross for 6 long painful hours. Yet, one by one, he uttered all but Seven Words.

Jesus raised his head and cried with a loud voice-

“FATHER, INTO THY HANDS, I COMMEND MY SPIRIT!” In this last statement, Jesus showed His complete commitment to God the Father. And, like a trusting child, Jesus turns to the Father and takes the next step. He has bound himself by love to God by doing the will of the Father... and bound himself by love to the human race, *so that our sins may be forgiven*.

As we reflect on His SEVEN WORDS OF LOVE,

May we grow in our love for one another. May we find our faith stronger, our hope rekindled and our love powerfully renewed. So that the day will come, when we can rightfully proclaim that we have done our Father’s will! And like His Son-Jesus, we will cry out in one loud voice... “FATHER, INTO THY HANDS, WE COMMEND OUR SPIRITS! “

FATHER, FORGIVE THEM, FOR THEY KNOW NOT WHAT THEY DO

Reflections by Romy Manabat

Brothers and sisters in Christ let me share with you my personal experience on how hatred and anger built within me and how forgiveness helped me had a peace of mind. I do hope with this Lenten season, all of you would learn to forgive and to let go your own grudges, hurts, revenge and resentments. When I came to this country, all I know is Norma, my former girlfriend then, and now she is my beloved wife, and my best friend. The name of the game then, was survival. It means, grab any available job to survive, while continuously looking for a better position. Having not a good command of English, with heavy accent, compounded with deficiency in pronunciation, I often felt discriminated. Accepting a low paying job, which in my opinion is not commensurate with my talent and ability, made me felt being taken advantage. So, instead of complaining and being afraid of not being understood, I just poured out my energy and frustrations into my work. The bottom line is... hatred and anger built-up within me and sometimes unconsciously released and misdirected to my love ones. In short, I was “barking at the wrong tree”. As I moved from one level to another stage of faith in my life, I began to understand the options of dealing with the complex emotion of anger. Either I deny it (by saying “I am not angry” in loud voice), express it (in broken English, or *Capampangan*) or just be forgiving. Among these options, forgiveness is the most effective way of resolving anger.

Today, selfishness is perhaps the major cause of excessive anger in families as well as the major enemy of married couple. Forgiveness is essential to living well, and we are often blind to our need to forgive. Throughout the gospel, Jesus demonstrates His forgiveness to those who offends him.

Believing in God’s love and forgiveness, we will find the strength to let go of our own grudges and hurt feelings. We often lose our peace of mind and become prisoners. We can choose to be free of our resentments if we wish to. Yet, many of us hang on to them, because of pride. We need to live a life of freedom and peace as God has promised us. Don’t hang on to resentments that come to your door. Leave them behind, and ask God for the gift of peace. No longer obsessed with revenge, we find it easier to change everyday frustration into compassion for others.

As followers of Christ we are called to be kind and merciful. Let us carry our daily crosses, follow him, and forgive each other in imitation of him who taught us peace and love.

IT IS FINISHED (JOHN 19:30)

Reflections by Tony Tech

In John’s telling of the passion, Jesus said, “I am thirsty” (19:28). Somebody standing nearby took a wine-drenched sponge and put it to Jesus’ lips. After drinking a bit of the



Fr. Noel Jacob and Fr. Perfecto Vasquez enjoying fish dinner at the end of Good Friday service at St. Mary's Church in Huntley.

wine, he said, "It is finished" (19:30).

What is finished? On a most obvious level, Jesus' passion is over. He has suffered extreme physical horrors, not to mention the unimaginable horror of bearing human sin. Now, on the verge of death, Jesus' suffering is finished.

But there are other levels of meaning in the phrase "It is finished" besides the most obvious one. Throughout the Gospel of John Jesus mentions his calling to finish or complete the works his Father has given him:

"My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work." (4:34)

(5:36) "But I have a testimony greater than John's. The works that the Father has given me to complete, the very works that I am doing, testify on my behalf that the Father has sent me." (3:14-17)

"And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him"

In Daniel's vision, the Son of Man is lifted up to share the glory of God (Daniel 7:13-14). Jesus used this language paradoxically to describe his being lifted up on the cross – about as far from obvious glory as a person could ever be (see 12:33). Through this action, Jesus said that he "will draw all people to [himself]" (12:32). So when Jesus cried, "It is finished," he meant, not only that his passion

was over, but that he had completed everything the Father had given him to do.

As we hear the words, "It is finished," we realize that God's great plan for salvation has come to fruition. The penalty for human sin has been paid. The gap between sinful humanity and a holy God has been bridged by the sinless Son of God who was fully God and fully human. Now, because of what Jesus has completed, we can be completely whole.

What does this mean to us? God has given the greatest gift of our life; i.e. Salvation.

By dying in the cross, Jesus provided us with a clean slate, a new beginning, with God's forgiveness of our sins. BUT, we have a job to sustain the gift of salvation by following God's will for us. He gave us the guideline on what we need to do and summarized it with the 10 Commandments. He even further simplified this by stating that the greatest commandment of all was to "love others as much as God loves us". But because most

of us are so busy with earthly things, we tend to forget the WILL of God for us. Life in this world is just a staging period in preparation for our ultimate destination. Our ultimate reward, that being with GOD at the end, can only be achieved if we fulfill God's will as preached by Jesus. Now let us reflect and ask ourselves honestly how we are doing in fulfilling God's WILL. This is the time to bring us back to the right path in order to sustain this gift of salvation.

I hope when that TIME comes, we can say to Jesus, "LORD, I am finished fulfilling your WILL in order to be with you forever".



Members of Filipino American Catholic Ministry strike a pose at the end of Siete Palabras.

Kulturang PINOY



Mabuhay! It's been awhile since we last had a moment of looking back together on our rich Filipino culture, *naks!* !!! I just hope all of us are doing well!

Kuwaresma (Lent) is one of the most devoutly observed seasons by us Filipinos. Wherever we are, we can not possibly miss this Lenten observance. *Sakripisyo, ayuno at abstinensya, pabasa ng Pasyon ni Hesukristo, Estacion ng Krus at rosaryo*, these are the most common things that we do during this season of penance.

Kuwaresma as we all know is forty days (*kwarenta*) of sacrifice and prayer, introspection and conversion from our sinful ways to a life of grace in the Lord. It is a prelude to the celebration of the Paschal Sacrifice of Christ, his Passion, Death on the Cross, his Resurrection and Ascension to heaven. This is the central and most important celebration in our Christian faith. And what a wonderful way of entering into this days of remembrance prepared and "worthy" before the eyes of the Lord. Kung nasa Pilipinas tayo, ganito marahil ang ginagawa natin!

Nong miércoles de ceniza (Ash Wednesday), most likely you'd find yourself among the throng of people in line in the church, *nakikipagisksikan para mauna sa pagpapa-Krus sa noo*. Just like everyone in the Catholic world, we start lent by having our forehead marked with a cross of ashes. But what is distinctively Filipino is our strong belief that with this observance, our sins are already cleansed and forgiven.

Honestly, I do not know if it's good or not. I just say, we have to do something more than that. The Church strongly recommends that we go to confession especially during Lent. This way we are truly cleansed and forgiven of our sins.

With the BECs (Basic Ecclesial Communities) or *kapitbahayang Kristiano*, street Mass, block rosary and *Estacion ng Krus* are a common thing. Street Mass starts with the pray-

ing of the Rosary. Usually, the first to arrive leads the rosary. And it is always a great privilege to be the prayer leader.

The celebration of the Mass on the streets is always beneficial and sacrificial. Beneficial, at least socially, since there you'll meet both the regular church goers and the 'un-churched'. Quite a good way to bring the Eucharist closer to everyone. It is also sacrificial. Volunteers come together and

take time off from their works to prepare the people and the place of the celebration — from the *anuncio* to the *pagbabalag* or even the setting of the table for the Mass. It's love in action. And we call this *bayanihan!!!*

One thing you must remember though, NEVER EVER schedule your street Mass between 6:30 to 8pm. You're asking me why? *Kasabay po yun ng mga telenobela sa TV*, and most likely, *walang o konte lang ang darating sa Misa*. Funny but true! Sa '*Pinas lang yan, hehehe!!!*

"*Ang unang letra ay A, ikalawa ay R...ARAL sa kristiano.*" The *Pabasa* is the most common way to remember the passion of Jesus. *Ang Pasyon ng ating Panginoong*

Hesukristo is a concise presentation of the Holy Scriptures, both of the Old and New Testaments translated in a poetic way, eight syllables and five lines per stanza. It is commonly sung. And there are a thousand melodies you can choose from. The most difficult is the *sampay bakod*.

Once you start the *Pabasa*, one has to finish it without interruption! It may take two whole days or more depends on what melody you choose. But that's the way it is. It is big sacrifice really.

If you sing well, you pray twice. *Pabasa* is actually praying the Scriptures. And when sung you actually pray twice!!! It is a form of sacrifice. Your only consolation is, there'll always be *salabat* and *callos* available.

Semana Santa is THE big event. Starts with *Linggo ng Palaspas* and culminates on Easter Vigil and *Salubong*. During Holy Week there are three processions, one on *Miercoles Santo* and another on *Viernes Santo*. All images depicting the Stations of the Cross processing on Good Friday will process on Holy Wednesday. During this time, each image will be decorated by flowers and will be donned in its best. On Good Friday, all will be in black and no decorations.

The *Santo Entierro* is the image of Jesus in the tomb. Everybody joining the Good Friday procession gives utmost reverence to it. With a candle on one hand and rosary on the other, all are prayerfully processing around the town. It is the most solemn procession of the year.

Siete Palabras (Seven Last Words) is a reflection on the seven last words of Jesus before he died on the cross. Starts twelve noon and ends at three in the afternoon on Good Friday, just in time for the celebration of the Word, the Veneration of the Cross and the reception of the Body of Christ.

by: Fr. Gerry Paderon

News REPORTS

ROCKFORD, IL – Early this year, the Filipino Catholics of Rockford held an election of officers who will serve for the next two years. In a similar fashion, the Filipino-American Youth of Rockford, which is part of the Rockford Metropolitan Filipino Catholic Community, also elected their youth leaders. Both set of officers were inducted by Fr. Perfecto Vasquez, Director of the Diocese's Filipino Ministry, during the Mass of Thanksgiving in Filipino, which was held on March 5, 2005 at St. Edward's Church in Rockford led by Fr. Noel Jacob. A fellowship dinner followed at St. Edward's parish hall after the Mass (*Dr. Esther Sy*).



The 2005 officers of the Rockford Filipino-American Catholic Community (Left to right): Ming Ramilo (Auditor), Lorna Flores (Treasurer), Dr. Roselia De Rosales (Vice-President), Fr. Noel Jacob, Fr. Perfecto Vasquez, Dr. Esther Sy (PRO), Rosalyn Gabua (Secretary), Jovie Reyes (President).

THE 2005 ROCKFORD FILIPINO-AMERICAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: REYNALDO “Jovie” REYES originally from Mandaluyong City and now a resident of Loves Park, Illinois. He works as a Maintenance mechanic for Anderson Packaging in Rockford and is married to Socorro Reyes. They have 2 kids, Marian and Dominick.

VICE PRESIDENT: ROSELIA “El” DEROSALES originally from Batangas but has lived in Rockford for years. She is an Internal Medicine physician at OSF Medical Group and affiliated with St. Anthony Medical Center in Rockford. El has 3 children –Jonathan, Ryan and Laura.

SECRETARY: ROSALYN GABUA was born in Mandaluyong City but came to Rockford when she was 4. She is a graduate of NIU with a degree in Industrial Engineering. She comes from a family who has been very active in the Filipino Catholic community.

TREASURER: LORNA FLORES comes from Manila but her parents are from Laguna. She's been in the US for 20 years. She heads the International Services Department at Amcore Bank. Lorna is married to Pete Flores and has a lovely daughter-Rose, a business college student at UIC.

PRO: ESTHER A. SY was born in Clark US Air Force Base, Pampanga but was raised in Pangasinan. She's lived in Illinois for many years. She is a Family Practice physician and works at OSF Southridge Immediate Care Cen-

ter in Rockford. She is married to Dr. Larry Sy and they have a son-Lloyd.

AUDITOR: ROMEO “Ming” RAMILO was born in Quezon Province but now lives in Rockford for years. He works as an Accountant for Crusader Clinic in Rockford. He's married to Dr. Anselma Ramilo and they have 3 talented daughters-Roanne, Rowena and Rosanna.

ROCKFORD FILIPINO-AMERICAN YOUTH LEADERS

President - Nicole Villa
Vice President - Allen Distrito
Secretary - Rosanna Ramilo
Treasurer - Krystal Castaneda
Auditor - Jonathan De Rosales
PRO - Meryll Cornejo

ROCKFORD, IL – March 24, 2005. About 30 members of Rockford Filipino-American Catholic Youth celebrated their Holy Thursday by participating in the *Visita Iglesia*, the time honored Filipino tradition of visiting seven churches to pray the Stations of the Cross and adore the Lord Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. The pilgrimage started with a visit at St. Bridget Church and ended at St. Rita's Church. It was followed by a late night *merienda* at

the Distrito residence in Rockford, where the group watched Mel Gibson's *The Passion of the Christ*. Fr. Cesar Pajarillo offered his commentary on the movie and gave the youth an opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.



Officers of Rockford Filipino-American Catholic Youth with Fr. Noel Jacob and Fr. Perfecto Vasquez: Jonathan de Rosales (Auditor), Nikki Villa (President), Allen Distrito (Vice President), Rosanna Ramilo (Secretary), Merryll Cornejo (PRO) and Crystal Castaneda (Treasurer).

MISANG PILIPINO 2005

is celebrated every 4th Sunday of the Month at St. Margaret Mary Church in Algonquin, IL.

MASS SCHEDULE:

May 22	6:00 p.m.
June 26	6:00 p.m. Mother of Perpetual Help
July 25	6:00 p.m.
August 28	6:00 p.m.
September 25	6:00 p.m. San Lorenzo Ruiz
October 23	5:00 p.m.
November 27	5:00 p.m.

In celebration of Christmas, no *Misang Pilipino* will be celebrated in December.

Schedule for Simbang Gabi will be published in the next issue of Kalinga.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

DINNER DANCE "A Tribune to All Mothers"

May 13, 2005

sponsored by

The Bayanihan of Fox Valley

at the Meridian in Rolling Meadows.

For details, please contact
Zeny Engracia at 847-836-2624.

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4th SUMMER PICNIC JUNE 18, 2005

at Deicke Park in Huntley
from 10:00 a.m. to dusk.

There will be food, games
and entertainment.

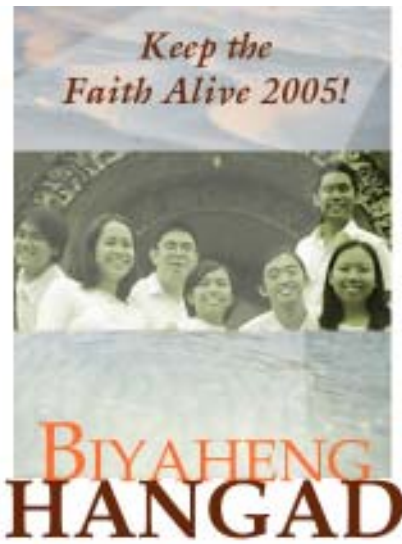
You are welcome to bring
your favorite food.

A Mass will be celebrated
at 4:30 p.m.

For additional information,
please contact
Ernie Domingo at 847-516-8829.

Directions to Deicke Park





May 21, 2005, Saturday, 7:30pm
St. Hubert Church
729 Grand Canyon St.
Hoffman Estates, IL
Donation: \$25
(\$10 for children 12 and below)

Proceeds will benefit the St. Hubert Building Fund.

KEEP THE FAITH ALIVE 2005!

St. Hubert Bayanihan Association proudly presents
an inspirational concert featuring...

HANGAD

(A music ministry from the Philippines)

May 21, 2005 – Saturday – 7:30 pm
St. Hubert Church
729 Grand Canyon, Hoffman Estates

Donation: \$25 (Children 12 and under - \$10 at the door)
Tickets available at the Parish Ministry Center of St. Hubert Church
Proceeds will benefit the St Hubert Church Building Fund.

Tickets also available online at
<http://www.madeinthephilippines.com>
and Uni-Mart One Stop Shopping stores on
1038 W. Golf Road in Hoffman Estates (847.755.1082)
and 2457 W. 75th Street in Woodridge (630.910.6386)
For CDs, complete choral arrangement song books
and concert information, email HangadChicago@yahoo.com
or call (847) 287-5291.

Announcements:

Our Mother of Perpetual Help Novena Devotions every Tuesday evening at St. Margaret Mary Church in Algonquin. The rosary prayer starts at 7:30 pm, immediately followed by the novena prayer and concluded with a celebration of the Holy Mass.



The Fox Valley Filipino-American Catholic Ministry (FVFACM) Meeting is held every 3rd Sunday of the month. Please contact your coordinator if anyone would like to attend.

Editorial Board and Contributors:

Editor: Fr. Cesar Pajarillo

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Ernesto Domingo, Al Alceron, Agnes Domingo, Gilda
Couzins and Zeny Engracia

Rockford:

Dr. Rosalia de Rosales, Jovi Reyes, Dr. Esther Sy

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If you would like to contribute articles for the next issue of the *Kalinga Newsletter* or any comments or suggestions, please contact Father Cesar Pajarillo at 815-455-5400, Ernie Domingo at 847-516-8829 or Lorna Socol at 815-788-7461.



Kalinga

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