FILIPINO CURSILLOS IN CHRISTIANITY - LOS ANGELES

October to December 2023
Volume VI, Issue 4

TUNGKO NEWSLETTER

TRIPOD - PIETY - STUDY - ACTION

FCIC–LA SECRETARIAT-2023

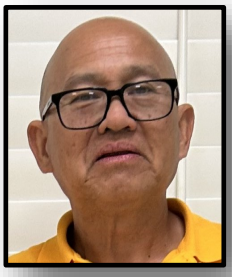
MARITESS TAN TORRES
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Lucena "Len" Balino
Asst. Lay Director
Doris Agtarap
School of Leaders Chairperson
Lisa Lascano
Pre-Cursillo Chairperson
Mike Marcelino
Cursillo Proper Chairperson-Men
Vina Dungo
Cursillo Proper Chairperson-Women
Ramon Geluz
Post Cursillo Chairperson
Leo Nobleza
Secretary
Gerry Fernando
Treasurer
Albert Franco
Auditor
Zen Alejo
Liturgy Coordinator
Rev Fr. Rey Matunog
Spiritual Advisor

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2024 Incoming Secretariat Officers


Nida Quenga


Danny Dimacali


Heidi Catabas


Lita Vicente


Betty Defensor

The new set of incoming officers are Nida Quenga, Danny Dimacali, Heidi Catabas, Lita Vicente and Betty Defensor and they will serve for a period of three years effective January 1, 2024 under the By-Laws of the Filipino Cursillos in Christianity-LA while some incumbent officers last year will still serve for two more years. Those serving for two more years are Tess Tan Torres, Doris Agtarap, Vina Dungo, Ramon Geluz, Albert Franco and Zen Alejo.

The Incoming officers took their Oath of Office during the FCIC–LA Christmas party last December 2, 2023 at Holy Family Catholic Church's Parish Hall in Artesia, CA officiated by our Spiritual Adviser, Rev. Fr. Rey Matunog.



The turn-over meeting among the outgoing and incoming officers of the FCIC Secretariat will be held on January 13, 2024 in St. Genevieve Catholic Church's Fireside building. Learn more information about our incoming officers on page 4 & 5.

ARCHDIOCESAN COORDINATOR'S MESSAGE



I hope that you all had a Blessed and Merry Christmas. In behalf of the FCIC-LA Secretariat, I would like to personally wish you all a Happy, Prosperous and a Blessed New Year! May God continue to shower you and your family with love and happiness.

The following are the activities that we had undertaken for the Fourth Quarter of 2023:

October 1, 2023 - Kickoff Meeting of Kalbaryo Lenten Presentation hosted by Ron and Cel Parcon at their residence in Oxnard.

October 22, 2023 - School of Leaders (SOL) meeting held in St. John Fisher Catholic Church in Rancho Palos Verdes, CA.

November 2 to 5, 2023 - Men's Cursillo Weekend Class 1034 held in Cursillo House Retreat Center in Pomona.

November 12, 2023 - Welcome Celebration of Men's Class 1034 hosted by Men's Class 1025.

December 2, 2023 - FCIC-LA Annual Christmas Party held in Holy Family Catholic Church's Parish Hall.

We are very happy to announce that we have finalized the plan for the restaging of the much awaited **Kalbaryo -"The Passion of Christ". ** The following are the four (4) show dates:

1. **February 23, 2024** - **St. Linus Catholic Church**
   Friday. 7:00 p.m. 13918 Shoemaker Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650
2. **March 15, 2024** - **St. Genevieve Catholic Church**
   Friday, 7:00 p.m. 14061 Roscoe Blvd., Panorama, CA 91402
3. **March 16, 2024** - **St. Genevieve Catholic Church**
   Saturday, 7:00 p.m. 14061 Roscoe Blvd., Panorama, CA 91402
4. **March 23, 2024** - **Oxnard College Performing Arts Theater**
   Saturday, 5:00 p.m. 4000 South Rose Ave., Oxnard California, CA 93033

We are also preparing one Souvenir Program for all the above show dates.

This is part of the evangelization work of the FCIC-LA under the Archdiocese of Los Angeles and the Cursillo Movement's fundraising project to help subsidize costs of holding Cursillo classes.

You may support our Kalbaryo presentations by either advertising your business, placing personal greetings in our souvenir program or buying/selling tickets for any of the three presentations.

A copy of the Souvenir Program Advertising Agreement is printed on page 3 for your reference.

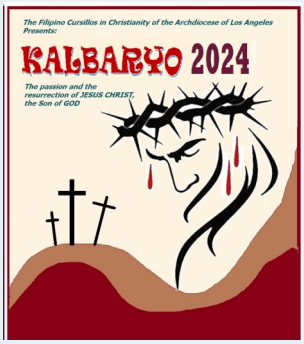
If you need tickets for the shows, please contact the following :

Feb 23, 2024 - St Linus - Cora Ocampo Tel No. 562-881-0523

March 15, 2024 and 16, 2024 - St Genevieve - Tess Tan Torres Tel No. 213-249-1507
- Betty Defensor Tel No. 818-605-8673

March 23, 2024 - Oxnard College Performing Arts Theater
- Lester Lacuin Tel No. 820-234-1291

Souvenir Program Advertising Agreement



The Filipino Cursillos in Christianity of Los Angeles will be having Kalbaryo presentations on February 23, 2024 at St. Linus Catholic Church; March 15, 2024 and March 16, 2024 at St. Genevieve Catholic Church and March 23, 2024 at Oxnard College Performing Arts Theater. We would like to invite you to sponsor this wonderful event by placing an ad or personal greeting in the Souvenir Program.

Name of Advertiser/Sponsor _____

Address _____

Telephone No._____ Email Address_____

PLACEMENT DESIRED (Please select one of the following)

Back Cover	$1,000.00	Gold Sponsor	$400.00
Inside Front Cover	750.00	Silver Sponsor	$30000
Inside Back Cover	600.00	Bronze Sponsor	$200.00
Platinum Sponsor	500.00	Full Page	$125.00

Please make your check payable to Filipino Cursillos in Christianity-LA. Submit or mail payment to **FCIC-LA -14900 Magnolia Blvd., No. 55071, Sherman Oaks, CA 91413**. Include the agreement and camera ready art work or photograph. You may also e-mail your artwork/ photograph to bcm1965@yahoo.com or tesstan1659@gmail.com.

Advertiser/Sponsor's Signature _____

Date_____ Payment Enclosed_____

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION – February 10, 2024

Please select one:

( ) I am enclosing my camera ready artwork with this agreement
( ) I will e-mail my camera ready artwork as a JPEG file to bcm1965@yahoo.com
( ) I am enclosing a photograph(s). Please create my ad with the following message:

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( ) I do not have any photograph(s). Please create ad with the following message/greeting.

For more information, please call Bon Mendoza @ 818-612-4512 or Tess Tan Torres @ 213-249-1507.

INCOMING FCIC-LA OFFICERS' BIO DATA

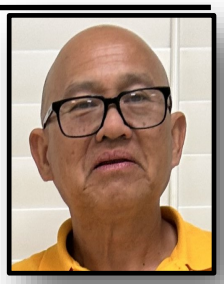


Asst. Archdiocesan Coordinator

Nida S. Quenga, married with 3 children, 6 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild.

She lived her Cursillo at Divine Word Retreat Center on August 23-26, 2001. She belongs to the Table Group of St. Monica. She had served at FCIC-LA previously as Pre- Cursillo Chairperson and currently as Asst. Archdiocesan Coordinator.

She is a parishioner of Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church and St. Luke's Catholic Church. She is also a Eucharistic Minister and choir member.



Cursillo Proper Chairperson-Men's

Danny Dimacali, married to Angie with two kids and two grandchildren, lives in Lancaster, CA, Antelope Valley. He retired from Kaiser Permanent Medical Group as an Image Information Services employee for thirty-five (35) years.

He lived his Cursillo at Divine Word Retreat Center, Riverside, CA in November 1994 under Cursillo Class No. 19 and belongs to the Table Group of St Andrew. He had served previously in the FCIC-LA Secretariat as Post Cursillo Chairperson and as Ultreya Coordinator of St. Mary's Ultreya Center.



Pre-Cursillo Chairperson

Heidi E. Catabas was born and grew up in Sta. Cruz, Manila. She graduated from the Polytechnic University of the Philippines with BSC-Management degree.

She is married to Ruben Catabas and they are blessed with three children, Benjamin, Jon Daniel, and Pamela, all of whom graduated from the Days with the Helpers of the Lord. (DWHL) youth retreat.

Heidi joined the Cursillo in Divine Word Retreat Center on May 10-13, 2001, Class 565, Table Group of St. Cecilia, under the rectorship of Emma Aguilar and Lita Yong. She became the rectora of Class 1019 on March 23-26, 2023 with Choi Camiling as her Vice Rectora. Presently, she is Co-Coordinator of the San Gabriel Valley Ultreya Center at St. John the Baptist Church in Baldwin Park.

She belongs to the Parish of Immaculate Conception Church in Monrovia, where she is currently serving as Eucharistic Minister, and Pastoral Council member.



Secretary

Married with 1 grown up son, Betty lived her Cursillo at Divine Word Retreat Center in 2016. She belongs to the Table Group of St. Faustina.

She is a Lector and Bereavement Minister at Our Lady of Peace Church in North Hills and actively involved with the Filipino Council at the same church that holds monthly Filipino Masses. She provides technical support in liturgy, with the missalette, Power Point presentation and our other Filipino special events. She enjoys participating in the Archdiocesan events being celebrated at the Cathedral!

INCOMING FCIC OFFICERS' BIO DATA



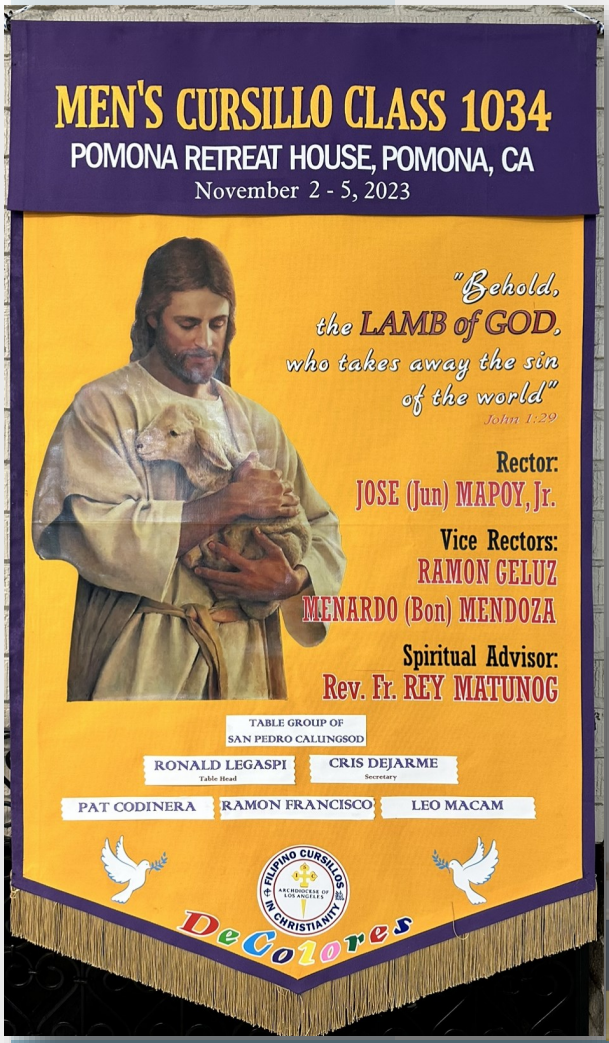
Treasurer

Lita Vicente joined the Cursillio in April 2018, class 917 with Letty Catalasan as her Rectora. She lived her Cursillo in Pomona, California and she belongs to the-Table Group of St. Elizabeth.

She has been a parishioner of Holy Family Church in Artesia since 1975. She volunteers as lector and eucharistic minister. She is a member of the De Colores choir that sings every Sunday at 6:30 AM mass. She participates in different parish ministries and groups like Prolife, Bible Study, Cursillo, Knights of Columbus and Filipino-American Catholic Community (Fil-Am CC).

She retired as Financial Operations Consultant and Project Manager in the Internal Business Systems Section, Accounting and Budget Department of the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) in Downey, California after thirty years of working in this office.

Men's Cursillo Class No. 1034



The Men's Cursillo class was held on November 2-5 in Pomona Retreat House, Pomona, CA headed by Rector Jun Mapoy and Vice-Rectors Ramon Geluz and Menardo 'Bon" Mendoza.

The 5 New Cursillistas who attended the 3-day Cursillo class are Ron Legaspi, Table Head; Chris Dejarme, Secretary; Pat Codinera, Ramon Francisco, and Leo Macam, Members.

They were welcomed into the big Cursillo family at St. Catherine of Siena Church hall in Reseda, CA on November 12. 2023.

Class No. 1025 headed by Rector Rey Alonzo and Vice-Rectors Leo Nobleza and Gerry Fernando hosted the welcome celebration.



MEN'S CURSILLO WEEKEND - CLASS NO. 1034





Welcome of Men's Cursillo Class 1034 by Men's Cursillo Class 1025













THE FCIC-LA CHRISTMAS PARTY 2023

by Ramon Geluz, Post Cursillo Chairperson



T'was the night of the FCIC-LA Christmas Party, even before the sun started setting, the Cursillistas started arriving in their Latin-Inspired outfits, the Sisters in multi-colored layers of ruffled gowns and dresses, the men in Mexican Gauchos and Bullfighter Jackets. The FCIC-LA Secretariat officers arrived early with Tess Tan-Torres, the Lay Director, and Ramon Sison Geluz, the Post Cursillo Chairperson, to begin decorating the Holy Family Church Hall on this chilly 2nd Day of December 2023 with Spanish Fiesta banderitas and hanging farm animal pinatas. The Latin Fiesta atmosphere was heightened by the music provided by Bro. Bong Dungo and the mouth watering smells of Mexican dishes emanating from the Orange County Taco Man caterers arranged by Lani Geluz.



The Program began with Opening Prayers by Rev. Fr. Rey Matunog, followed by Welcome and Roll Call of the participating Ultreya Centers by Ramon Geluz. The Ultreya members came from as far as Antelope Valley, Oxnard, San Diego, and West Los Angeles, bringing with them their families and friends to participate in the costume and dance competitions, the singing, and the line-dancing. There were more than 170 attendees, including from the Days With the Helpers of the Lord (DWHL) youth group and Cursillistas from Orange County.



Lay Director Tess Torres presented the Plaques of Appreciation and Service to the outgoing Secretariat members: Mike Marcelino, Leo Nobleza, Gerry Fernando, Len Balino and Lisa Lascano. The New Secretariat officers were introduced: Nida Quenga, Heidi Catabas, Danny Dimacali, Betty Defensor and Lita Vicente.

The touching Christmas Carol renditions of Evangeline Enriquez-Baello, Alice Ricafort, Rex Agtarap and Billy Ricafort were followed with dance presentations by the Ho-

THE FCIC-LA CHRISTMAS PARTY 2023

ly Family Church, Antelope Valley, and San Gabriel Ultreya Centers. While the dance competition judges were deliberating the winners, Ted and Cora Guevarra, as well as the FCIC-LA Secretariat presented their dance presentations. The dance competition prizes were awarded equally to all the Ultreya Centers' participants while the award for Best Costume was awarded to Sis Veekee Eugenio from HFC Ultreya Center. This most unforgettable night of singing, dancing, and fellowship of the Cursillistas, their families and friends truly demonstrated what the FCIC- LA 2023 Christmas Party was all about, friendship in Christ.

From the FCIC-LA Secretariat, we wish you all a very Merry Christmas!



THE FCIC-LA CHRISTMAS PARTY 2023



My Reflection on the Cursillo Weekend Experience by Chris Dejarme



Greetings Brothers and Sisters. I am your new brother in Christ, Chris Dejarme, from Oxnard, CA, who just completed the Cursillo Weekend in Pomona, CA during the 1st week of November 2023. I am proud to belong to the Table Group of San Pedro Calungsod. Please allow me to share my most memorable experience:

I grew up in an environment that valued spiritual devotion, I walked the path of faith alongside my siblings, each finding their way through prayer groups and dedicated practices. They had been Cursillistas since their early 20s, while I left home to enlist in the Navy and never had the chance to join them. Living away from home and married to a woman with equally strong faith, I had never wandered away from the church. I had been a regular churchgoer, participated in prayer groups, novenas, and 2,000 Hail Mary's, and continued my devotions like my every Thursday novena to St. Jude Thadeus, a practice I had been doing since my college days. I was questioning myself, what more could there possibly be to do and learn?

As I embarked on the Cursillo weekend, my heart harbored a subtle hesitation. The Cursillo weekend, three intense days of focused study on Jesus dismantled my assumptions. I stood humbled by the depth of knowledge I lacked and the vast expanse of faith I had yet to explore. What emerged within those seemingly short courses or Rollos was a revelation - a realization of how my previous motions lacked clear direction. The culmination of talks, discussions, and reflective moments was not merely an educational experience but a catalyst for my profound spiritual awakening. It wasn't just about learning new information; it was about rekindling my faith and love for Jesus. It's a newfound sense of purpose and understanding. The weekend wasn't a solitary journey; it was a collective experience that brought me closer to my faith and my newfound brothers and sisters in Christ, who shared a similar pursuit of spiritual growth.

I am blessed to be welcomed by the Ultreya Center in our local church - a supportive community that extended the Cursillo weekend's essence into everyday life. Through participatory meetings, reunions, and active engagement in parish activities, I found myself immersed in a genuine excitement for this newly discovered path. The values of "Praying, Studying, and Action," instilled during the Cursillo weekend, became pillars upon which my evolving faith stood.

As I continue this post-Cursillo weekend journey, I am filled with gratitude for the depth of understanding gained and the connections forged. It's a journey that transcends those three days, enriching every moment with a renewed purpose, an enriched faith, and an unyielding commitment to walk the path of spirituality. De Colores!

SCHOOL OF LEADERS (SOL)
By DORIS AGTARAP -SOL Chairperson



The Technique Presentation was given by one of the pillars of FCIC-LA, Former Lay Director Ronald "Ron" Parcon. His topic was the "Meditations in the Cursillo Weekend". He talked about the 5 Meditations during the 3-day Cursillo weekend namely: 1. Know Yourself, 2. The Prodigal Son, 3. The Three Glances of Christ, 4. The Person of Christ, and 5. Christ's Message to the Cursillistas. He discussed each meditation, its meaning, importance and applying it in our life as Christian. In the 3-day Cursillo weekend, the meditation starts with knowing oneself, what, where and how are we in our relationship with God. In the Prodigal Son, Ron mentioned the prodigal son who squandered and repented but he emphasized more of the the Father's mercy and love waiting for the son's return, just as our heavenly Father is waiting for us to return to Him. He talked about the three glances of Christ, how God sees us, are we the rich young man, Judas or Peter? The person in Christ is knowing and accepting that God is the solution, and we should have a deeper relationship with Him. Lastly, in Christ's message to the Cursillistas, he said that Christ is counting on each of us to do the will of God, to evangelize the environment we are in.

After the Technique presentation, the Leaders' group reunion followed, then announcement and submission of the nomination ballots for the positions of the Secretariat that will be vacated effective December 31, 2023. These are the Assistant Lay Director, Pre Cursillo-Chairperson, Cursillo Proper Chairperson for Men, Secretary and Treasurer. Rev. Father Reynaldo Matunog, FCIC-LA Spiritual Advisor came and graced the event. He gave the blessings and made a short greeting, the list of nominations were also handed to him. The School of Leaders concluded with a closing prayer led by Leo Nobleza.





SCHOOL OF LEADERS (SOL)

By DORIS AGTARAP -SOL Chairperson



For the last quarter of 2023, the School of Leaders was able to convene on October 22, 2023, from 3:00-5:00 p.m. at St. John Fisher Catholic Church in Rancho Palos Verdes. First and foremost, the FCIC-LA would like to thank Rev. Msgr. David A. Sork, Pastor, and Rev. Fr. Alejandro Enriquez, Associate Pastor of St. John Fisher Catholic Church, who opened their parish hall to us from 11:00 am until 5:00 pm. Monsignor David graciously welcomed us with his warm greetings and mentioned that he is also a Cursillista. Father Al is already known to most of the Cursillistas because he was invited as a Doctrinal speaker for SOL, spiritual summation speaker in the Ultreya Centers and served twice as the Spiritual Advisor for the 3-Day Men's Cursillo weekend. He mentioned that Monsignor David was so excited and Father Al was instrumental for the FCIC-LA to have the opportunity to see their beautiful church and scenic view. The second formation of the FCIC-LA Three-Day Men's Cursillo weekend had their meeting first followed by the School of Leaders. As always, the SOL started with the Leaders' Prayer recited by everybody. I introduced Father Alejandro Enriquez, for the Doctrinal presentation and his topic was "Humility and Commitment". Father Al said that he really admires the Cursillistas because he witnessed the humility and commitment amongst the Cursillistas during the 3-day Cursillo weekend. He mentioned that Cursillistas already have the virtues of humility and commitment to serve the Lord but what is needed is to level up, to go beyond what is expected or beyond one's comfort zone. He also said that humility is thinking not of oneself but the good of others and to do the will of God. Father Al reminded everyone that our commitment is to serve God and to serve others with humility and with authenticity. Father Al's talk was an inspiration to all the Cursillistas.





Personal Reflection of Outgoing Treasurer

By Gerry Fernando

I am happy to share and express my deepest gratitude for the teamwork and cooperation of my fellow Secretariat officers during my stint as Treasurer of FCIC-LA from 2020-2023. I feel so blessed to be part of the Secretariat who have devoted extra hours and effort to attend monthly meetings, Ultreya gatherings, and Cursillo weekend classes. They have shown incredible passion to excel in their assigned duties and responsibilities. Truly, the Secretariat leads by example and in accordance with its mission of not to be served but to serve those who serve. Making executive decisions, particularly as it relates to financial matters, is a difficult process and a responsibility assigned to the Secretariat.

I am deeply touched to witness the willingness of our dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ to donate time and money and their strong desire to participate and serve as Auxies during Cursillo weekend classes. A significant level of FCIC's funds comes from the collective power of the deep pockets of our dear Cursillistas. Without the continued Cursillo weekend classes and generous donations from the membership, FCIC would have massive holes in its financial budgets and operations.

As the appointed Treasurer, I am expected to manage and handle the financial matters of the movement and handle the money with high standards and set a tone of integrity. A close treasurer oversight of cash, checks, and deposits is needed as a means of sound internal control. In this regard, I must oversee the collection of all fees and donations and present the financial reports of all fund raisers, Grand Ultreyas, and weekend cursillos during the Secretariat meetings. One of my important and primary responsibilities is to prepare the monthly and annual financial reports of the organization for presentation to the Secretariat for approval. I manage the preparation and timely filings of the annual financial and tax returns with the IRS (Form 990-PF), FTB (Form 199), CA Attorney General Registry of Charitable Trusts (Form RRF-1), and the CA Secretary of State (Statement of Information). In relation to this, I need to provide a complete set of financial records, including the bank statements, to the Auditor monthly to check the balance. I am also in charge of maintaining the inventory of bibles, Pilgrims Guide, and baloney leather crafts and make sure that copies/supplies are available during the weekend Cursillos.

As FCIC-LA looks ahead of its newly appointed officers of the Secretariat, the memories and bonds forged during our term will continue to inspire and guide the movement on the attainment of its mission to unify the Filipino Cursillo movement and indicate the path to be followed in essential matters of practical detail in coordination at the Archdiocesan level. I would like to share and end with one of Stephen Hawking's famed quotes: "We are very, very small. But we are profoundly capable of very, very big things. There should be no boundaries to human endeavor. However bad life may seem, while there is life, there is hope. Be brave, be curious, be determined, overcome the odds."

De Colores to everyone!

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION OF OUR SPIRITUAL ADVISOR - FR. REY MATUNOG

Rev. Fr. Rey Matunog, FCIC-LA Spiritual Adviser, celebrated his birthday on December 30, 2024 at Sacred Heart Church hall in LA which was preceded by a Eucharistic celebration presided over by himself and another priest.

Some members of the Filipino Cursillo Movement as well as many parishioners, priests, and friends of Fr. Rey attended his special day.

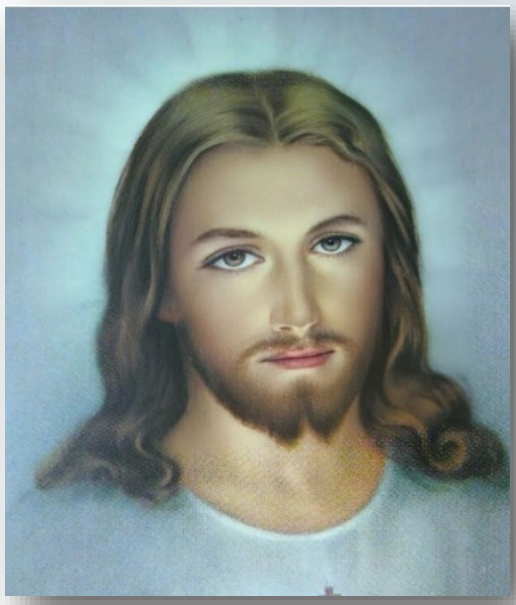
It was a day of singing, dancing, and fellowship with a lot of delicious food served to the delight of attendees.



EDITORIAL BOARD

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Editor-In-Chief
Tess Tan Torres
Graphics & Design
FCIC-LA Secretariat

Contributors
Doris Agtarap
Chris Dejarme
Gerry Fernando
Ramon Geluz



Christ is counting on you!

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

January 21, 2024 - 11:00am to 5:00pm
Women's Class 1037 Ist Formation Meeting
School of Leader's Meeting
Venue: St. Linus Catholic Church Parish Hall
13915 Shoemaker Avenue
Norwalk, CA 90650
Rectora - Lennie Davis
Vice Rectoras - Zen Alejo & Doris Agtarap

February 18, 2024
Women's Class 1037 2nd Formation Meeting
Venue: TBA

2024 Cursillo Classes and DWHL Retreat
March 7 to 10, 2024 - Women's Cursillo Weekend
May 2 to 5, 2024 - Men's Cursillo Weekend
July 12 to 14, 2024 - DWHL Retreat
Sept 5 to 8, 2024 - Women's Cursillo Weekend
Oct 3 to 6, 2024 - Men's Cursillo Weekend

Regional Encounter
May 24 to 25, 2024
Sacred Heart Catholic Church @Coronado, CA

34th National Encounter
July 25 to 28, 2024
Hofstra University, Long Island, NY

OBITUARIES: Please pray for the repose of the souls of Augusto Amoranto, Malou Yabut and Rosel Bales and all those who have gone to be with the Lord. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in eternal peace with God. Let perpetual life shine upon them. Amen.

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS:

Please pray for the continuous healing of Bishop Alex Aclan, Rey Alonzo, Lisa Lascano, Billy Ricafort, Gilda Manalo, Liberty Sanchez, Rodel Balino, Philip Abiog, Freddie Soto, Mike Marcelino, Glenn Agaton & family, Linda Pascual and all those suffering from physical and spiritual challenges. We pray for them through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the Mighty Name of Jesus. Amen.