FILIPINO CURSILLOS IN CHRISTIANITY - LOS ANGELES

April to June 2024
Volume VII, Issue 2

TUNGKO NEWSLETTER

TRIPOD - PIETY - STUDY - ACTION

Men's Cursillo Class No. 1038



The Men's cursillo weekend was held in Pomona Cursillo Retreat Center, Pomona, CA on May 2 to 5, 2024 with seven (7)) new graduates.

The Rector for Class No. 1038 was Juan Ochoa while his Vice Rector was Nicolo Franco.

The new graduates were welcomed at St. Linus Catholic Church hall in Norwalk, CA on May 19, 2024 hosted by Men's Class No. 1034 headed by Rector Jun Mapoy and Vice Rectors Bonn Mendoza and Ramon Geluz.

The welcome ceremonies were preceded with the Eucharistic Celebration inside the church and the continuation of the celebration was held in the church hall where delicious Filipino foods were served and personal sharing and presentation by all the new graduates.

FCIC–LA SECRETARIAT-2024

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ARCHDIOCESAN COORDINATOR'S MESSAGE

After a very busy first quarter of 2024 due to the Kalbaryo practices and shows we had, we were finally able to hold our annual Grand Ultreya. Please find below the activities we have undertaken for the second quarter of this year:

April 6, 2024 - FCIC annual Grand Ultreya held in Holy Family Catholic Church Parish Hall, Artesia

April 20, 2024 - 2nd Formation Meeting for Men's Cursillo Weekend Class No. 1038 and School of Leaders (SOL) meeting held in St. Bernard Catholic Church hall in Los Angeles, CA.

May 2 to 5, 2024 - Men's Cursillo Class No. 1038 headed by Rector Juan Ochoa and Vice Rector Nicolo Franco.

May 19, 2024 - Welcome celebration of Men's Cursillo Class No. 1038 held in St. Linus Catholic Church in Norwalk, CA hosted by Men's Class 1034 with Rector Jun Mapoy and Vice Rectors Bonn Mendoza and Ramon Geluz.

May 24 to 25, 2024 - Region XI Spring Encounter held in Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Coronado, CA.

June 30, 2024 - Formation meeting of Women's Cursillo Class No. 1053 and School of Leaders' meeting at St. John Eudes Catholic Church hall in Chatsworth, CA.

We hope that we will be able to plan for the Rollistas' Workshop towards the last quarter of the year and we are also planning to hold a Men's Cursillo Class in Guiguinto, Bulacan, Philippines in the first quarter of 2025. Please see Gerry Torres column for additional information on this matter.

Again, thank you so much for your continued support in all our Cursillo undertakings. Kindly continue to include us, the FCIC Secretariat members that with God's guidance and grace, we will be able to lead the Cursillo family in the right direction. God bless us all! To God be the greater honor and glory. De Colores!

Men's Cursillo Class No. 1038 - May 2 to 5, 2024



Auxiliaries and New Cursillistas

My Cursillo Weekend Experience By Nicolo Franco



All I can say is, it was really a joy. My rector brother Juan Ochoa was very pleasant to work with. I was blessed in that my rector was very accommodating and made the effort to talk and plan with me. I really saw my responsibility to be a shepherd for our class' candidates very seriously. I am a sort of mini-shepherd under the supreme shepherd, Christ the Lord. So I want to do my best to help guide our new brethren to achieving their highest ideal to become saints.

During our cursillo class welcome ceremony on Thursday, I already approached the candidates and recommended to them that the first night of the Cursillo weekend would be their confession night. So I recommended to them they use the i-Confess app on the iPhone (iOS platforms only) to really make a thorough examination of conscience. This is by far one of the best tools I have found for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Even when I was in line for confession myself, I recommended this app to other people in line.

Now that Class No. 1038 has been completed, my goal is to keep the zeal of fire for the faith ignite in their hearts by keeping them informed of all upcoming cursillo events starting with the formation to the next men's class. I was happy to see all four of our Antelope Valley's new Cursillistas attend our last Ultreya. So I hope this is a good start by keeping them "in the loop" if you will. I want to keep these new brother Cursillistas well informed and active so they can in turn bring their families, friends, and relatives to spread this amazing cursillo movement. And together let us come unto the Lord and be his jewels in the world to spread his glory and love.

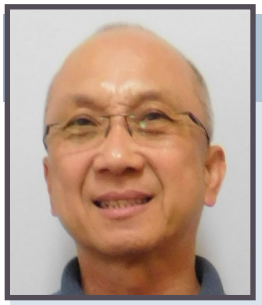
De Colores!



Table Group of San Lorenzo Ruiz



Table Group of St. John

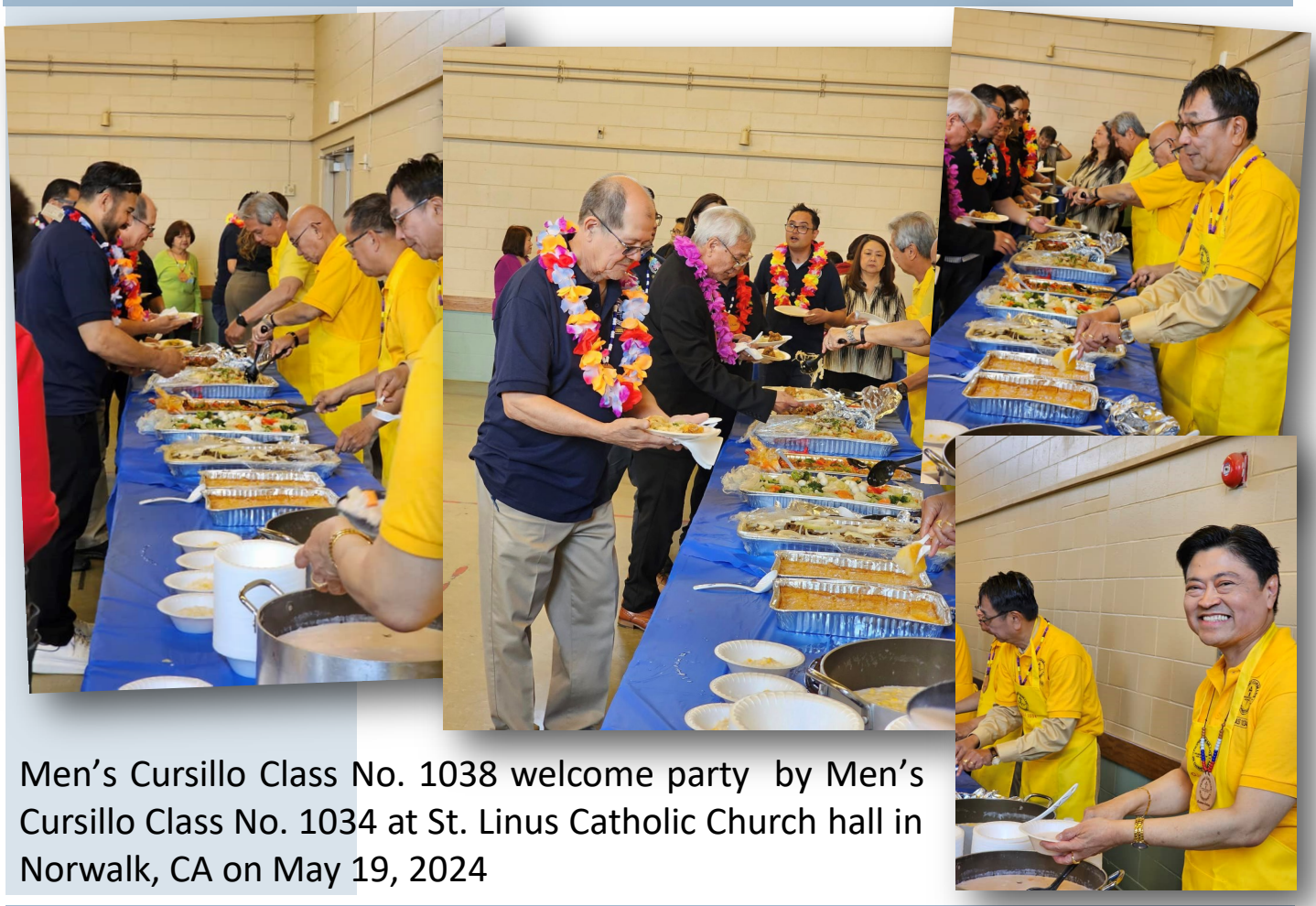


My Cursillo Weekend - by Rod Cayabyab

That cursillo weekend of May 2nd, 2024, was to me an unforgettable lifetime experience. I felt like God was physically present all throughout the weekend. Everyday during the Cursillo weekend, the people (now my brothers in Christ) have shown their love, compassion, and humility to us New Cursillistas that made us feel worthy to be in God's presence and spoke to Him. I had observed that the Cursillo service team has sacrificed their time, resources, and effort to serve us joyfully to bring us closer to God, in the same way the Cursillo community's prayers and mortifications helped us to completely surrender to God and trust Him. I honor all of them and can't thank you enough for their sacrifice.

That Cursillo weekend deepened my relationship with God through Jesus Christ and had strengthened my Catholic faith.

Welcome of Men's Cursillo Class No. 1038



Men's Cursillo Class No. 1038 welcome party by Men's Cursillo Class No. 1034 at St. Linus Catholic Church hall in Norwalk, CA on May 19, 2024

Men's Cursillo Class No. 1038



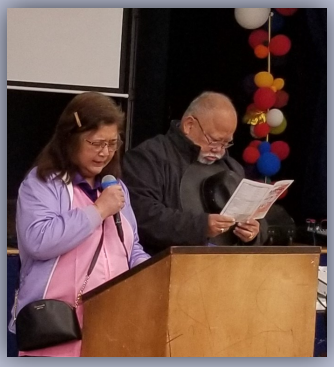
Annual FCIC-LA Grand Ultreya

By Ramon Geluz—Post Cursillo Chairperson



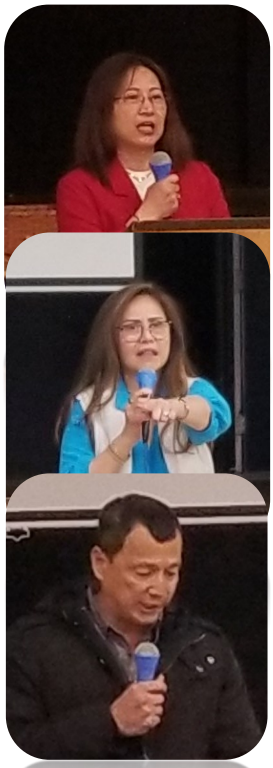
"Finding Joy in the Lord, Discover the Lord's Purpose for You, You Are More Than Ordinary" is the theme for FCIC-LA 2024 Grand Ultreya celebrated on Saturday, April 6, 2024 at the Holy Family Church hall in Artesia, CA. The event was attended by our Cursillo Brothers and Sisters from the different FCIC-LA Ultreya Centers led by their Ultreya Coordinators.

The event began with the registration of the attendees by Betty Defensor and a light breakfast. The Opening Prayer was led by Doris Agtarap followed by a Welcome Message and Introduction of the different Ultreya Centers by Ramon Geluz.



Billy Ricafort and the FCIC-LA Band gave stirring renditions of Praise and Worship songs that energized the participants to begin the day long Grand Ultreya, concluding with the De Colores hymn. Following the Community Singing, the participants divided themselves into smaller groups for the Group Reunion and Sharing.

The Ultreya Proper began with the Lay Witness Talk given by Lani Juanta about her childhood experience and the lessons in Christianity she learned from her father which she shared with her children. The Lay Response was given by Lorna Cortes, our Echo 1 Speaker who affirmed the Lay Witness Talk as she narrated her own very thoughtful and emotional life experience. This was followed by Reggie Maturino, our Echo 2 Speaker, who shared his own powerful and very personal lay response. In his Summation of the Lay Witness Talk, Fr. Rey Matunog commented that the Echo Speakers gave very good responses that made his work easier and led the





Annual FCIC-LA Grand Ultreya



cates of Appreciation for the Kalbaryo Cast and Production Staff. Truly, the FCIC-LA 2024 Grand Ultreya was another successful event in the history of FCIC-LA emceed by Ron Parcon and Noel Omega. De Colores!



Ultreya in Prayer of Thanksgiving for this year's successful Grand Ultreya and future FCIC-LA events. After Tess Tan Torres gave the Acknowledgement and Announcements, Zen Alejo led the Closing Prayer for the Grand Ultreya.

After a sumptuous lunch, the Kalbaryo Appreciation fellowship, karaoke. and dancing followed which included the initial Kalbaryo earnings and expenses report, sharing of Kalbaryo experiences and distribution of Certifi-





Annual FCIC-LA Grand Ultreya

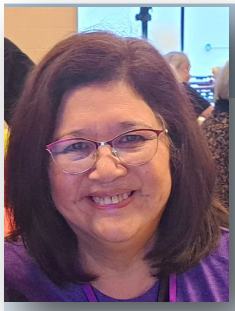






Annual FCIC-LA Grand Ultreya



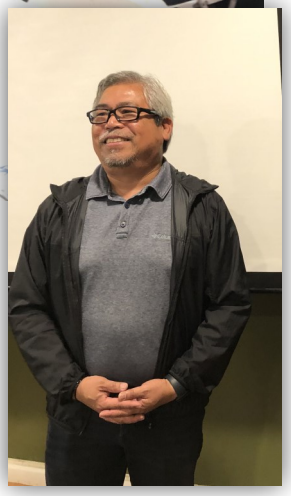


SCHOOL OF LEADERS (SOL)

By Doris Agtarap—SOL Chairperson

After the busy schedules in the first quarter especially in the month of March, the School of Leaders together with the second formation of Men's Cursillo Weekend Class No. 1038 met on April 20, 2024 at St. Bernard Parish Hall, Los Angeles. We were so blessed to have Deacon John Manalo who did the Doctrinal Talk in behalf of Father Rey Matunog. His talk was about "Virtual Worship". He first led us sing the "Gather Your People" commonly used as the entrance song of the Holy Mass Celebration: "**Gather your people, O Lord. Gather your people, O Lord, One bread, one body, one spirit of love. Gather your people, O Lord**."





Deacon John stressed the importance of physical church gathering in celebrating the Holy Eucharist compared to the virtual worship. Jesus wants us to rouse one another through worship and equipped us to live to be His witness in the world. Physical celebration of the Holy mass cannot be substituted with virtual worship because as in the second verse of the song stated, "We are parts of the body of Christ, needing each other, each of the gifts the Spirit provides".



The technique presentation was delivered by Lorna Cortes. She talked about "Faithful Steward of the Cursillo Movement". She said that we Cursillistas are given the stewardship to faithfully use the graces that we received. Cursillo is a gift from God and should fulfill the unique and specific role of God's plan. Cursillistas are accountable to continue the charism of friendship and the essence of the Cursillo that God loves us and He wants us to share His love to others through



SCHOOL OF LEADERS (SOL)

By Doris Agtarap -SOL Chairperson

friendship. In fulfilling the mission of God's plan, our world will resemble that lost paradise and will bloom more each day with the color of graces and love as we await for the coming of His kingdom in glory.

For the month of May, there was no SOL giving way for the Region XI Spring Encounter held in Coronado, San Diego, California. See the separate article published in this newsletter. In June 30, 2024, the SOL followed the first formation of the Women's Weekend Class No. 1053. Our Doctrinal presentation was delivered by Father Rey Matunog explaining the controversy about the Exhortation of Pope Francis "Amoris Laetitia, (Joy of Love)". The principle of the exhortation is the same as what the statement of the Dicastery of the Holy Sea regarding "Fiducia Supplicanans" (Supplicating Trust) approved by Pope Francis which is a blessing of individuals who are in irregular situation. Through the Loving mercy of God, ordinary blessing by the priest can be extended to them. The Technique presentation was presented by Anita "Annie" Polasek entitled "Developing a Deeper Relationship with Christ". Annie reminded us of our tripod of Piety, Study and Action. To have a deeper relationship with Christ, we have to live in the life of grace, exercise and apply our true piety, and knowing Christ more in our study of the scripture, teachings of the church and lives of the Saints. From our Piety and Study, our Apostolic action follow showing the love of Christ to others and following God's will. She also mentioned to attend group reunion and Ultreya so we can share our spiritual journey with our brothers and sisters, together we move forward to help each other and evangelize others for God's glory. De Colores!!











One Memorable Spring Encounter

by Betty Defensor

Friday, May 24th 2024 was a good day to take a drive down south to Coronado, CA. It was such a bright and sunny day that if you didn't squint your eyes, you'd miss the road entirely. Mishaps do happen but let's not focus on that.

The venue for the Region XI Spring Encounter was at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church hall. I've never seen a hall with such high ceilings reminiscent of a Byzantine church. It looked more like an abby or an actual church instead of a hall and, in fact, the hall became an annex of the Mass at the end of the session. Right across the church is a park, complete with kids slides, playground equipment, barbecue area and as expected, families were enjoying every bit of sunshine on this beautiful beach-weather day.

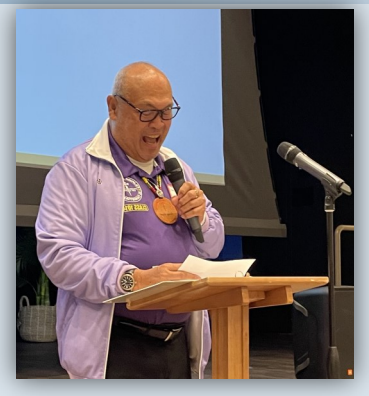


But, let's not get to the Mass at the end of the session, but start at the very beginning! There were a lot of Cursillistas at this event and fellow Filipino Cursillistas were very well represented. In fact, we were the 2nd largest group of delegations. The Vietnamese group had the most representatives by only a very small margin. Next, were the Spanish-speaking group.

This Spring encounter was worth every penny I spent on the car rental, hotel, gas and session registration and, let's not forget, all the snacks we brought along to eat and share with anyone who was hungry! Our spring encounter had music, morning and evening prayers, free meals, refreshments, snacks and, the best part, are the lessons and serious thoughts you hear from the speakers. Then, there are the participants who also spoke from the heart about their encounter.

The Friday session, Meditation –"whom Shall I send" is an introspective look at where you are in your journey. We also had a group reunion and this time, we had new participants to share our discussions with. It is always interesting to hear from other Cursilistas. Our table had Filipinos from Oakland, Vietnamese and Hispanic participants – a microcosm of the Cursillo movement in

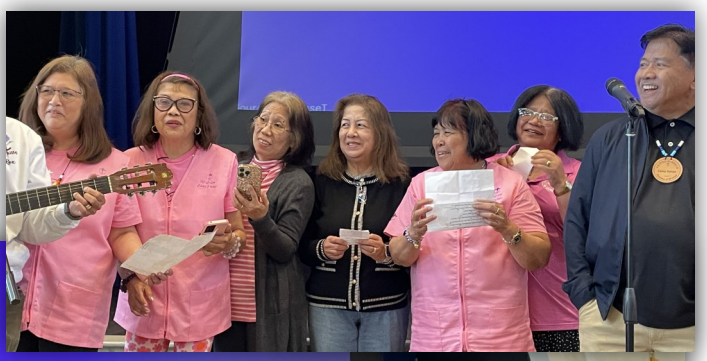
One Memorable Spring Encounter



its global picture. At each group reunion/sharing, there were other spaces or places your group can choose to go to instead of being confined to one area. Our very own Sonny Layao was one of the Echo Speakers and he made us all proud with his sharing.

Our Saturday session began by acknowledging all the Dioceses present. We also had Sabatina, Devotion to Mary besides the morning prayers and songs. One of the interesting topics this day was entitled "Eucharist - the Focus of Cursillo." Of course, no Cursillo encounter can be without a talk of our 3 pillars of Study, Piety and Action.

The very last part of the session prior to the parish Mass was the Fiesta. It was purely voluntary and there were no limits to what each group wanted to do. There were group singing, Vietnamese dancing complete with costumes, the Filipinos from Oakland and San Diego also did a group singing in their Filipiniana tops. Ours was unique with a combination of group singing with a little bit of hand gesture and Hawaiian dancing (we only came up with the act the night before, practicing at the hotel room). Fiesta was indeed a plethora of talent, pure guts and lots of energy – the ingredients for a wonderful ending to a Cursillo Fiesta. This Region XI Spring Encounter is surely one for the books! Next time it comes around, be sure not to miss it!





Region XI Spring Encounter - May 24 to 25, 2024













Revival of the Cursillo Movement in Certain Parts of the Philippines By Gerry Torres

In 2015, the Filipino Cursillos in Christianity of Los Angeles, CA (FCIC-LA) organized the inaugural separate Men and Women's weekend Cursillos at Kamay ni Hesus Healing Church halls in Lucban, Quezon, drawing 100 New Cursillistas from Quezon province.

Greg Pascual served as the Rector and Ray Ramirez as the Vice Rector for the men's cursillo, while for the women, the leadership included Rectora Cel Parcon and Vice Rectora Vangie Bravo.

The endeavor garnered support from Bert Jaballa and other Cursillistas from Quezon province, with encouragement from the late Fr. Angelo Jaballa.

Despite facing dormancy in many parts of the Philippines due to various factors, including the rise of other religious groups and the passing of key figures, both clergy and lay persons, 2022 marked a turning point.

This resurgence underscores a concerted effort to invigorate and sustain the Cursillo Movement's mission in the Philippines, reflecting renewed enthusiasm and commitment from clergy and lay leaders alike.

In 2022, the Cursillo Movement's revival gained momentum with the bishops' endorsement who attended the 2nd National Priests' Encounter in Cebu City, Philippines. Even our dear friend Juan Ruiz, former OMCC President and Spanish Coordinator of the US National Cursillo Movement with other clergy attended the momentous event.

The Philippine National Cursillo Secretariat (PNCS) played a pivotal role in catalyzing this revival, emphasizing the role of clergy in spearheading the movement's renewal within parishes.

In a recent development, Tess and Gerry met with Engr. Jose "Pepe" Hilario, President of the Philippine National Cursillo Secretariat, along with some Cursillo leaders in Bulacan last May. Discussions included plans for FCIC -LA to send a team from LA to conduct the Men's Cursillo weekend in January next year, with assurances of support and cooperation from local leaders.

It was suggested that we get an endorsement from a local parish and we then spoke with the Parish Priest of The Diocesan Shrine and Parish of Nuestra Senora de la Asuncion in Bulakan, Bulacan who expressed his willingness to endorse our planned cursillo weekend in Guiguinto, Bulacan next year as soon as he receives the letter from Tess Torres later this year.

Since the annual feeding program spearheaded by Rey Alonzo and Ron Parcon is scheduled on January 15, 2025 in La Union town, the Men's Cursillo weekend has been tentatively scheduled on **January 30-February 2, 2025** to be held at Immaculate Conception Seminary hall in Guiguinto, Bulacan.

The hall can accommodate a maximum of 25 New Cursillistas and 30 Auxiliaries.
The registration for Men's Cursillo weekend is on a first come, first served basis.

Those who plan to participate in any of the two events next year may email the ff:

1. Rey Alonzo for the feeding program @ reyalonzo1959@yahoo.com
2. Rex Agtarap for the Men's Cursillo auxiliaries @ rexjpa52618@gmail.com



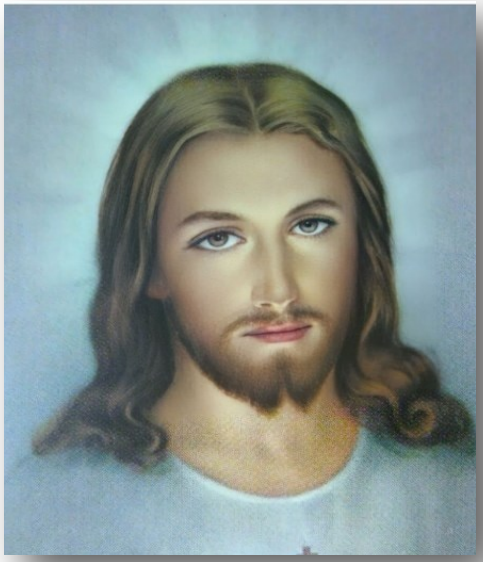
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Christ is counting on you!

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

August 11, 2024
Women's Cursillo Class No. 1053 2nd Formation Meeting @ Holy Family Catholic Church St Joseph Hall from 11:00am to 3:00pm

August 17, 2024
Men's Cursillo Class No. 1054 1st Formation Meeting 11:00am to 3:00pm Venue: TBA

August 25, 2024 from 10:00am to 5:00pm
FCIC-LA 2024 Annual Picnic
@The Miners Lake Canopy- El Dorado East Regional Park
7550 East Spring St., Long Beach, CA 90815

Sept 5 to 8, 2024 - Women's Cursillo Weekend
Rectora - Agnes Golingay
Vice Rectoras - Agnes Alonzo and Lita Vicente

September 21, 2024
Men's Cursillo Class No. 1054 2nd Formation Meeting 11:00am to 3:00pm Venue: TBA

Oct 3 to 6, 2024 - Men's Cursillo Weekend
Rector - Rex Agtarap
Vice Rector - Joe Vicente

Oct 11-12, 2024 - Cursillo Region XI Fall Encounter
St. John Vianney Catholic Church
1650 Ygnacio Valley Rd., Walnut Creek, CA 94598

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

December 7, 2024
FCIC-LA Annual Christmas Party - Venue: TBA

OBITUARIES: Please pray for the repose of the souls of Rod Maranan, Basilio Failma, Jesusa Santos 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 light shine upon them.

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS: Please pray for the continuous healing of Bishop Alex Aclan, Billy Ricafort, Gilda Manalo, Liberty Sanchez, Rodel Balino, Philip Abiog, Freddie Soto, Glenn Agaton & family, Linda Pascual, Charito Bondoc, Henry Osio, Anselmo Maranan 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.