

My Yearly Pilgrimage

by Bro Bembet Salazar

“God is awesome... awesome is He!”

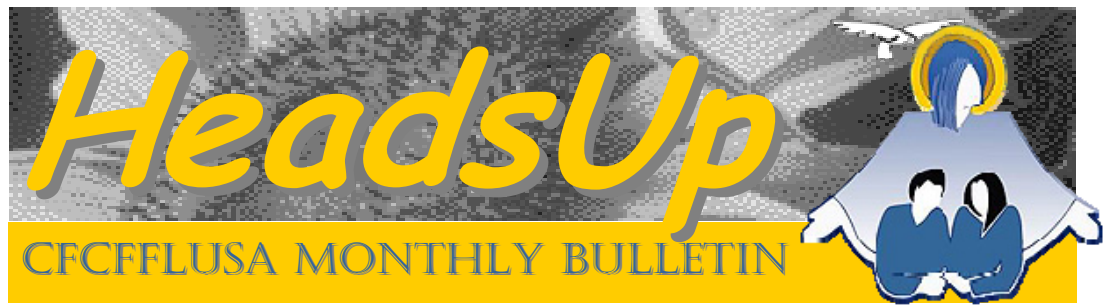
That was our resounding chant in the recent CFC-FFL National Leaders' Conference in New Jersey.

God, indeed, is awesome as He continues to bless our community with His powerful presence in events such as this conference. Packed with so many instances for praise and worship, highlighted by the celebration of the Most Holy Eucharist, and accentuated by very relevant talks and messages from a powerhouse of resource persons, the conference is truly a one-stop refueling shop for the thirsty and weary soul.

Every conference that I have attended brought forth a different message and experience, yet all these events never failed to do one thing – to reaffirm the powerful presence of God in our lives. My entire family thus, makes it a point to attend the conferences every year. For every time we participate in these events, our faith is renewed and strengthened, and I personally feel empowered and confident to face the challenges in life, trusting always in the Lord's guidance and help.

Right at the end of every conference when the next venue is announced, my wife and I would immediately declare that we would be attending the next one. As the months go by though, life's many challenges take a great toll on our resources and the next thing you know, the conference is about to

P2 ➡



Volume 2 No 4

First in Time, First in Right

July- August 2010

The CFCFFL 16th National Conference

Jotting down the 'Awesome' Weekend in New Jersey

This year's theme was taken from the 37th chapter of the Book of Job, verse 23. **“The Almighty! Just and righteous is he!”** The conference was held in New Brunswick, New Jersey from July 16 to 18, 2010.

Session 1: “The Almighty”

Do you remember what you did with your Friday nights when you were 30?

If you're not yet 30 you could just imagine what you will be doing when you get to that age. Would you have thought of yourself giving a talk to an audience of 900 people most of whom older than you? Bro Ray Pingoy is 30 and he did just that.

He asked, “Do you have IK-IK?”

Sounds like a Filipino word for nasty ring worm or skin disease, right? Well not really, he shot this question to CFCFFL members who have been in community feeling like it's already been 3 years or more.

Have you ever experienced somebody inviting you to a teaching, conference or assembly, the speaker has not yet even finished his sentence yet and you thought “I Know I Know”.


Hence, the word – “IK-IK”, an pound of arrogance in our supposedly renewed Christian lives – Ouch! Sounds pretty right on target on our bruised and humbled egos. It sounds nasty to our souls too, right?

The first session was about “The Almighty”. Not Bruce almighty but God Almighty. His greatness and His

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Conference Director and New Jersey Area Servant Ed Yamba turns over the Service Cross to Orland Dizon, Area Servant of Chicago, where the next CFCFFL conference will be held.

PI  **My Yearly Pilgrimage...** take place and we are left without enough resources for registration and travel logistics.

This is usually the situation every year. But by God's grace, amazing things happen and we always end up being able to attend the conferences. Even when the situation seems uncooperative, we never put the flame out in our hearts for the desire to attend the conference. We just continue to pray for the Lord's will to happen. The Lord then, knowing the desires of our hearts, grants these if He sees it necessary for our growth and nourishment. He opens doors for opportunities, uses other people to extend help and support, and makes community a living proof of His fraternal love and generosity.

This year is no different than the past ones. Despite issues with work and finances, the Lord allowed me and my wife to attend the conference in

New Jersey. And as in the years past, we definitely feel refreshed and empowered by the Spirit after hearing the talks and immersing ourselves in the conference activities. It was so inspiring to see brothers and sisters from all over the country gather and renew relationships in the Lord and together committing to push forward the mission entrusted by the Lord to CFC-FFL.


The talks this year which were inspired by the life of Job, truly lifted up our spirits as we were made aware that the sufferings we experience in our lives exist not as a punishment for our sins but as an opportunity for us to share in the cross of Christ, redeeming us from attachment to worldly pleasures, and preparing us for our heavenly dwelling.

On our way back home, we had a generous dose of the Lord's humor as He put to test the lesson we had on "redemptive suffering". We took the subway train from Brooklyn to JFK airport and in the process had to do 4 train-transfers. Our flight was delayed for 2 hours, then 3 and then was cancelled.

It was midnight already when we learned that the airline would not provide us any hotel or meal voucher, so we had to sleep in the airport. Then we woke up very early to transfer to La Guardia airport for our rebooked 9 am flight.

I had to smile though when we were finally on board our flight to Dallas... cause I'm glad to have suffered, even just a bit, for His name's sake... glad to have exercised patience... glad to be homeward bound to prepare for the Young Ministries' conference... glad to be serving in the parish again... glad to be husband to my wife... glad to be father to my kids... glad to be your brother and servant in Christ.

"As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord". Joshua 24:15

PI  **The Awesome Weekend...** power in our lives are often overlooked. We sometimes fail to count our blessings in the midst of our busy lives. He shows us the beauty of His creation every morning but we're too preoccupied with our schedules. Sin and pride prevent us from seeing how awesome and great He really is. Bro Ray closed with this admonition, "remember that the only thing greater than all of His blessings is His love for you and me". Amen, brother.

Session 2 "The Righteousness of Job"

Our young at heart brother Mike Quiray kept us on our toes by his loving but straight talk about God's servant Job. His acronym was easy to remember as we use it in CFC-FFL - "PUSH Faithfully" :

P – Pure. We must be pure in thought and in deed. (Job 31:1-12) **U** – Unworldly. Our Joy is not rooted in material possessions (Job 31:24-25) **S** – Sincere. We must not live double lives (Job 31:33-34) **H** – Honest. We ought to rid ourselves from falsehood or deceit (Job 31:5) **Faithful**. We must not be waylaid by idolatrous worship (Job 31:26-28)

Tito Mike exhorted us to emulate the important virtues of Job - generous, compassionate, just, hospitable and a good steward of our environment. Most of all his long suffering, reverential fear of the Lord and immovable and unwavering faith. Thanks, Tito Mike for convicting us before God.

Session 3: "Redemptive Suffering – the Way of the Cross"

Bro Pepe Ruffy of NY said "When Christians suffer, they suffer with Christ". When Jesus died for our sins, he suffered to free us from our sins. He willingly offered himself as the ultimate sacrifice to the point of dying on the cross. As followers of Christ, we often have to undergo redemptive suffering so we can be cleansed and be one with Him. God allows us to undergo affliction not necessarily because of our sinful lives but to share and experience his love and mercy.

We experience relationship problems with our brethren due to misunderstandings. We go through harassment and persecutions for being loyal and true to Him. This is the endurance test we ought to hurdle.

Christians suffer in the face of biases and prejudices hurled against them. We are sometimes confused when natural disasters or a loss befall those who love God when we as Christians, are betrayed and rejected by others in the world we live in. But isn't it because we aspire to be united in love and spirit with our savior, friend and brother, Jesus Christ?

Certainly! We must always believe that His Grace will be enough for us and hope to one day take even just a small glimpse of his face in his heavenly glory in heaven.

Session 4: Justice and Righteousness of God

Our Servant General, Bro Frank Padilla fired up our Sunday morning with a talk reminiscent of Fr. Rainerio Canta-



This year's key speakers were: Ray Pinggoy is a former fulltimer and the national coordinator for the Young Ministries, Mike Quiray is a member of the National Board of Counsellors as national Servant for family ministries, Pepe Ruffy is area servant of New York, and Frank Padilla is the CFCFFL Servant-General.

lamesa's Easter Sunday sermon. Tito Frank was in his usual self, full of wisdom and enthusiasm for the Word.

His words were simple but they pierced our hearts.

Frank said throughout the history, man has known justice within the context of punishment and retribution. Yet there could only righteousness if God's law and order reigns. The reason why the Father sent Jesus to save us from our sins despite of our very sinful ways is that divine justice is met in the restoration of all people and his creation back to God.

We are saved not because we deserve or are worthy of it. Jesus suffered and died on the cross for us because He loves

us. Not as creatures but as His sons and daughters. God's righteousness is not based on what we have done but on the power of his forgiveness. If we go back to Him and cling to his loving mercy then we are proceeding to his divine justice. This clinging, this cleaving begins our road to holiness, being in the world but not of the world, separating ourselves from materialism, the flesh and the devil. We strive for holiness because God is holy. Holiness of God entails being against everything the world considers as "popular" or "acceptable". The devil knows how to hide subtly



his evil ways.

To be holy is the only way we can be just. Holiness for us in CFCFFL, is not just following the commandments but building a relationship with God by being a disciple of Christ and faithfully living up our covenant with Him.

We can begin, Tito Frank said, by coming on-time and regularly to our household prayer meetings. We do not only honor our brothers and sisters but also God when we do this.

We also ought to bring our family to God. Christians are not only in the business of renewing themselves but our spouses, our children, our parents and brothers and sisters.

We are to defend Life in a world that regards life as a matter of human "choice". God has intended life as a gift, a replication of his own image in every man and woman who in turn he empowers to procreate.

Finally, our participation in Christ's work of restoration means evangelizing others in a mission that takes us to the ends of the earth.

Closing

What an awesome, awesome weekend!

Now, let me ask you again. Do you have "IK-IK"? If you say "no" then we hope to see you in the next conference in Chicago. If you answer "yes" then you need to read this article again and again. And that's not Just being emphatic!

All of us have a little bit of Job in us. Keep reading the book of Job until you come to the real presence and before the great majesty of our Creator, the Almighty God. Just and Righteous is He! **By Dale Bernadas, The Renewed of Dallas, TX**

Listen not just with your mind but with your heart

One of Canada's few outspokenly pro-life bishops is leaving his position as archbishop of the prominent diocese of Quebec to a new high-level post overseas in the Vatican.

Ten years ago he was just an ordinary priest. But in his new job as the head of the Vatican dicastery which has a major say in appointing bishops and cardinals, **Cardinal Marc Ouellet** may have an even greater influence on the Church in Canada and especially his beloved Quebec. That is because nearly half of the bishops in the province are due to retire in the next two years, and more after that while Ouellet will be in his new position.

Frank Padilla said “that during the long pontificate of Pope John Paul II, we were fortunate that he was able to appoint many traditional orthodox bishops just as many liberal bishops were passing away. Now the Church is much more secure in the authentic Catholic faith. “The current pontiff, Benedict XVI, is also very traditional and orthodox. With Cardinal Ouellet helping him choose the next generation of bishops worldwide, we have even more reason to rejoice.”

Bishops “**need spiritual discernment**, not just political calculation of the risk of the possibility of the message being received,” said Cardinal Marc Ouellet, the newly-appointed prefect of the Vatican’s Congregation for Bishops, in an interview last August 19. **“We have to dare to speak to the deep heart, where the Spirit of the Lord is touching people beyond what we can calculate,”** he told Canadian Catholic News.

During Cardinal Ouellet's eight years as the archbishop of Quebec City and primate of Canada, he has become known as one of the country’s greatest defenders of faith, life, and the family. “We have suffered from this mentality of dissent.” He said **what we need is real discipleship,**” he added. **“The discipleship that is emerging is from those who believe and who really love the Church.”**

Brother Frank’s new book is about true discipleship. It is a reminder to all of us, to **listen not just with our minds but especially with our hearts.**

In our last meeting of the Board of Counsellors and

Area Servants, we heard more complaints from the field than blessings and solutions. There was even hair splitting about expenses rather than how revenues ought to be increased.

The Servant General was quick to make the correction saying that if only half the targets in the collection of tithes and the Evangelization Mission Fund (EMF) were being met, we will still have more than what’s was necessary to fund salaries of fulltime workers, send missionaries back to their assigned stations and open new ones, organize more seminars and conferences, and contribute to the Church.

I have been discerned this and I find the problem to be least resistance even among leaders. Some of us have been in the field too long and have forgotten what fortitude and perseverance is all about. Even as leaders, it is possible to hide behind comfort zones and be infected by the murmurs and fears of the defeated rather than the shared stories of the victory of the Gospel out there. At crunch time, there is always a temptation to switch to a weak god like when the early Jews chose Baal or the deity of a silent stone or a golden calf.

We can allow ourselves to be deceived by demonic imagination and see a mirage of vultures circling around our collective carcass. Against the onslaught of the economic crisis now plaguing America, we could of course slow down or even stop evangelizing, defending life and promoting the family. But hello, **those who rest on their gold and their own power, are unplugging and disconnecting themselves from the one true Almighty Creator, the source of all provisions.**

The bulwark that Cardinal Ouellet provides us in this day and age, ought to be an inspiration and a real assurance of God’s loving covenant with us. Let us therefore listen to the Spirit of the Lord, less with our minds and begin engaging deeply with our hearts, as this man of the red cloth exhorts.

Message from the Country Servant

At the end of the day, we are all about decreasing so that the Lord can increase.

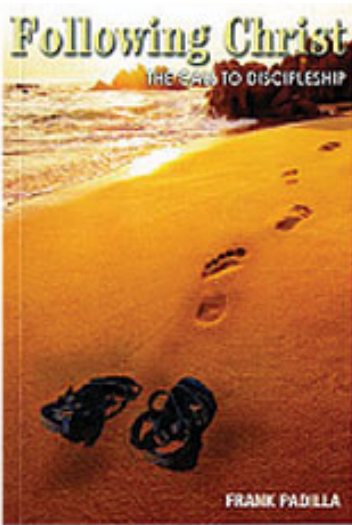


NANI ALMANZA

New Book by Frank Padilla

Following Christ

Subtitled "The Call to Discipleship", the book serves as a very profound call that many Christians fail to understand and properly respond. As such there are Christians in name but not in actual living out of the fullness of their faith in Christ.



To be a disciple is to have a living relationship with the Triune God—as a child of the Father, as a servant of the Son and as a soldier of the Spirit.

Following this, to be a disciple is to have an intimate relationship with other Christians—as and sisters in the family of God, as co-workers in the kingdom of God, and as comrades-in-arms in the army of God.

The disciples of Jesus are crucial to the work of proclaiming the good news of salvation to thye whole world. As Christians, we are privileged to be called. But it is a great responsibility. Jesus has entrusted to his workers the harvest that has already
The Couples for Christ Handmaids for Family and Life is Texas-bound this September 25-27 at Dallas!

Message from the Servant General

*For to me
to live is
Christ,
and to die
is gain."*



(Phil 1:21)

FRANK PADILLA

brothers
and sisters in the family of God, as co-workers in the kingdom of God, and as comrades-in-arms in the army of God.

Milestone in Manila

30th CFCFFL Anniversary

The Servant-General is inviting all CFCFFL members abroad, to come to the Philippines on June 26, 2011 for the 30th anniversary of the community.

Couples for Christ was founded by the first 16 couples, among them Frank and Gerry Padilla, who took up their Christian Life Program in 1981.

"We enjoin everyone to plan to come to Manila for this blessed and significant event," said Padilla. "All those who intend to go must save and plan early."

On June 25, or one day before the anniversary, there will be a retreat for clergy, sponsored by the Priests for Family and Life.

In this regard, CFCFFLs everywhere are requested to alert those clerics that are close to us about this event. Either they come on their own or the different countries/areas sponsor their travel.

The two days immediately following the anniversary, After the conference, on June 27-28, there will also be a meeting of worldwide Country Servants, with their spouses. The members of the In-

ternational Core of Seniors are also invited to this meeting.

The CFCFFL Annual Weekend will still be held as usual from January 23-24, 2011 to launch next year's theme.



Frank and Gerry Padilla recently pays courtesy to Cardinal Francis George, Archbishop of Chicago and USCCB president, after the New Jersey conference and together with Au Manaloto and Marge Hermano .

First it begins as a family, then it becomes a multitude, never too young for praise, never too old for worship. Ever prepared for liturgy, teaching, sharing, song or dance, but always mission ready. For the awesome Great Almighty!



**More photos
16th CFCFFL
National
Conference**



NEW JERSEY conference is upbeat with Emcees Belma de Castro and Edwin Dava; Spiritual Director Father Brian Needles very much hands on with our liturgical and the sacramental requirements; all-hospitable Northeast Regional Coordinator Joe de Leon and wife Annie, Latamaries Paul Morales and KD Albino testifying to the rigors and challenges of the Latin American missions, or Pete and Jing Dinglasan, reminiscing a few nostalgic dance steps of the 70s

As Cure for Maternal Deaths?

African Union submits to Pressure for Abortion

By [Samantha Singson](#)

http://www.c-fam.org/publications/id.1677/pub_detail.asp

KAMPALA, UGANDA, August 5 (C-FAM) The African Union (AU) finished its annual summit last week with governments agreeing to make maternal and child mortality a continent-wide priority. The summit ended with Member States extending the controversial, non-binding Maputo Plan of Action (PoA) for an additional five years and expanding new initiative called the Campaign on Accelerated Reduction on Maternal Mortality in Africa (CARMMA). Pressure was placed on the AU from UN agencies and foreign non-governmental organizations (NGO). While United Nations

Population Fund (UNFPA) executive director Thoraya Obaid, called on delegates to focus on non-controversial interventions to reduce maternal deaths – such as skilled birth attendants and emergency obstetric care – the very next day in a speech at Makerere University in Kampala Obaid focused instead on "unsafe abortion," "reproductive rights," "reproductive health services" and "sexuality education." The pro-abortion NGO coalition told the AU assembly they were "ashamed" of Africa's high maternal and child mortality. The NGOs called on governments for "guaranteed access to family planning services," "reproductive health commodity security" and to address "unsafe abortion." The NGO statement did not mention skilled birth attendants or emergency obstetric care, what are traditionally understood as the cures for high maternal mortality.

No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act



For many years Congress has supported the policy that federal tax dollars should not be used for elective abortions. Many provisions must be renewed in law each year as part of the various annual appropriations bills to maintain this policy.

On July 29, Reps. Chris Smith (R-NJ) and Dan Lipinski (D-IL) introduced the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act (H.R. 5939). This bill would establish this policy in permanent law in a consistent way. As of the date of this alert, the bill already has 167 total sponsors, enjoying strong bipartisan support.

In an August 20 letter to the House of Representatives, Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, Chairman of the USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities, urged all congressmen to support and co-sponsor H.R. 5939. "While Congress's policy on restricting funding for abortion] has been remarkably consistent for decades, implementation of that policy in practice has been piecemeal and sometimes sadly inadequate."

The Cardinal cited the recently passed health care reform law as an example of why H.R. 5939 is needed. For the full text of the Cardinal's letter, go to www.usccb.org/prolife/DiNardo-HR5939.pdf

***Pray for Africa,
Support HR 5939 and
Join the
2011 March
for Life
Washington DC,
Monday, January 24, 2011***

The anniversary date of the Roe v. Wade decision will fall on a weekend next year, so the March has been scheduled for January 24, 2011, Monday, a weekday when lawmakers are typically in Washington. We want to make sure that our pro-life pilgrimage to our nation's capitol has maximum impact on our elected leaders; and that our Marchers have an opportunity to visit with their Congressional delegations in order to press their pro-life message.



CFCHFL Governance Team, from left to right: Dolly Paul (Northeast), Ethel Alviz (Northwest), Marissa Gonzales (Mission Coordinator & MPC Siervas), Margi Paglinawan (Southeast), Au Manaloto (Northcentral), Vicky Quiray (wife of National Family Ministries Coordinator), Mel Cunanan (Southcentral), Maria Malinao (PFO and Southwest), Bing Almanza (wife of CFCFFL National Coordinator & Evangelization), Margie Hermano (CFCHFL National Coordinator, Board of Counselors, & National Pro Life Coordinator), Fe Strawn (Finance) and Helen Banaria (Northeast).

Dallas TX hosts 2010 CFCHFL Conference

<http://cfcusa-tx.org/cfcffl-handmaids-2010conference.html>

MEET YOUR NEW AREA SERVANTS



LEADING THE OPENING WORSHIP OF THE 2010 CFCFFL NATIONAL CONFERENCE—Noel Garcia of the Southeast Region took his Christian Life Seminar together with his wife Julie only five years ago and now serves as the Area Servant of Maryland and its two archdioceses of Washington and Baltimore.

He worked for a telecom consulting company since 1995 that sent him to extensive travels to five countries abroad and all over the US, before finally settling down here and getting hooked by CFCFFL. Noel is now an engineering manager at Sprint. The Garcias hail from Baguio City, and they have two sons and a daughter.

**“The Almighty!
Just and Righteous
is He.”**

2010 CFC Handmaids for Family and Life
National Conference

Job 37:23

Sheraton Grand Hotel-DFW [Dallas, TX]
4440 W. John Carpenter Freeway Irving, TX 75063



September 24-26, 2010