

A MESSAGE FROM **THE NATIONAL DIRECTOR**

I defer to the Servant-General for this Christmas's message to all of you. You will find that on this Bulletin's last page.

What I want to put across is my biggest and widest hug of gratitude to all of you for everything that you have done for CFCFFL-USA for the entire year.

This was a most eventful 12-months from the time. We invoked out trust in Jesus in January, and throughout the months we made our voices felt to fulfill our charism.



NANI ALMANZA

It could only be through the grace of God that in less than a year's time, our role for renewing the family and defense of life

earned national recognition.

Our Pro-Life Summit began the whole motion in collaboration with Justin Francis Cardinal Rigali, the chair of the USCCB pro-life committee.

Then came the involvement of our areas in David Beret's 40 Days for Life and in the national advocacy against abortion funding and for conscience protection in the Healthcare legislation at the Capitol Hill.

These gains ought to give our zeal for evangelization in the incoming year with more vigor, deliberateness, and beyond the borders of CFC involving only our Filipino ethnicity and onto the mainstream of all colors around us.

The forthcoming March for Life in Washington DC and its echo in San Francisco, California should launch this new might coming from the Lord.



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See you on Jan 22, 2010

As earlier announced, 2010 marks the first time in the 37 years history of March for Life that an Adult Mass and Rally will be held in Washington DC.

This will be at the St. John the Evangelist church at 10103 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, Maryland 20902, starting at 8:00 and ending 11:30 in the morning to give participants ample time to connect through the **Metro Subway** from **Forest Glen** onto the **Smithsonian** station where the march starts at about 1:00 pm.

The powerful guest speaker will be David Beret, the founder and national director of 40 Days for Life, with sharers about the abortion issue.

Music will be provided by Accion Divina and Janice Clark of Canada for the program and the NeoCathecumates for the mass that starts at 10:30 am to be presided by Most Reverend Barry Knestout, the auxiliary bishop of Washington.

Organizing the event, is the Association of Ecclesial Movements and New Communities in the Archdiocese of Washington, with Ado Paglinawan of CFCFFL as incumbent chairman.

Participants from other CFCFFL areas who customarily bus themselves to join the March for Life are encouraged to arrive early in St. John's at 7:30 am, park at church lot and just take a 30 minute Metro rail ride to where the March starts at the national mall. The March should be done by 4:00 pm.

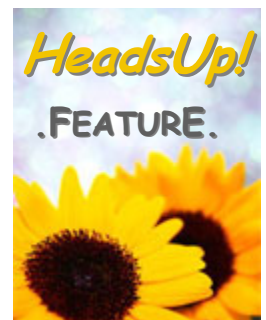
Returning, the subway access is from the **Union** station back to **Forest Glen**.

Sis Margie reports on our 40 Days experience

PEP (Prayer & fasting, Education, Participation) has, since the start of our Pro-Life ministry four years ago, been our action cry in CFCFFL USA. This has been our thrust in leading our members to grow in mind, heart and spirit in responding to this most challenging call of our time - being Pro-Life. Pro-life should really be integral in the lives of Catholics, but sad to say that for some time now, many of us have been influenced by the onslaught of materialism, hedonism, secularism in the world, and thus

have also become calloused to accept liberal views in their own lives, and even developing a tolerance for something as downright evil as abortion.

Our founder and Servant-General, Frank Padilla, has time and again indicated that our community has been raised by God for this 3rd millennium to fight the culture of death. We believe that in this pro-life work, we are called to be the faces and



40 Days experience

voices that will multiply many times over to lend support to the otherwise ragtag few faithful, now predominantly senior folks who since Roe v Wade in 1981 have persistently took to the sidewalks in front of abortion clinics to try to dissuade mothers to save their unborn babies.

It is in this spirit that CFCFFL USA has committed to partner with the local 40 Days for Life Campaign in the different areas where we are present in the US – to add to the numbers of those who are visible in standing in defense of life.

This community-based campaign, which was launched initially in the Fall of 2007, has three components: **prayer & fasting, constant vigil** in front of an abortion clinic and community outreach. It parallels our very own action call in our Pro-Life ministry, first, to **PRAY** and fast not only for the aborted babies and their ill-informed parents, but for the abortionist, the clinic's employees, and for the end of this evil. Secondly, to **EDUCATE** ourselves and others especially as we draw attention of the public to what's happening in their very own midst. And third, to **PARTICIPATE** in the fight against the culture of life – that each person adds to the numbers that will make a difference.

David Bereit, founder of 40 Days for Life, inspired the community when he addressed CFCFFL at this year's Pro-Life Summit during our last CFCFFL Conference in MD. He said, it is "NECESSARY" to fight the culture of death that has permeated in our society; it is "POSSIBLE" to make a tremendous impact and save lives and bring back the culture of life in our midst, IF we are faithful and we trust in Jesus; it is "ME", i.e., all of us and our respective roles and contributions in this work that will make it possible; it is "WORTH IT" to do whatever we're called to do to protect life; and the time is "NOW" – now is the moment to pray like we've never prayed before; now is the time to do the right thing to stand up against the injustice and the affronts against human life.

In this fall's 40 Days for Life campaign, CFCFFL members were there visibly standing in defense of the sacredness and dignity of life - virtually holding in spirit the hands of the defenseless babies, as they gave their last breath, their death perpetrated by their own mothers. Here's a summary of the CFCFFL action in some of the areas where we participated.

Seattle, WA - CFCFFL joined the 40Days for Life vigil in three different sites for one hour every week. About 30 members experienced what it is like to stand up for life. Maribel said, "Cars passing

by showed their support for us by honking or their opposite views by shouting invectives. But we were not deterred by any of their tactics. We prayed the rosary, the stations of the cross, and other prayers. The participants took turns in leading the prayers. We all felt the peace and serenity in what we were doing – praying for an end to abortion."

Northern California - Maria (HFL) reported: "in San Jose, about 11 of our HFL sisters gathered in (front of) the Planned Parenthood (abortion clinic) despite the rain and chill. They stood tall and unwavering, even when some passersby jeered and gave them the finger. On the 4th week of serving their complete shift, and during the coldest of evenings, our sisters prayed, their teeth chattered a bit, but still had some joy to pose for a few pictures. No one complained of the cold, though occasionally, I could feel their cold hands. And although we may have not been totally aware of what impact we had on the people who saw us, some of whom stared and even glared at us, while others wondered or pondered what we were doing, yet several of our HFL sisters were quite conscious of the choir of holy angels hovering over us heralding the presence of our Lord Jesus who showed His pleasure in our HFL sisters' love for Him".

Southern California – In LA, God showed how His mighty hands empower those with humble and willing spirits. At the end of the 40Days for Life training sometime in the summer, Maghoy with Nini & Tony, area Pro-Life coordinators, were challenged when the local organizers requested for volunteers to take on another abortion clinic for the Fall campaign. That meant making after mass announcements in the several neighboring parishes surrounding the abortion clinic, conducting sign-ups before & during the 40-days, not to mention the huge responsibility of scheduling the vigils and being at the abortion clinic practically everyday and being there when there was no volunteer for a slot. The vigil covered from 7:00am to 7:00pm for 40 days. Our CFCFFL brethren numbering about 120 people were there every Saturday.

Maghoy: "This was God's design. I lost my job and so I was available. The Lord used me together with Tito Tony who would drive about 100 miles to be there with me practically every day. The most grace-filled time was when the pro-choicers who were standing right next to us would yell right into my ears to drown our prayers".

Chicago, IL – The local CFCFFL has for the 3rd straight year been one of the 5 organizers of the 40 Days for Life in Chicago, together with the Archdiocese of Chicago Respect Life Office, Pro-Life Action League, Knights of Columbus and the Women's Center. Continuous 24-hour round-the-clock vigil was maintained at the Planned Parenthood Clinic on Elston Avenue during these 40 days. CFCFFL was there 24 hours for 5 Saturdays – rain or shine, 30 degree or 60 degree weather. Members bravely stood tall hour after hour, praying, singing, sharing with other pro-lifers.

At the opening day vigil, the CFCFFL music ministry led in the singing of songs and recitation of a decade of the rosary. This year's vigil found CFCFFL members more challenged to "not to fear" and to be courageous, even as we again committed to man every Saturday of the campaign.

The policeman who was called on our very first shift 12:00 midnight - 7:00am that first Saturday, confirmed that partygoers who go out on Friday night and who may have had much to drink, may cause trouble to the few people who were peacefully and prayerfully manning the "unholy" hours of the vigil. So partici-





the same passion for defending life. CFCFFL–NJ signed up for three 12-hour Saturdays and had a good turnout of about 130 members.

Many more of our brethren from Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin, DC, New York, Las Vegas, Phoenix, our Youth, Singles and Handmaids, Servants, Couples have experienced God’s awesome workings throughout this 40 Days for Life Prayer Campaign. It definitely made us acutely aware of the need to stand up, speak out and witness to the truth of the evils of abortion and destruction that it brings to all peoples – not only those directly involved in it, but to all of mankind.

The Lord has blessed us in the CFCFFL community. For we’ve seen with our eyes conversions, babies saved, mothers helped, and even clinic workers finally breaking Satan’s stranglehold in their lives. We’ve heard about abortion clinics that have been in business many years and are now closed. On the other hand, we’ve also experienced first-hand the anger and ugly manifestations of the evil one in the actions of some people who objected to our prayer vigils at these abortion clinics.

No matter how daunting a foe the anti-life forces are, the Davids of today are ready to stand in the gap to uphold life (yes, starting with David Bereit, the founder of this movement). The 40 Days for Life campaign has reached so many people so fast – it has indeed Educated the ignorant on the Gospel of Life. Individual and group public Participation and advocacy is amazingly creating a ripple effect in an otherwise indifferent society. Little by little, we are making a difference. Every 40 Days for Life Campaign undertaken speaks of this miracle. Let us continue to be part of this now worldwide effort.



But remember that our greatest weapon in the face of this evil is prayer & fasting.

We honor everyone who participated in this campaign. A BIG THANK YOU from the many precious souls of babies whose lives you saved and the

mothers you prevented to be scarred for life (yes, you contributed to the Victory of 40 Days for Life).

But most of all, the Lord and Giver of Life is VERY PLEASED with the big sacrifices you made every time you went out there in front of abortion clinics to stand and pray regardless of unpredictable circumstances because accept in your hearts that this is your calling in CFCFFL.

Listen to a recording of the teleconference held by David Bereit soon after the end of the Fall 40 Days for Life campaign with several strong and inspiring testimonies of the campaign: <http://www.instantteleseminar.com/?>

Next Issue: Fiesta in Phoenix!

pants in the campaign were told to just continue praying even with taunting from intoxicated party-goers on their way home. This too was the first year when pro-abortion groups have organized protests right where 40 Days for Life people are holding their campaign. So, every Saturday, sometimes outnumbering those who are praying, they would harass, sneer, shout and make awful noises across the street. “It could be daunting sometimes, yet we finished our assigned time segment” said one member. Praise God! All the pro-lifers were focused on always being peaceful.

Ann of Pro-Life Action League said, “they (demonstrators) managed to create enough of an obstruction along the street that no one came in for an abortion. Little do they realize they are saving babies by their presence”. The Lord has a sense of humor even in these sad events. Our people were witness to this work of the Lord. To see their picture, check out the blog at 40 Days for Life: <http://40daysforlife.com/docs/fall2009day40print.pdf>

One of the most touching moment during the 40 Days was attending the midnight mass for life that ushered in Respect Life Sunday. It was cold, yet there were more than 100 people in attendance. A tent for the altar was set-up in a parking lot facing the abortuary. It started with a solemn procession, with pro-lifers holding lighted vigil candles and singing Marian hymns prior to the mass.

The celebrant delivered a homily which was a call to continue trusting the Lord of Life, even as many in attendance anticipated the passage of the 50-foot Bubble Zone city ordinance lobbied by Planned Parenthood. (NOTE: This dubious bill was later passed and signed into law by Catholic Chicago Mayor Daley, thus making sidewalk counseling in Chicago even more challenging).

Dallas, TX – CFCFFL- Dallas volunteered 12 hrs (7 am - 7 pm) on Oct. 27 in front of Robinson Abortion Center. Thirty brothers and sisters participated. Our Dallas brethren also plan to participate in the Winter 40 Days for Life which will start on the Feast of our Lady of Guadalupe on Dec. 12.

Houston, TX – Twenty-two CFCFFL pro-lifers experienced the power of praying in front of a Planned Parenthood abortion clinic for 9 days in last Fall’s 40 Days for Life in Houston.

New Jersey – Rey saw himself in the front page of the local Catholic paper carrying the procession Cross on the opening day of the 40 Days for Life. He was a regular at that abortion clinic, spending an hour almost everyday after work in prayerful vigil with several people sharing



FROM THE SERVANT GENERAL

THE GOOD NEWS OF THE SAVIOR

“And the Word became flesh
and made his dwelling among us”

(John 1:14a)

Oh what a great mystery, that God became man, born of woman. This was according to God’s plan and design. The unfolding of God’s plan involved not just God, but humans as well.

First, Mary said yes. What would have happened if Mary rejected the plan of God? But it was not just Mary. Joseph said yes as well. What would have happened if Joseph had exposed her supposed infidelity? Would Jesus the unborn have died in her womb if she was stoned, rather than dying on the cross?

Joseph and Mary were the first couple for Christ!

The mystery of God continues, in that He calls us to “give birth” to Jesus in the lives of others, through our work of evangelization and renewal. The good news of salvation in Jesus is to be proclaimed by human instruments. Just as God depended on Mary and Joseph, He also depends upon us. If we say our yes, then His plan for the world will continue to unfold.

What a great privilege that is! What a great responsibility that is!

Christmas is about the coming of the Savior. In the dark of night in the little town of Bethlehem, God’s great light shone.

The stillness of the night was shattered by the multitude of the heavenly host praising God.

The shepherds were privileged to witness the blessed event. The angel had said to them: “I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord.” (Lk 2:10b-11). When they saw the infant Jesus, “they made known the message that had been told them about this child. All who heard it were amazed by what had been told them by the shepherds.” (Lk 2:17-18).

Jesus is an amazing message. Just like the shepherds, privileged to be with the Savior, we must make Jesus known to others. Christmas, the coming of our Savior into the world, is a time of great joy. We have already experienced this joy in our lives and in our families. We must continue to spread this joy around.

“How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of him who brings glad
tidings,
announcing peace, bearing good news,
announcing salvation, and saying to
Zion,

‘Your God is King!’

Hark! Your watchmen raise a cry,
together they should for joy,
All the ends of the earth will behold
the salvation of our God.”

(Isaiah 52:7-8a,10b)

May we all have a blessed and holy
Christmas! May the world truly experi-
ence the peace and joy that can only
come from knowing Jesus and the
salvation that he brings.



Frank and Gerry Padilla, with their children, children-in-law and grandchildren.