

SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

- Youth of
Activities
- Experience of
Faith
- District
Apostle's
Letterbox

The
Kingdom
of GOD
in you.

Luke 14:21



NAC Youth Link

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Editorial

My dear friends and brethren in the youth,

Probably most of you had access to the transmission of the PENTECOST Divine Service in the Munich Olympic Stadium and still are under the deep impression this yearly event leaves behind.

This year's PENTECOST message from the Chief Apostle is taken from Paul's farewell to the Ephesian Elders:

"I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said: IT IS MORE BLESSED TO GIVE THAN TO RECEIVE. And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all"

Acts 20:35-36

and the Chief Apostle focused on the word IT IS MORE BLESSED TO GIVE THAN TO RECEIVE, which he combined with the motto for the year 2014 WITH LOVE AT WORK (labor in love, according to some different translation)

Let us carry this in our heart:

"WITH LOVE AT WORK - IT IS MORE BLESSED TO GIVE THAN TO RECEIVE"

Dear Youth, Our Heavenly Father gave us everything: **HIS SON**. Jesus Christ gave us the gospel, the church, the Apostle's ministry and then His innocent life. Remember: To whom much is given much is expected. (Luke 12:48)

What shall we give? Our whole heart. Our love to our neighbor, our gifts to the service of the congregation. Our life we give to Christ, we serve, and in whatever we do, plan, undertake we make an effort to give honor and glory to His name. In everything we seek first the kingdom of God and its righteousness. Let us be firstlings in giving.

I am endeavoring myself, together with you. To give first to the Lord. Our time, our heart, our offering, our sacrifice and above all OUR LOVE

Best wishes and Loving greetings

Urs Hebeisen

DISTRICT NEWS

Service for the Departed

First week of March, 2014 began with the divine service for the departed which clearly demonstrates God's universal will to save and incorporates both living and the dead. In order to partake in salvation, both living and the dead are required to believe. The object of this belief is that Jesus Christ is the only way to salvation. The bible text of the divine service for the departed was written on John 6:47: *"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life"*.

Pr. Lito expressed the meaning of the text word and the assurance when we believe in Christ. He also mentioned that Jesus was not only preaching on the living but also for the dead: 1 Peter 3:18-19 *"For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit, by whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison."*

Priest Leo also shared his message that we have assurance in believing Christ. He also explained the meaning of faith and he shared the best example: Abraham's life is likely the best illustration of what it means to have faith. Abraham believed in God and this is how his faith began. God called him and said "Get out of your country, to a land that I will show you" and he took his first step. The faith of Abraham to God has five steps: 1st Abraham heard the call, 2nd Abraham accepted the call, 3rd Abraham trusted God, 4th Abraham was obedient, and 5th Abraham was loyal and faithful.

In our time when we believe in Christ we should hear His words and accept what He teaches us. As Jesus said: *"I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst."* (John 6:35).

Choir Practice

After divine service, there was choir practice led by Pr. Samuel Silvano, our Choir Director. They prepared a song for the next divine service and they were happy during choir practice. Choir members participated and enjoyed praising our heavenly Father through songs. They performed a wonderful chorus and sang wholeheartedly in every divine service. They were spending time to continue practice to develop their God given talent. They are thankful because there is someone to guide them, teach them, and help to improve their knowledge by reading the notes, timing, long breathing and controlling the volume of their voice while singing. They were thankful to Pr. Samuel Silvano and most of all to our dear heavenly Father because He gave us the time to practice. They are all inspired in God's work and they are happy

to participate in every activity. We have “One faith and One Goal”. This is the reason why we are united in God’s work and receive blessings from Him.

Great emphasis is given in congregational singing as a testimony of worshipping God. Singing expresses our love for Him and testifies of that love and the Christian life. This is a wonderful concept and while it can present a few challenges to arrange, the end result is often well worth it. In Psalms 30:4 it says: *“Sing praise to the Lord, you saints of His; and give thanks at the remembrance of His holy name.”* and in Psalms 149:1: *“Sing to the Lord a new song, and His praise in the assembly of saints.”* Let not a slight degree of weakness or weariness hinder you. If singing is a cross to you, take it up and you will find it a blessing. Above all, sing spiritually. Have an eye to God in every word you sing. Aim at pleasing Him more than yourself or any other creature. Music can help us also to have a peaceful heart and mind.



Orchestra Practice

Our wonderful orchestra had their practice, and have expanded with new members. They continue to gain knowledge and learn new things for playing their instrument with their trainer and orchestra leader. They played a wonderful song that can touch your heart. There are so many changes and more improvements happening to them. Our heavenly Father bless them as they give their time to God's work. They enjoy playing their instruments and happy to learn new things from their trainer. They played in every divine service with amazing performance. Making music with their instrument is their inspiration.



Summer Outing

After our divine service last April 6, 2014 the “Livelihood Group” in Manila had their summer outing in Merville Country Club and some youths of Makati Congregation were there. They were invited by Sister Lucienne to join the two youth guests from Canada. The Livelihood Group enjoyed their summer outing with the guests, sharing thoughts and enjoyed talking about different topics, enjoyed eating snacks and dinner and most of all enjoyed swimming. They had a relaxing afternoon and had a memorable day.



Easter Sunday: Alexis was Baptized

Our District Elder Erlendo Depaz conducted divine service in Makati Congregation last April 20, 2014. He delivered a message to us from 1 Corinthians 6:14: *“And God both raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by His power.”* And he also baptized this young girl named Alexis who was with her parents when she received the Holy Baptism.

What is Holy Baptism? According to our Catechism of the New Apostolic Church:

“Holy Baptism with water is the first and fundamental act of grace of the triune God bestowed on a human being who believes in Jesus Christ. Through it, original sin is washed away and the believer

is led out of his position of remoteness from God. Nevertheless, his inclination to sin (concupiscence) remains.

Through Holy Baptism with water, the baptised shares in the merit Jesus Christ acquired for mankind through His sacrificial death. Thereby a human being is led into his first close relationship with God - he becomes a Christian. Thereby he is also incorporated into the church, that is into the fellowship of those who believe in Jesus Christ and profess Him as their Lord. Accordingly the Sixth Article of Faith states: "I believe that the Holy Baptism with water is the first step to a renewal of a human being in the Holy Spirit, and that the person baptised is adopted into the fellowship of those who believe in Jesus Christ and profess Him as their Lord."



Experience of Faith

This is my first time to share my experience of faith here. I hope that this message can provide a lesson and inspire you in God's work and in your faith.

When I was young my father always brought me to every congregation that he had schedule. He was always teaching me about God's work and how to be a good follower as a child of God. He taught me to understand about spiritual life and material life. He stimulated me with spiritual knowledge. He implanted into my young mind how to treat the brothers and sisters in faith like my own family.

At a young age of course it is natural for us to make mistakes and when I did something wrong, I would get inside our church and read the bible and pray to God to help me. After reading the bible and praying, I felt peace in my heart and ready to have a smile again.

At the age of sixteen I left my parents to find job far from home. I prayed to God to guide me and lead me everywhere I go. I asked God for a stable job so I can support my family and he answered my prayer. At the age of 17 I was a working student. I am so blessed and so happy that He is always there for me and my family. I am always thankful for all the blessings that He has given me and my family.

A time came when I fell in love with a man and he asked the blessings of my grandmother and aunt. I accepted him as my boyfriend and we were very happy until we got engaged. I was thankful that God brought this man into my life and I was thinking that this happiness will never end. But after three years the relationship did not work out and we broke-up. I felt so down and hopeless, I was suffering so deeply with the heartache and for almost a year I never went to church because I thought our heavenly Father abandoned me. I hid my broken heart from my family and friends. I was

sick from a broken heart and prayed to God to help end my pain.

I had this dream, I saw a minister preaching at the altar of grace. He is from the sky and goes down to the middle and I never understood what he said. Then I realized it had been almost a year I had never gone to church, but still I didn't change. I was still disappointed and suffering from the pain and never went to church. My body was so weak and cannot get up from bed.

Before I sleep I talked to Him again through prayer and said; "you never love me but I love you." Then something happened that I will never ever forget for the rest of my life. I saw our heavenly Father in my dreams, His body is like a sun beam, He is powerful. He looked at me and talked to me. He used a different language that I never heard before, but I understood what He said with this language and I answered Him same language. Then He laid His right hand on me to stand up. I woke up unexpectedly and my heart was beating so fast. Then I remember this white bread that has three dots which pointed me to the Holy Communion. In that way our heavenly Father woke me up to continue my faith. I started to care for myself again and live with faith. I'm trying to move on and so thankful that after a year I woke up with no more pain in my heart. He made me strong and strengthened my faith in Him.

I learned that every trial and difficulty does not mean it is the end of the world but it is a trial to overcome with faith and to make you strong. After two years from moving on I was happy because my elder brother came to live with me. But he decided to go back to the province. I respected his decision but it was too late for me to learn that he was very ill. I had my vacation from work and went home to the province and found out everything about his illness. I felt pity for him but he didn't want me to feel that way. What I did was to make him always smile and feel happy. Until the day that God called him, last September 2013. Even though he passed away I am still connected with him.

Almost one week before the Yolanda Typhoon came I had a dream, in my dream I am there at home in my province, I am sitting inside at home together with my family then I stand up and speak with the voice of my brother who pass away. It said "read the bible Matthew 8:16-25. I asked myself "why did I have a dream like this?" The typhoon came and I didn't know what problems my family were facing: with typhoon Yolanda, my father and brother fighting, my mother run away because she got nervous and didn't know what to do, my siblings crying and didn't know what to do or where to turn to for help. As the eldest daughter I am the responsible one to help solve this situation. What did I do when I heard this news? I cried to our dear heavenly Father, asking him "why he did this to my family". But instead of keeping distance from him, I came closer and closer to our heavenly Father. I never gave up. I told my siblings whatever happens just pray to God. He is always with us. Come to Him closer and everything will be fine.

Last November 02, 2013 I was with my friend and asked help to understand about this text word from the bible. It was my first time to pray in a crowded place. I understood what was written there. After praying we watched the sunset and felt the sunset come closer to me. My heart said: "Wow!" I felt peace in my mind and in my heart.

An amazing thing happened again in my life, last November 03, 2013, Sunday. I was attending divine service and while listening to the Priest preaching at the altar, I cannot stop my tears because the words pointed to me and my family also. After divine service one of our sister comforted me and she said read the next verse that your brother was given "Matthew 8:26. *"Why are you afraid, O you of little faith? Then He rose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm."* These words made all clear to me and I felt the presence of our dear heavenly Father and I am so thankful and so blessed because God answered the prayers for my beloved family.

Our heavenly Father always answered our prayers every time we asked Him help. Don't think that our heavenly Father abandoned us when we are in trials or in difficulties. Just think that He just gave this because He knows that we can overcome it.

And now even I live alone I am still happy and full of inspiration to our heavenly Father, to my family, special someone and dear brothers and sisters in faith and friends. I am praying and looking forward to a good future for me and my five younger siblings and to have a partner in life forever, which I know will come at the right time and live a simple life with faith to God.

Christ will make His home in your heart if you trust in Him. Your roots will grow in God's love and keep you strong. May you have the power to understand as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep His love is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully, then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.

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Question and Answer



1. There is a verse in Matthew 18:18-20, is it possible that if two people with same sex agreed to be married, and a man with two women (or vice versa) peacefully agreed to be together in one home, on earth will also be bound in heaven and be accepted?

Matthew 18:19-20 refers to fellowship and congregation, the gathering as Brothers and Sisters and believers and not to social structures. Same Sex marriages are not possible.

These are partnerships which in certain cultures are acceptable in others not and against the law. A man with two women or vice versa are not godly forms of living together. These are personal choices which cannot be condoned by the church since they violate godly laws. However we condemn nobody and soul care is offered to all no matter what their personal life's situations are. The quoted bible passages are from a conversation of Jesus with the Apostles and especially verse 18 refers to the apostolic mandate. Has certainly nothing to do with social lifestyle. Verse 19 and 20 the Chief Apostle called the pattern for a congregation. (see Brisbane service)

2. What is the advantage of being a religious person compared to a prayerful person but does not attend divine services in church?

Being prayerful is part of being religious. However Jesus gathered people, He referred his believers to His sheep and His lamb gathered in flock. While lonely prayer is certainly a great source of strength for a soul it cannot and does not replace the congregational life, the fellowship, the listening to the proclaimed word. Man is not made to be alone. As we have family to be strong in our natural life we have congregation to build up each other's soul salvation. Jesus defined serving and following Him by serving and loving and forgiving each other. That is what church is all about.