

CELEBRATIONS OF LIFE

Au Au Feb. 24



Aidz
March 9



Chit
March 15



Fr. Vic, CM
March 29



Babes
April 2

Of Birthdays, Growing Older, and Thanksgiving

Babes has this to say: “There was a time in our life, especially when we were younger, when we looked forward to our birthdays. But then came adulthood, the time when we would not want to even think about it. But celebrating birthdays are important in life, more so as one matures and realizes what the gray hairs are all about (and the importance of hair colors for some), when one begins to feel and accept the tolls that come with growing older. More importantly, it is about thanksgiving. The realization that God has granted us a longer life to spend with our loved ones, the chance to make peace with ourselves and with our neighbors, and to serve Him more here on earth. We have to realize and understand that we are still here for His purpose.

As for me, as I celebrated my birthday with my AMM family last month and it made me ponder on my passage here on earth. I feel very blessed to have reached this far in life, to be able to praise, thank and serve God. For I know so well, it is a gift denied to many.

In the AMM family, we celebrate each ones’ birthday with prayers and thanksgiving. We enjoy and have fun as we partake of the graces we have, food, flowers, laughter and the singing of our favorite birthday song!

Celebrating birthdays is celebrating the gift of life! It is something to be grateful for. Here’s to more happy birthdays to celebrate! Cheers!”

AMM ACTIVITIES



Monthly Prayer Meeting



Distribution of Miraculous Medals



Visitation of the sick



Lenten Visitation of Churches
“Visita Iglesia”



Celebration of the opening of 400th Jubilee Year of the Birth of Vincentian Charism



Nantita "Babes" Katima,
AMM newest member



THE GUIDING STAR

Quarterly Newsletter Volume 1 Number 1 January – April 2017



FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT



Mrs. Aurora
Cornelio
AMM President

Greetings and welcome to the first issue of the revived Guiding Star, a publication of the Association of the Miraculous Medal – Thailand that will now come out quarterly in a year. This humble instrument is meant to make known and spread the love and devotion to our Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of Jesus. Through the sharing of each one, especially members of the Vincentian Family (FAMVIN), we look forward to HEARTS touched, awakened, alive and vibrant in loving JESUS through MARY! Let your joy and love flow to others by submitting your Marian thoughts and experiences to Guiding Star editor: nance@rocketmail.com.

THE ASSOCIATION OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL (AMM) THAILAND – A FLASHBACK

In the early ‘70s, Filipinos married to Thais started a fellowship and ongoing formation through recollection with Sr. Estelita Borjal, DC. They gathered together twice a month at the DC house in Bangkok for recollection, spiritual formation, and bonding. In July 2002, Sr. Francisca was sent to Rome to represent the DC in the first Association of the Miraculous Medal (AMM) Encounter. From then on, with the help of Marian Devotee, Venus Palanantana, the group was re-activated and organized the Association of the Miraculous Medal. On August 2, 2003, the Archdiocese of Bangkok, Thailand, officially recognized the Association of the Miraculous Medal in the Church of Thailand with the Holy Redeemer Church as its base. The AMM is the youngest member of the Vincentian Family (FAMVIN-Thailand) with a motto “TO JESUS THROUGH MARY”!

Through the years, the AMM has engaged in varied apostolic activities. These include the ongoing distribution of the Miraculous Medals to parishes in and out of Bangkok; the Mass Cards sales used to partly support the Vincentian Seminarians; the Educational Assistance to poor children under the care of the DC; the Visitation of the sick in hospitals and at home; and the participation in the activities of FAMVIN and the Philippine Embassy. All the planning of the AMM apostolic activities are discussed and done during the scheduled monthly prayer meeting with Eucharistic Celebration at the DC house in Bangkok. On May 2016, AMM Thailand attended the installation of the 44 Laotian Catholic villagers when they became registered members of the first Association of the Miraculous Medal – Laos.

Currently, the new AMM Thailand officers were elected to office as follows - President: Mrs. Aurora B. Cornelio, Vice Pres: Mrs. Aurora N. Vongviwatana, Secretary: Mrs. Alissa Ruiz, Treasurer: Mrs. Aida L. Kosoladulkitt, PRO: Mrs. Nancy B. Swangreungsri, Spiritual Director: REV. Fr. Victor Pacheco, CM, Moderator: Sr. Violeta Cecilio, DC.



AMM Officers and Members



AMM in Laos



AMM Laos

FUNNY CHRISTIAN ONE LINERS TO MAKE US 😊

Moses was leading his people through the desert for 40 years. It seems, even in Biblical times men avoided asking the way.

THE STORY OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL



The Medal of the Immaculate Conception — popularly known as the Miraculous Medal — was designed by the Blessed Virgin herself! No wonder, then that it wins such extraordinary graces for those who wear it and pray for Mary's intercession and help.

The First Apparition

The story begins on the night of July 18-19, 1830. A child (perhaps her guardian angel) awakened Sister (now Saint) Catherine Labouré, a novice in the community of the Daughters of Charity in Paris, and summoned her to the chapel. There she met with the Virgin Mary and spoke with her for several hours. During the conversation Mary said to her, "My child, I am going to give you a mission."

The Second Apparition

Mary gave her this mission in a vision during evening meditation on November 27, 1830. She saw Mary standing on what seemed to be half a globe and holding a golden globe in her hands as if offering it to heaven. On the globe was the word "France," and our Lady explained that the globe represented the whole world, but especially France. The times were difficult in France then, especially for the poor who were unemployed and often refugees from the many wars of the time. France was first to experience many of those troubles which ultimately reached many other parts of the world and are even present today. Streaming from rings on Mary's fingers as she held the globe were many rays of light. Mary explained that the rays symbolize the graces she obtains for those who ask for them. However, some of the gems on the rings were dark, and Mary explained that the rays and graces were available but did not come because no one had asked for them.

The Third Apparition and the Miraculous Medal

The vision then changed to show our Lady standing on a globe with her arms now outstretched and with the dazzling rays of light still streaming from her fingers. Framing the figure was an inscription: O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee.

--- On the next issue:

The Meaning of the Front Side of the Miraculous Medal

The Meaning of the Back Side of the Miraculous Medal



"I feel so happy to be able to help the children who beg me for protection. But so many do not ever come to me!"

Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal to Saint Catherine Labouré

AWAKENING TESTIMONIES/RAYS FROM THE HANDS OF MARY

My faith in the Lord knows no bounds! I have been blessed so abundantly! To Jesus through Mary! This is my testimony of God's great love for me!

On December 18, 2016, I had my first encounter with a miracle. I suddenly had a hypoglycemia attack and my blood sugar went as low as 50 and I passed out! I was unconscious but I felt Mother Mary was with me. I have a big image of the blessed Mother in my bedroom. My daughter found me and immediately called for an ambulance. My daughter, also a devout Catholic, said that she heard Mother Mary say to her that it was not my time yet. I still have to do a lot better things here on earth. I recovered from that attack knowing there was divine intervention.

I have been a diabetic for about 30 years now. It has damaged my kidneys and the doctors have advised me to go on dialysis. They also asked if they can talk to my children. I refused to have the dialysis for I know it will still lead to my death sooner or later. I went home, did a general cleaning of my room, gathered everything I think were no longer of much importance to me like clothes, bags, and other personal stuff and donated all of them. I then prepared important documents and informed my children what they should do in case something happened to me. I told them how to contact the church, asked a friend to write my obituary in English, went to see a priest to anoint me and ask some religious sisters to pray a novena for me. I was getting ready for the worst case scenario. It was a very dark and depressing time of my life. I even lost 10 kilos during this ordeal from stress and worry. I resorted to prayers and I prayed a lot and cried a lot; and yet my health problems were far from over.

Last December 25, after attending the midnight mass, I went on to change my clothes when I suddenly touched and felt a big lump in my left breast. I could not believe this was happening. Cancer came quickly to mind. I had a mammogram and ultrasound and they found a 3 cm tumor. I was advised to have it removed. The operation was scheduled for another time. Still, I never ceased praying to Mother Mary to come to my aid!

On February 24, I went for another checkup for my kidneys and the doctors were surprised at the improvement of my condition that they told me that a dialysis was no longer needed. They asked me what I did and I told them that I was careful with my food intake and that I prayed to God to heal me. The doctor's prognosis made me and my children very happy. Another divine intervention and God has given me another lease on life. Mother Mary heard and answered my prayers.

Last March 17, I had my tumor removed. After waiting for weeks, the tumor was found benign. I am cancer free, another divine intervention. All these blessings I received have brought me closer to God and Jesus through Mother Mary. It has strengthened my faith in the Lord by constantly praying and asking them for their love and mercy. They listen to you, and hear you, and give you the miracle you pray and ask for. God is good and to God be the glory now and forever. Amen!



I am *Cora Kamala Bamrungcheep*, a member of the Association of the Miraculous Medal (AMM) Thailand who believes in God's abundant love and blessings as I personally encountered and received them.