



SANCTUARY

www.magnificatcharismaticcommunity.org

November 2006

*Lord, prepare me to be a Sanctuary. Pure and holy, tried and true.
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living Sanctuary for You.*



Solemnity of Christ the King

(Nov. 26)

"And they crucified Him, and divided His garments among them, casting lots for them, to decide what each should take. And it was the third hour, when they crucified Him. And the inscription of the charge against him read, *"The King of the Jews."* (Mark 15:24-26 RSV)

In 1925, the forces of the Nazi regime and of communism dominated the minds of many in the Christian world. The Church decided to take a stand in response to these prominent atheistic ideologies by emphasizing the sovereignty of Jesus Christ and his final triumph over injustice within the liturgical calendar. Since that time, the Church has closed each liturgical year with this great feast dedicated to our Lord, *Christ the King*, who is sovereign over all.

Jesus Christ, son of a carpenter and steadfast Jew, was not the King the tribes of Israel had been expecting. Their messiah was to be a conqueror, a ruler of the sword that would strike down their Roman oppressors. But instead came Jesus, a man who associated with prostitutes and tax collectors and who bent and broke the socio-religious boundaries of his time. Crowned with thorns instead of gold. Not sitting upon a throne, but nailed to the cross.

He was indeed the greatest king of all, for he served his people unto death. He did not wage war with nations, but rather upon Death itself. Jesus Christ did not speak the language of mortal wealth, fame or happiness, but instead spoke the words of Life into a dying world. Jesus offered salvation to us with open, bleeding hands. How great a sacrifice, and how great a king! How can we not celebrate?

On this solemn feast day we worship the King above all Kings, and remember our place as his servants and disciples. We pray the prayer that Jesus gave us, that "thy Kingdom come" on earth, that we forgive those who have trespassed against us. We were asked to love as He loved; an impossible task, but one we must strive for. As servants of our King, we too must serve one another and sacrifice ourselves.

Prepared by Madeleine Ebacher, SJU Campus Ministry.



Dear Brothers and Sisters of the Magnificat Community,

On Sunday October 29th, as we celebrated a Mass of thanksgiving, the members of the Council were filled with joy and gratefulness. After a week of prayer and a Vigil on Saturday night, they experienced the presence of the Holy Spirit more powerfully, as He gave them a feeling of unity among each other and the joy of harmoniously having agreed on the election of the new presiding elders, Annie and Joe Lapid. They felt a new hope and a new enthusiasm to keep building up the Community. I was happy to share the moment as I had been praying all week for a good outcome. Father Rustia and Nanette and Johnny shared on the phone. My best wishes and prayers for Joe and Annie, the Council and the Community.

I know that I was going to talk about several aspects of the spiritual life and I will continue to do that. At the moment, I wonder if it would be a good thing to share, as Spiritual Director, a thought on community functioning. This is in support of everybody.

It is interesting that St. Paul in the communities he founded, before he left to the next missionary work, left "elders" as leaders a translation of "presbyters" which is our word "priests". Then there was the "episcopos" which means "overseer" and became our word "bishop".

Annie and Joe are not bishops of course but they have some of that *overseeing function*. *As with every community, Magnificat cannot function and accomplish its goals without the proper functioning of the leadership.* But each member has to understand how this works and how he or she can co-operate to make their own contribution for the growth and the effectiveness of the community. Annie and Joe are not in charge, neither do they push their own agenda or the preferred issue of one member or the other. Nor are they going to tell anybody what to do or not to do. All decisions about ministries and policies, etc. are made by the Council and their votes. The presiding elders are responsible for making up the agenda of the concerns of the community or even of one member that need to be discussed and possibly to be voted on that asks from them an attitude of a loving shepherds care. Generally needing to know what is going on; how the different ministries are doing, if help is needed or if things have to be challenged. They are communicators (not the only ones). They listen to people, they make up the agenda for the council (of course, they can ask for help) and bring it to the Council. The Council discusses, prioritized, decides etc. By consequence, no individual person should expect to go ahead and push privately their own ideas and ambitions. This would bring tensions, anger and upset and finally divisions - just what the evil one is after!

Hopefully, members have lots of ideas and feel free to talk about them. Hopefully, every member is listened to with respect. Issues can be brought to the elders to be put on the agenda of the Council meeting. It is from there that decisions are made.

Annie and Joe, I understand, were there at the beginning of the Magnificat and they have many years of loving involvement and they have seen it grow. They care for the community; they are kind and ready to listen. Therefore, they are capable of doing the job to which you and the Holy Spirit have called them. They like nothing better than saying, "yes" to everybody. Pray that they may know and have the strength to say "no" if that is needed. *Pray that we all have a humble heart so that Jesus may truly reign in our community.*

In the love of Jesus,
Fr. Matthew Robbertz – Spiritual Director



My dear Magnificat Family,

On 29 October 2006, during the Holy Eucharist that capped a two day retreat of the Elders, after a vigil of prayers asking for the guidance of the Holy Spirit, Rev. Fr. Matthew Robbertz announced the selection of the Presiding Elders of the Magnificat Family, *Bro Joe and Sis. Annie Lapid.*

It was a tense evening which I shared with those in the know about the selection process. I received by long distance a running commentary of the retreat. I waited in prayer for the result.

This selection of Presiding Elders for our Family is more than a mere change of leadership. It is the affirmation that Magnificat is truly in God's hands. It is an assurance that despite the problems, our family continues to receive the anointing to pursue our calling. More than anything else, it affirms the efficacy of our constant prayer: "*Jesus King of Mercy, We trust in You!*"

Once again we join our Mother in her song: "*My soul proclaims the goodness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.*"

The Lord truly guides the Magnificat which He called to existence. His promise for us: *I am with you always.* What we aim to achieve is not our plans but the Lord's. How consoling it is for us to be assured of this once again.

With the choice of the Joe and Annie by the Council of Elders, Magnificat is assured of constancy and consistency in pursuing our vision. We shall be a family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. And our home shall be the home of Jesus, King of Mercy.

Where there is love, there is God. This the urgent call to which the Catholic Church attunes her ears in this Pontificate of Benedict XVI. The Magnificat Family receives a gentle push of the Spirit, a gust of the winds of grace.

We close another year full of trials and challenges. We are ready not to turn around the bend and move on.

*Jesus King of Mercy, We trust in Thee.
Mary, our Queen Mother conceived without sin, pray for us.*

With prayers for blessings,

Fr. Teo Rustia
Spiritual Advisor & Founder of the Magnificat
Charismatic Prayer Community

P.S.

I hope to be with you on 28 November 2006. We shall celebrate together the *Feast of Christ the King* (Nov. 29). The first Sunday of Advent with a *Singles Retreat* (Dec. 2 – 3) and an advanced *Christmas Party* on December 8th. By His grace our hearts will overflow with joy.

Psalm 138:8 "The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me; thy steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever. Do not forsake the work of thy hands."

It was indeed an awesome experience when the Council of Advisers (COA) and Council of Elders (COE) attended a retreat on October 28 and 29, 2006 in the Chapel of Regina Mundi. The COE requested Bro. Marc and Sis. Luisa Cusi to lead the retreat and to be the moderators for the discernment and selection of the next Presiding Elders of the Magnificat Charismatic Prayer Community. Thank you Bro. Marc and Sis. Luisa for sharing your time and for leading this awe-inspiring retreat. God was truly in our midst. We praise Him for being with us.

On Saturday night, during the adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, there was a tremendous outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Everybody was thanking and praising God for His Goodness. The praising was non-stop. It was an amazing moment. God was with us and He showed how much He loves us. We were touched and we were crying. My (Sis. Annie) whole body was so warm and my tongue was continuously rolling praising God. He was revealing something.

Sunday morning was the discernment and the selection of the new Presiding Elders. We were praying that our Good Lord will guide and give His wisdom to all the COAs and COEs. It was time to vote. Bro. Marc and Sis. Luisa led an intense prayer for the guidance of the Holy Spirit. The COAs and COEs were asked to light their candles, to kneel down while praying and to place their candles in front of the altar. Then each couple went up to the altar to cast their vote.

Bro. Marc and Sis. Luisa counted and checked all the ballots. While they were counting, they were crying. We were wondering why? Then they knelt down in front of the Blessed Sacrament to pray. After a moment of silence, they approached and hugged us to announce that we are the new presiding elders of the community. We were stunned. We could not speak that very moment and then we cried. We could not say no, we do not want the big responsibilities of the Presiding Elders. But the Holy Spirit is leading us to accept the position with open hearts. It is God's will. *Psalm 32:8 The Lord says, "I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you."* Yes, it is very, very clear that God is calling us again and asking us to do His will. In the past, there were instances that we turned Him down. Now, no more excuses. *Luke 6: 46-47 "Why do you call me "Lord, Lord", and do not do what I tell you? I will show you what someone is like who comes to me, hears my words, and acts on them."* YES, God we are now ready to serve you - reveal to us what you want us to do. We truly believe that God is calling us again for He has a mission for us. He has good plans for us. Our Good Lord wants to help us follow the path that will be most pleasing to him, not the path that may be most pleasing to us.

Thank you God for using the Council of Elders as instrument and for giving them the wisdom to select the new Presiding Elders. Thank you Fr. Matt Robbertz for your prayers and for celebrating the Holy Eucharist on Sunday after the selection process. Thank you Fr. Teo Rustia for offering your prayers during the discernment and selection process. Thank you Council of Elders for your vote of confidence and for selecting us to be the new Presiding Elders.

As we lead Magnificat to the new beginning, we pray for unity of the community members. *Ephesians 4: 4-6 "There is one body and one Spirit, just as there is one hope to which God has called you. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism; there is one God and Father of all mankind, who is Lord of all, works through all and is in all."* Brothers and Sisters in Christ, let us be united in body and spirit as God is the creator of true unity. We urge you to be of one mind, united in thought and purpose. Let us pray for the Holy Spirit to guide and control our lives. Father God show to us the unity of Christ and fill our hearts with love for you.

Please pray for us, too that God will guide and will grant us wisdom to serve Him and the community.

May God bless you all
Bro. Joe & Sis Annie

COUNCIL OF ELDERS WEEKEND RETREAT THE SELECTION PROCESS OF PRESIDING ELDERS



Chapel – Magnificat House, Regina Mundi

A holy, anointed place, our hiding place, tower and refuge of strength – a place where Jesus, in the blessed sacrament, together with our loving Mother and all the angels and saints, beckons those who seek peace, those who are weary and overburdened to come to His loving embrace.

Such is the sight of the two-day COA/Council of Elders' retreat who stayed in deep prayer in communion with our Lord to pour out their heart's desires and longings for spiritual guidance, for enlightenment, for divine wisdom as they embark another milestone in the life of our community – the selection process of the Presiding Elders.

"Thy Will Be Done Lord!" As the new day dawns, a thanksgiving mass by Fr. Matthew Robbertz and anointing of the community's new Presiding Elders – *Bro. Joe & Sis. Annie Lapid!*

GOD BE PRAISED – HE IS SO GOOD TO US!

As requested by the Council of Elders, Sis Luisa and I led the vigil and acted as moderators during the selection process of our new Presiding Elders. Our intention was, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to act as an impartial third party to facilitate communication between those who were present. We wanted to continuously lift our councils' intention to our Lord and continuously lead them in prayer in order for them to know and receive the wisdom of our Lord. We were there to help our brothers and sisters with the goal of reaching a mutually satisfying outcome.

In order to prepare ourselves for the task, we began our Spiritual discernment with prayer. As we all know, discernment is more than just a skill. It is a gift from our Lord before anything else. As we all experienced, discernment is more than just a process. Even for 'material' or 'nitty-gritty' matters, such as the election of a new presiding elders, there is a Spirit at work nudging us, leading us, even pulling us by the nose ring. Even for the most 'spiritual' matters, there are disciplines, methods, processes, means, and tools that the Spirit can work through to help us discern rightly. Discernment isn't usually a sudden zap from beyond, but something that emerges from hard work and prayer.

(It is for us to pray not for tasks equal to our power, but for powers equal to our tasks) Helen Keller

As always when we gather and most especially during our discernment, the Holy Spirit was definitely upon us. Jesus Christ was with us, speaking to our minds through our hearts. He was guiding us with His wisdom. As Sis. Luisa and I continued to lead our COA and COE in prayer, the Holy Spirit spoke in our hearts saying: "Knock, listen and obey - I hear the cry of my people, they are my **Beloved**. I saw the longing in their heart. Flame of my love will burn in their heart. You did not choose me, I chose you. If you submit to my authority I will show you the way. My ways is not your ways." His message was so meaningful because it is what indeed transpired during the discernment retreat of COA and COE on the weekend of Oct. 28 and 29. He was with us, guiding us in the process.

Thinking about our accomplishments this past weekend, our hearts still burns and we are still in awe. It's already been four days after our meeting and we are still in awe from having witnessed the healing power of our Lord to lead every one. We have witnessed the longing of our elders to be united in their service. We have witnessed the elders' desire to serve our community. Having witnessed all this, We realize that we all have one thing in common, which is to serve our Lord to glorify His name through the **Magnificat Community**.

We would like to invite the entire Magnificat family to support our new Presiding Elders, *Bro. Joe and Sis. Annie Lapid*, our COA, and COE, as they lead us to a new beginning and a new era for the Magnificat family. Let us keep the flame in our hearts burning.

Pray for us as we pray for you in Jesus' name. Amen.

All praise and glory to His name for choosing us to be His instruments to lead His people in prayer as they prepared themselves to discern who they would choose to be the new Presiding Elders.

Bro. Marc and Sis. Luisa

For continuous healing of our members, those who are suffering and in pain, most especially;

Linda Belen
 Sally Getigan
 Patti Candido
 Boy Ruperto
 Ron & Mildred Mariano
 Lenny Visaya
 Lilia Quiroz
 Lolita Belo
 Sarah Reyes
 Eddie Yarra
 Lydia Ballesteros
 Myrna Libatique

All the names listed in our "*Book of Healing*"
 offered at the Chapel, Regina Mundi

We pray to the Lord.....Lord, hear our prayer!

For those who have died in the hope of eternal life, most especially;

Patrick Jay Santos
 Mommy Donna Eusebio
 Rosa Tanega
 Frank Belen
 Tony Getigan
 Ayah Dadani
 Corazon & Federico Balagot, Sr.
 Joseph & Tamiko-Sako Balagot
 Arsenio Albornor, Sr.

Family members, relatives and friends
 All the suffering souls in Purgatory
 All the names listed in our "*Book of Remembrance*"
 offered at the Chapel, Regina Mundi

"Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.....AMEN!

Other Feast Days Celebrated for the months of October & November

November

- Nov. 16 – St. Margaret of Scotland & St. Gertrude
- Nov. 17 – St. Elizabeth of Hungary
- Nov. 18 – The Dedication of the Basilicas of St. Peter and St. Paul
- Nov. 19 – 33rd Sunday In Ordinary Time
- Nov. 21 – The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Nov. 22 – St. Cecilia
- Nov. 23 – Sts. Clement I & Columban
- Nov. 24 – St. Andrew Dung-Lac and his companions

Nov. 26 – OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST THE KING

- Nov. 30 – St. Andrew

December

- Dec. 1 – First Friday – Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus
- Dec. 2 – First Saturday – Devotion to Our Lady
- Dec. 3 – 1st Sunday of Advent
- Dec. 4 – St. John Damascus
- Dec. 6 – St. Nicholas

December

- Dec. 7 – St. Ambrose
- Dec. 8 – THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
- Dec. 9 – St. Juan Diego
- Dec. 10 – 2nd Sunday of Advent
- Dec. 11 – St. Damasus I
- Dec. 12 – Our Lady of Guadalupe
- Dec. 13. – St. Lucy
- Dec. 14 – St. John of the Cross
- Dec. 17 – 3rd Sunday of Advent
- Dec. 21 – St. Peter Canisius
- Dec. 23 – St. John of Kanty
- Dec. 24 – 4th Sunday of Advent
- Dec. 25 – THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (Christmas)

- Dec. 26 – St. Stephen
- Dec. 27 – St. John
- Dec. 28 – The Holy Innocents
- Dec. 29 – St. Thomas Becket
- Dec. 31 – THE HOLY FAMILY OF THE JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

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Directions:

404 North exit Greenlane (turn right), left on Woodbine Ave. first traffic light – right on Mount Albert Rd. Then left on Warden Ave.



SANCTUARY

MAGNIFICAT CHARISMATIC PRAYER COMMUNITY
(A Covenanted Catholic Community)

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SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

Nov. 18 (Sat) 2:30 p.m. – Holy Rosary, Devotion to the
3:00 p.m. Divine Mercy & Prayer Meeting
4:00 p.m. Anticipated HOLY MASS
6:00 – 9:00 p.m. DK Vigil

CHRIST THE KING RALLY

Sponsored by: CCRC
Saturday, November 25th
8:30 a.m – 6:00 p.m.

Location: Canadian Christian College
50 Gervais Drive
Don Mills and Wynford Drive

Nov. 25 (Sat) 2:30 p.m. – Holy Rosary, Devotion to the
3:00 p.m. Divine Mercy & Prayer Meeting
4:00 p.m. Anticipated HOLY MASS

November 28 – ARRIVAL OF FR. TEO RUSTIA

**November 29 (Wed.) – Celebration of the Feast of
Christ the King – Holy Eucharist with healing
Services by Fr. Teo Rustia
Vanier Hall, Regina Mundi
7:30 p.m. – Holy Rosary, Holy Mass**

Dec. 2 (Sat.) - 11:00 a.m. Council of Elders meeting
2:00 P.M. – Holy Rosary,
Divine Mercy Devotion, prayer meeting
4:00 p.m. Anticipated HOLY MASS

**Dec. 2 & 3 – Daughters of the King Retreat
Vanier Hall, Regina Mundi**

**Dec. 6 – (Wed.) 7:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist with healing
Service by Fr. Teo Rustia
Vanier Hall, Regina mundi**

**Dec. 8 – (Fri) 7:00 p.m. CHRISTMAS DINNER/DANCE
Vanier Hall, Regina Mundi**

Dec. 9 (Sat.) - 2:00 P.M. – Holy Rosary,
Divine Mercy Devotion, prayer meeting
4:00 p.m. Anticipated HOLY MASS

**Dec. 10 (Sun) – One-Day Advent Recollection
by Fr. Teo Rustia
Installation of our Presiding Elders,
Bro. Joe & Sis. Annie Lapid**

Dec. 12 – DEPARTURE OF FR. TEO TO THE PHIL.