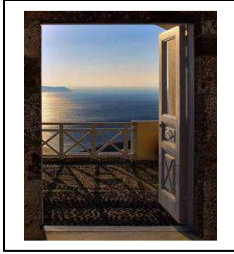


Authors: Paz & Eli Jardeleza, Jr.
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One Door Closes...Another Opens

Revelations 3:8

”When God leads you to the edge of the cliff, trust Him fully and let go, only 1 of 2 things will happen, either He'll catch you when you fall, or He'll teach you how to fly! ‘The power of one sentence! God is going to shift things around for you today and let things work in your favor. God closes doors no man can open & God opens doors no man can close”.

The above revelation would best apply to the experience of the Filipino Community of Saint Boniface Church. The Association was organized by **Fr. Louie Vitale** on June 1995. When **Fr. Sergio Santos, OFM**, left in 2004, followed by Fr. Louie Vitale in 2005, our association was like a lost flock without a shepherd. Without Fr. Louie, we lost a mentor who gave encouragement and support. Without Father Santos around, our once robust yearly activities were scaled down to only about three events (Sto.Nino, Easter Sunday & San Lorenzo). Our monthly bilingual mass was also in danger of being cut-off. The problem of not having a priest who can say mass in Tagalog was resolved temporarily when **Fr. Virgilio Bartolome, SVD**, volunteered to celebrate the bilingual mass. Moving the bilingual mass to the second Sunday morning mass was another story. Other challenges came up when the president of the association moved with family to Vallejo, and the vice president and secretary were already living far from the parameters of St. Boniface Church. Membership was dwindling; our veteran members either went back to the Philippines for good, or had departed to meet their Maker. Morale in the community was in its lowest ebb, there was even a cry to dissolve the association and move to another Church. But through the exerted efforts of pioneers and dedicated members, everyone came together in full force to revive the group. Immediate past President, **Arnel Carandang**, devoted pianist and music director, **Wadleigh Riformo**, Board & choir member, **Dr. Vangie Riformo** and the authors of this article, came all the way from Vallejo, Daly City and outer Mission, respectively, just to attend the special meeting. A new set of officers were elected: President: **Rowena Lawson**, Vice Pres.- **Frederick Nangca**, Secretary: **Eli Jardeleza, Jr**; Treasurer- **Cip Warbington**, Asst. Secretary- **Rose Nangca** and Business Manager **Eva Pirring**. These officers are very busy in their respective careers, but they always find time to serve the community. The rest of the elected officers are retirees but equally dedicated; **Aurora de Leon**, **Mary Luteman**, **Zeny Bunagan**, **Celia & Doy Galicia**, **Lulu Hitones** and **Tess Galindez**. My role, a retired city employee, is working behind the scene. Rowena told me my brain would remain active by coordinating the association's activities, so she assigns me a lot of tasks, to the lion's den. I'm also the secretary to the secretary.

Another door opens, with the blessings of the **Archdiocese of San Francisco**, we were allowed to invite members of the Filipino Clergy to preside over the bi-lingual mass. **Monsignors Floro Arcamo**, **Fred Bitanga** and a number of young and energetic Filipino clergy were ready to provide support. Another door opened when the **Franciscan Order of Sta. Barbara** sent **Fr. Vincent Hughes, OFM**. Fr. Vince has a big heart for our religious traditions, that he had us prepared a special Flores de Mayo celebration.

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And who would imagine of all places, the Tenderloin would have a very special 150th celebration at Saint Boniface Church on April 18, 2010, with a Solemn Eucharistic Mass to be presided by His Eminence **Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales, Archbishop of Manila**



Also, the first statue of Saint Boniface had arrived safely from Manila to its permanent place. So it could be told, many did not believe that Rowena could invite the Cardinal. She would always say believe in prayers, prayers and a lot of prayers. The ordering of the statue was not an easy task especially the shipping of a heavy life-size statue to San Francisco. It brought a lot of anxiety and stress particularly on Rowena.

Picture above is Rowena (front) together with the Choir members of the last Saturday 4:00 PM mass.

Definitely, God works in our favor. He led us to the right contact persons: **Fr. Jade Licuanan** of the **Our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament**; **Maria Finley**, operations manager of **Lorries Shuttle** and PAL pilot, **Capt. Pedro Pangilinan**. Maraming salamat po sa inyo. Unbelievable, but true! The journey of Saint Boniface to his permanent home came real quick like magic. **A big applause to Rowena Lawson!** I told her inviting the Pope next time, definitely is not possible.

I would like to share with everybody, the beautiful email message of Fr. Jade Licuanan: quote: **“St. Boniface on his way to his permanent home”**

CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU ALL!

I'm thrilled to see the image of St. Boniface on its way to your church. Kid and his companions did not mind fabricating a second box to contain the image after the original box which they made in Paete was rejected by the Pal cargo officials. We had to go back to my parish to make another one using "treated" plyboards. We were able to return to Pal cargo at mid afternoon and everything went well. The staff and personnel there were delighted to see St Boniface as their cargo. Capt. Pangilinan was a big help and was generous . He's flying tonight (March 24). **CONGRATULATIONS AGAIN MY KABABAYAN!**

This project will be a lasting testimony of your deep devotion and love for God and his Church. I am grateful to have known you. It is my privilege to assist you in your project. Thank you! “unquote.

Welcome to all clergy, guests and kababayan! Thank you very much, **Cardinal Rosales**. Words could not describe the happiness and great blessings we feel for your coming to Saint Boniface Church. To our Interim Pastor, **Fr. Kirk Ullery**, thank you very much for your full support. Our gratitude goes to **Fr. Reggie Malicdem** and **Fr. Jun Pilande**, our contact persons with the Cardinal. To all officers, members and especially to all **BENEFACTORS**, thank you very much! Without your help and support, we could not do much. You're all in our prayers. God is love !

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March 26, 2010. The statue of Saint Boniface

finally arrived safely and now resting in the Rectory of Saint Boniface Church. Rowena left early to claim the Statue from the SF Airport Custom's Office. With the help of Ms. Maria Finley, Operations Manager of Lorries Airport Shuttle, everything went well. Praise the Lord!

Unveiling will be on April 18, 2010 at 5:00 PM during the Eucharistic Mass Celebraton to be presided by His Eminence Cardinal Rosales, D.D., Archbishop of Manila.



Examining the box; L to R: Rose Nangca, Rowena & Fr. Kirk Ullery.



Rene Mosley, Administrative Staff, was very excited as we were. With a hammer, she started opening the top cover of the crate.



The image of Saint Boniface now in his permanent home at Saint Boniface Church.



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