

Faith-Based Partnership



**Presented by George J. Cruz
Past Chairman, Commonwealth Diabetes Coalition
15th ANNIVERSARY APPEAL CONFERENCE
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**Prepared by
Fr. Ryan Jimenez, Diocese of Chalan Kanoa, Saipan
Tayna Belyeu-Camacho, Non-Communicable Disease Coordinator, Saipan**

What is Faith-Based Partnership?

- A relationship based on **mutual cooperation, responsibility, and respect** in working together to attain a **unified goal: Healthy CNMI Community**

Why is this partnership important?

- We cannot do it alone
- Expanding our reach
- Maximizing the “Power of Influence”
- Getting “Community INVOLVEMENT” to create an environment of change

Who are our partners?

- Diocese of Chalan Kanoa (Roman Catholic Church)
- Grace Christian Ministries
- Evangelical Church (Palauan Church)



How did we contribute?

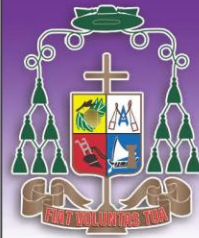
- Policy change within the church setting
- Integration of health information during sermon
- Providing access for preventive health screening within the villages
- Informs and encourages parishioners to attend scheduled health activities

Typical Fiesta in
the islands...



However, I do believe there is a need to re-evaluate some aspects of this gathering together for the dead, especially the feeding of people after the Rosary.

Most. Rev. Bishop Thomas A. Camacho addresses the health issue of food servings during rosaries held at the church social halls.



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P.O. Box 500745, Saipan, MP 96950 • Tel. (670) 234-3000 • Fax. (670) 235-3002 • URL: www.cnmccatholic.org • e-mail: north.star@saipan.com

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Bishop urges faithful to focus on prayer during Lisayo

Pastoral Letter in Observing Lisayon Matai (Rosaries for the Dead)

Sunday, March 11, 2007

My dear people of God
In the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa:

We are now on the Third Sunday of Lent. The season of Lent, as we all know, is a very special time for prayer. On this Lenten journey, I take the opportunity to reflect with you on our age-old custom of praying for the dead.

Our love and respect for the dead is deeply rooted in our culture. Whenever there is death in the family or of a friend, we make efforts to be with that family members and to join them in prayer. We come together as a family and community, we pray the *lisayon matai* (Rosary for the dead) and afterwards we eat together of the food provided by the family of the deceased in heartfelt appreciation of our presence to be with them in their time of sorrow. These practices are all very beautiful and praiseworthy.

However, I do believe there is a need to re-evaluate some aspects of this gathering together for the dead, especially the feeding of people after the Rosary.

1. Praying for the dead is an integral part of our Christian life. Praying for those who have gone before us is considered one of the spiritual works of mercy. We continue to express our love for the faithful departed through our prayers for their eternal rest. Through Mass offerings, rosaries and other devotions, we remember our dead. We stay in communion with them at the Eucharistic celebration, for example, and continue to ask the intercession of our Blessed Mother by praying the Holy Rosary. By



doing so, we partake of our Catholic belief in the communion of saints, whereby we on earth pray for the poor souls in purgatory. The saints in heaven in turn pray and intercede for us who are here on earth. *The Catechism of the Catholic Church* instructs us about the importance of this prayer for the dead:

"From the beginning the Church has honored the memory of the dead and offered prayers in suffrage for them, above all the Eucharistic sacrifice, so that, thus purified, they may attain the beatific vision of God" (1032)

2. It has always been our custom to pray the Rosary for the Dead. Family, relatives, and friends of the deceased gather in the church or at home to pray this Rosary. In the past, family members of the deceased offered coffee and *biscocho* to those who came and prayed with them as a gesture of appreciation for their sharing in this moment of pain and sorrow. The time spent after the Rosary could also be an opportunity to console one another, to empathize with the family of the deceased and to deepen ties and friendships among members of the family.

3. Over time, however, the feeding of the people after the Rosary has become quite extravagant, serv-

Jesuit formator, composer, to lead Lenten Retreat

By Ding Polistico

Beginning next Sunday, March 18, the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa again calls on the faithful to prepare for lent with the annual "Come Back To Life" Lenten Retreat. Fr. Manuel Francisco, a Jesuit formator, theology professor and music composer will be directing this year's retreat.

Fr. Francisco will be preaching at all the Masees at Mount Carmel Cathedral on March 18 to start off the Lenten Retreat. He will also be preaching to the CCD students and teachers at the CCD Songfest on the same day.

Fr. Manoling
Fr. Francisco, or Fr. Manoling, is celebrated



File photo of Fr. Manuel V. Francisco, this year's "Come Back To Life" retreat director.

in the Philippines as a composer of contemporary liturgical music. Among the popular songs he composed are "Hindi Kita Malhimutan" (I Will Never Forget You), "Tanging Yaman" (Only Treasure), "Sa

Yo Lamang" (Yours Alone), "One More Gift", "Take and Receive", "I Will Sing Forever". He is a co-founder of the Bukas Palad Music Ministry (www.bukaspalad.com), a community of young people

who compose, record, and perform original Filipino religious music. Under his guidance Bukas Palad has released 12 albums, the songs of which are staples in Philippine liturgical celebrations.

Maybe because of his musical genius, not many people know that Fr. Francisco is also a respected intellectual. Fr. Manoling is a true blue Atenean, who graduated Class Valedictorian in all his levels of schooling, from grade school, high school, college and Theological studies at the prestigious Ateneo de Manila University in Quezon city, Philippines. He was recognized as one of Ten Outstanding Students of the Philippines (TOSP) in 1990 and was acclaimed

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ESFDB student is Spelling Bee Champ



For the second time in three years, a student from Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja in Rota has emerged as the 2007 Scripps Regional Spelling Bee Champion beating out 68 contestants from Guam, Saipan, Tinian and Palau. Eighth-grader, Pauline Lydia Manglona accomplished the feat on March 3 in Guam, two years after another ESFDB student, Dheena Elayda won it in 2005.

Pauline, daughter of Senator Paul and Mrs. Lydia Manglona, was encouraged to work harder this year after placing 5th in last year's contest. According to her coach, ESFDB Principal Sr. Ascension Zambrá, O.P., Pauline would sacrifice her time after school and on Saturdays to prepare for the contest.

Pauline, shown in the photo with grandparents Prudence T. Manglona and Bernardita A. Manglona, will be representing the region at the 80th Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C. in May this year. Her victory is a fitting recognition of her intelligence and hard work, and the quality of education Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja bestows on its students.

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What Next?

- Assist in advocating for a “SMOKE FREE Workplace”
- Continue preventive health screening at church setting through Wise Women Village Project
- Learning community needs through the church
- Expand Diocese involvement relating to other public health initiative

How do you establish/ sustain a partnership?

- Establish a relationship
- Develop TRUST
- Communicate frequently
- Keep them informed
- Establish mutual mission/benefit

No two PRIEST are alike!

- Different personalities
- Level of engagement
- Different beliefs; value system



Fruits of our Partnership...

- Pastoral letter supporting Project 10
- Pastoral letter for limiting food on church grounds
- Wise Women Village Project
- HPV Campaign
- Mutual respect

Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Olomwaay,
Thank You!!

