



# AJ KABANAY

A Monthly Bulletin of the Arnold Janssen Family - SVD PHS

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## MISSION AND POLITICS

Some biblical scholars are inclined to say that the crucifixion of our Lord was politically motivated. Whether this notion is true or not, it would be enlightening for us to see if this mirrors our present political involvement. There are biblical scenes that picture the social rivalry between the “church and the state.” And these images somehow reflect our own national electoral contest.

Tracing the visible lines among our choices sometimes brings us to rationalization. This sort of “surrender” is a neglect of duty where a lifetime of privilege is offered by the society. Maximizing opportunities is one business mantra that management professors wish to stamp on their mentees head. Behind this notion is the belief that an opportunity always leads to a prosperous future!

Change is what everybody needs! Change, however, could be positive or negative – moving forward or backward. As missionaries by our baptism we are called to be catalysers of change. This reminds us of the prayer of our Founder and Father Saint Arnold Janssen, “May the heart of Jesus live in the hearts of all.” We must be reminded



that our focus is a holistic change for the person! Thus, choosing the right persons to lead our country and the local communities would expand one’s missionary perspective.

Mission has a social obligation with political implications. We read from the scripture how Jesus was sometimes mistaken as a “purely” church-to-person leader. The fact is, he was socially involved on many occasions. He saved the adulterous woman from a shameful death while keeping the temple holy by chasing the vendors away. These revolutionary scenes of change are materials for our own vision of a renewed self and a new society. Our personal involvement in the coming presidential race will amount to understanding our commission to make positive and greener changes in our homeland.

## **Saint Arnold Janssen Ladies**

When one visits the Saint Arnold Janssen Parish in Barangay Basak, San Nicholas, one will probably notice some ladies in yellow uniform. These are the Arnold Janssen Ladies or, in short, the AJ Ladies. One time an SVD priest who met these ladies for the first time asked, “Duna diay toy ladies si Saint Arnold?” (Did Saint Arnold have ladies?) Anybody who is not familiar with the group will probably ask the same question and wonder how this group started and what its aims and objectives are.

When the parish was still new, about a year old only, a group of ladies who were committed to serve the parish met for the first time. At first they agreed to offer one thousand pesos each for the expenses of the annual fiesta celebration. Later, they decided to form themselves into a group with a one goal in mind - to seek donations for the construction of the present church building. With God’s grace, until today the ladies are still assisting the parish in many of its projects, of which the most recent was the canopy for the bust statue of Saint Arnold Janssen which now stands at the gate of the church.

Today, with their yellow uniform, the ladies are an all-around help for the parish, particularly in spreading the devotion to St. Arnold. Their mission is not easy, considering that our Saint is still unknown to most people. The AJ Ladies try to spread the knowledge about the saint by giving spiritual formation

activities and distributing the saint’s statue in every chapel. They also assist in other works, such as in decorating the church on special occasions and during procession.

We, the Arnold Janssen Ladies, are grateful to the SVD for making us a part of the world-wide mission of the church through the Kabanay. Joining the KABANAY is a great blessing. We continue to commit ourselves to the service of the mission through spiritual, moral and financial support and by giving emphasis to our apostolate with the needy.

## **Missionaries on Vacation**

Fr. Ben Aleonar, SVD missionary to Argentina

Fr. Ben Macajes, SVD missionary to New Zealand

Fr. John Banogbanog, SVD missionary to Cuba

Fr. Ian Nercua, SVD missionary to Argentina

## **TIDBITS: SSpSA Animates the Word**

Dayling Boiser, SSpSA conducted a Lenten Recollection to 60 members of Alay Kapwa at the Saint Arnold Janssen Parish.

Isabel delos Santos, SSpSA gave a Lenten Recollection to 30 employees of DTI and the novices of the Scalabrinian Missionaries

Fr. Isagani Ehido, SVD journeyed with around 50 USC Library System Personnel for a one-day Lenten Recollection.

### Visitation



Fernandez, Ms. Netz Veloso and Frs. Ben Aleonar and Ganie Ehido brought Fr. John Banogbanog to his village in Moalboal, Cebu. Fr. John who is currently assigned as missionary to Cuba is on vacation for two reasons: to visit his father who is sick and to take a rest after working in Cuba for four consecutive years.

When we arrived in Moalboal, we saw the overwhelming joy of the parents who had not seen their son for almost five years. It is consoling to know that there are Kabanay Ladies who are willing to travel and connect the gaps between the families and friends left by our faithful missionaries. Fr. John will be going back to Cuba on May 8, 2010.

### *THE FORMULA* (A material for reflection)

*The mystic was back from the desert.  
"Tell us," they said, "what God is like."  
But how could he ever tell them  
What he had experienced in his  
heart?  
Can God be put into words?*

*He finally gave them a formula -  
Inaccurate, inadequate - in the hope  
That some might be tempted  
To experience it for themselves.  
They seized upon the formula.  
They made it a sacred text.  
They imposed it on others as a holy  
belief.  
They went to great pains to spread it  
in foreign lands.*

*Some even gave their lives for it.*

*The mystic was sad.  
It might have been better if he had  
said nothing.*

(from the book, *The Song of the Bird*, by Anthony de Mello, SJ)

## THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Jn 21:1-19

### The Appearance to the Seven Disciples



It did happen as it happened to my own father. One early morning, after being down with flu for three days, my father sighed as he watched the fisherfolks merrily coming home. “I could have caught as much or even more had I not been sick,” he told my mother. “But your share is still out there in the sea for the catching,” so trustful was my mother in answering him. That night he went out to the sea, and before midnight like Peter he sent for a crew, asking them to help lest the net would break.

In the Gospel, Peter did not recognize Jesus. He, a chosen one, would have missed completely the one who chose him if he were not reminded by the other disciples. Likewise, my father had to be reminded of God’s love, goodness and presence. Come to think of it, this forgetfulness might hold true of everybody, even if it is in fact the Lord himself who sends us all to proclaim that He has risen and that He is here.

On one occasion, during the installation of Rev. Fr. Roderick Salazar, Jr., SVD as President of USC, the Cardinal of Cebu was invited. While waiting, the

Cardinal shared how he just came back from his travel and how scared he was while on the plane. Readily one of the teachers said, “But Cardinal, if you have faith in the Lord, you should not be afraid.”

Did Peter perhaps know exactly what was going on? In Cor.13:4-5, St. Paul must have learned from Teacher Jesus the kind of love he wants us to keep in our hearts. “Love is patient and kind, it is not jealous or conceited...” Then Jesus asked: “Peter, do you love me?” “...love is not ill-mannered or selfish or irritable...” “Peter, do you love me?”, again Jesus asked. “...love never gives up... faith, hope and patience never fail.” “Peter do you love me?” To this repetitive question, Peter willingly gave his big yes. Three times was he asked; after all, three times too would he later deny him. What a way to purge Peter!

Finally, Jesus said, “Feed my flock,” and Peter went on to his mission, converting pagans, performing miracles, healing the sick without claiming the power to be his. For the rest of his life he knew what he was into. And now, in the twilight of his years, his fellow Christians were asking him to leave Rome and escape from death. On his way, however, he met the Lord whom he asked: “Where are you going, Lord?” Jesus answered: “I’m going to Rome to be crucified for the second time.” That’s it! And Peter returned to Rome, faced his executioner and expressed his desire to be crucified upside down as he was not worthy to die like his Master.

Jesus said: “Follow me.” Until his last, Peter did!

#### THINK:

1. Have you lived out and proclaimed the presence of the Risen Lord? How?
2. What have you done as Jesus’ follower?