Tambuli

ANG OPISYAL NA PAHAYAGAN NG PAMAYANANG PILIPINO SA OXFORD (FILCOMOXFORD)

Tomo 3 Blg. 1 Winter 2005 – Spring 2006

Ika-2 PANGKALAHATANG

Itinakda ng Filipino Community of Oxford (FilComOxford) ang Ikalawang Pangkalahatang Pagpupulong (General Assembly) nito sa darating na Marso 11, 2006 sa John Radcliffe Hospital Lecture Theatre Hall.

Ang maghapong Pagpupulong ay magsisimula ng alas-nuwebe ng umaga hanggang tanghali para sa pagpapalista at paga-apply ng mga pasaporte.

Magsisimula itong muli nang ala-una ng hapon para sa programa na naglalaman ng agenda ng *General Assembly* pati na ang sesyong kasama ang mga panauhing tagapagsalita.

FilComOxford Chairperson Ariel Lanada.

Kabilang sa mga panauhing tagapagsalita para sa taunang pulong na ito ang bagong labour attaché ng Embahada ng Pilipinas sa London at ang kinatawan ng Citizen's Advice Bureau ng Oxford.

"Naririto ang mga kinatawan ng Embahada at ng Citizen's Advice Bureau para sumagot ng mga katanungang may kinalaman sa pagtira at paghahanap-buhay dito sa UK," pagpapaliwanag ni Gigi Yebra, *vice-chairperson* ng FilComOxford. Ito ay ang *Q and A* ng programa.

Napag-alaman din ng *Tambuli* na kumpirmado na rin ang pagdating ng Philippine Embassy Outreach Team para sa mga aplikasyon ng pasaporte at iba pang mga dokumento. Ang nasabing pangkat ang tumulong sa ilang mga Pilipino sa pagre- *renew* ng kanilang mga pasaporte noong nakaraang taon. Itinuturing ng mga opisyal ng FilComOxford na isa ito sa mga dahilan ng pagtatagumpay ng Pangkalahatang Pagpupulong noong nagdaang Mayo.

"Pagkakataon na ng mga kasama nating makapag-*renew* ng kanilang mga pasaporte at iba pang dokumento nang hindi na kailangnang magtungo pa ng London," wika ni Gigi.

Maliban sa mga ulat ng iba't-ibang komite, kabilang sa agenda ng Pangkalahatang Pagpupulong ang pormal na pagpapalista ng mga miyembro ng FilComOxford, at ang ratipikasyon ng konstitusyon ng samahan.

Ang mga naturang hakbang ay kasama sa pormalisasyon ng pagtatatag ng FilComOxford bilang isang organisasyon. Ang opisyal na tala naman ng mga miyembro nito ay isusumite sa Embahada ng Pilipinas sa London para sa pormal na rekognisyon.

"Para naman sa mga miyembrong magpapalista sa araw na iyon, mabibigyan na sila ng *membership card* na may logo at *control number* ng samahan. Kailangan na lang nilang magdala ng litrato," ani Gigi.

Pinaaalalahanan din niya ang mga maga-*apply* ng pasaporte na ihanda na ang mga kinakailangang dokumento upang mas mapadali ang pagpoproseso ng mga aplikasyon.

MAY LOGO NA ANG FilComOxford!

May bagong logo na ang FilComOxford para sa mga opisyal na komunikasyon at identification cards ng mga miyembro nito. Ang naturang logo ay boluntaryong dinisenyo ni Ian Elefan noong nakaraang Nobyembre. Ilulunsad ito na nakatatak sa mga FilComOxford ID cards sa darating na Pangkalahatang Pagpupulong o General Assembly sa Marso 11, 2006.

Noong isang taon ay nagpatimpalak ang Executive Committee para sa pagdidisenyo ng logo ng samahan ngunit walang sumali. Dahil dito, napagdesisyunan ng mga opisyal na iatas ang gawain sa kaninumang boluntaryong tatanggap nito.

..At May Website Pa!

Ayon sa mga opisyal ng FilComOxford, planong ilunsad sa araw ng Pangkalahatang Pagpupulong sa Marso 11 ang opisyal na **FilComOxford website** na maglalaman ng mga mahahalagang impormasyon tungkol sa samahan. Ito ay gagawin sa Pilipinas sa kagandahang loob ng isa nating kasamahan sa Churchill Hospital. Sa panahon ng pag-uulat, napag-usapan na ng Executive Committee ang lalamanin ng webpage kabilang na ang mga *links* nito, gaya ng kabuuang layunin, mga komite, mga nakatakdang proyekto at ang elektronikong bersyon ng *Tambuli*.

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Balita

COMING ACTIVITIES 2006

February
- Preparation for the FilComOxford General Assembly

March
- **11** FilComOxford 2nd General Assembly

April
- **TBA** Lenten Recollection
- **13** Visita Iglesia (Maundy Thursday)
- **14** Churches Together in Headington (Good Friday)

May
- Preparation for the Philippine Independence Day celebration

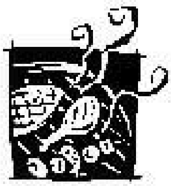
June
- **11** Philippine Independence Day Celebration and Flores de Junio (Headington)

July
- **22** Community Outing

August
- **5-6, 12-13** 3rd Summer Sports Fest

September
- **8** Marian Mass

__Block Rosary__ still continues. Please get in touch with Joseph or any of the FilComOxford Executive Committee members for details. Details of the activites would be announced in posters so watch closely!



Former Philippine president Fidel V. Ramos (center) with the members of FilComOxford during the Christmas Party 2005 at St. Anthony de Padua Parish Hall (*Photo by Don Yebra*).

The FilComOxford Diary

EVENTS OF THE LAST FEW MONTHS

With the departure of Sr. Clare for Lithuania last September, FilComOxford was left with a big challenge of carrying on its missions without her guidance. Sure enough, the community rose to the challenge with a whopping success!

OCTOBER

FilComOxford participated in the *Living Rosary* held at the Corpus Christi Parish Church. Around about this time, the FilComOxford Youth was also established, made up of the younger members of the community.

NOVEMBER

The Executive Committee decided on the official logo design. Also, since the Block Rosary has been a success, it was recommended that this became a regular activity of the community. Final arrangements for the December activities were also made.

DECEMBER

This month was greeted by the annual Advent Recollection held at the Sacred Heart Church in Blackbird Leys with Fr. David Hartley. And who would expect that the former president of the Philippines would drop in and join the fun of the community's Christmas Party? Apparently, Gen. Fidel Ramos was giving a speech in one of the colleges of Oxford when he heard of the celebration. What an excellent way to say "hello"! We also went round to the houses for the traditional caroling (kahit malamig!).

So, see you all for the next set of activities for this year!!!

ANG "BAGONG" TAMBULI

Opo, may mga pagbabago sa inyong pahayagan simula sa isyung ito.

Ang *Tambuli* ay ilalathala ng dalawang beses na lamang sa isang taon. Ito ang napagkasunduan sa Executive Committee noong nakaraang Disyembre 2005. Mas realistiko ang dalawang beses na paglalathala ng pahayagan dahil sa kakulangan ng mga manunulat pati na rin ang *work commitments* ng karamihan.

Bagamat hindi nagbago ang inyong patnugot (he-he-he!), magdadagdag tayo ng mga bagong bahagi - ang *Children's Corner* na maglalaman ng mga *drawings*, tula at maikling kuwento na gawa ng mga bata at ang *Literary Corner* naman para sa lahat na nais magbigay ng kanilang mga tula, maikling kuwento at repleksiyon (samahan nyo na rin ng inyong litrato para maganda). Puwede na rin ang mga katatawanan pero wala namang *censored materials, please*. Sa ganitong paraan, magiging *participative* ang ating pahayagan at hindi lang gawa ng iilan.

Para sa inyong mga kontribusyon, mangyaring mag-e-mail kay Precy sa precimc@yahoo.com kasama ng inyong attachments (*text o graphics*). Ang susunod na isyu ay sa Hulyo-Agosto 2006 *so there's plenty of time to do your masterpieces.*

Nakasalalay sa inyong mga kamay ang ikatatagumpay ng ideyang ito. *So, please help out!*

Literary Corner

Just a thought...

by Gigi Yebra

"Opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh." Matt 2:11

Well, I`ve always wondered how the Holy Family spent those expensive gifts from the three kings. As far as I know of what was written, they continued to live a simple, God-fearing life. Never again were those `material gifts` given importance in the Bible. It made me realise that we should try to follow the same path as the Holy Family did.

There are times in our lives when we try to cling on to the tangible, material things that are pleasing to the eyes, forgetting that they are not basic needs of ours. It seems that the more we want, the more those things become elusive that we would exert extra effort to acquire them. Don`t you think this is God`s way of telling all of us, "***Hey, let go…!***"?

There are times when we all worry too much about money, status, career, failure, rejection, etc. I think worrying is such a big insult to God because this just means that we don`t trust Him enough to be happy and contented with what He`s given us. It is so easy not to hear God saying to us, "***Hey, let Me…!***"

I suppose the best way to spoil our family and friends is not through material things but through friendship, good family values, right spirituality, education, fear of the Lord. These are the things that are not temporary and could be cherished in one`s soul wherever one goes.

I also have lots of fear and worries in life but I know that God is just there… waiting! He`s saying not only to me but also to everyone else, "***I'm here!***".

All we have to do is to let go… and let God!

The Untold Story: PART 1

Jose Ariel Ibañada

This story is based on a real story of two people who used to love each other. Because of unfortunate circumstances they were separated and their love story never blossomed. One of them went to the United Kingdom for work while the other was left behind in the Philippines with the hope that they will see each other again.

12 November 2005

Dearest Jim,

Surprised? I don`t know where to start really. After a long time we lost contact, I felt I missed a lot of things. I called you several times but I can`t get through. I've been busy with so many things - my work, personal life and my family. But honestly, I have never forgotten you. I have thought of you so many times.

Jim, I hope this letter reaches you. I don`t have your home address so I just sent this to the one you`ve given me. But I remember you mentioned the last time that your brother is no longer working in this clinic. I fervently hope the clinic staff will contact you when they receive this letter.

I have so many questions that I've been meaning to ask you but I will reserve it until the next letter. I'm not sure if you will get this one. If I'm lucky, please reply with your picture. I miss you so much. Also, please give me your home address and cell phone number so we could stay in touch.

I have moved into a new house and my address is on the envelope. Please reply immediately and tell me how you`re life is going. I still love you, Jim.

Your friend forever,
Pat

Why do you think Jim didn`t give his own home address to Pat? Is there something to hide? Is he married? If they are friends or even lovers, how come Jim did not invite Pat to come to his house and introduce her to his parents? I hope you enjoy the first part of the story. The reply of Jim to Pat`s letter will be published in the next issue of the **Tambuli**. *So please don`t miss it.*

Photo Story

Church cleaning at St. Anthon-

Mama Mary's visit to Don and Gigi's

Sr. Clare Jo's leaving do at St. Anthony's...

At ni

Alay ng mga bata...

Sr. Clare with Fr. David and Fr. The.

Talaga naman! Ang daming

Binyag po ni Mr. Grieg Truman sa St. Anthony's. Welcome

Lizel and Grieg's hen and stag party...

Kayo po ba ay may nais ibahaging larawan sa ating komunidad? I-email lamang kay Precy sa precimc@yahoo.com. Maraming salamat at sana kayo naman ang malathala sa mga pahinang ito!

Photo Story

Advent Recollection with

Pasko with FVR!!! O, di ba bongga?!

Sa bahay nina Joseph: Sr. Clare's visit to Oxford before going back

Carolling 2005 sa Headingto-

London: Before Sr. Clare's departure for the

Editoryal

MGA SINTOMAS NG KAHIRAPAN

Ang trahedya ng ika-4 ng Pebrero sa Philippine Sports Arena ay gumulat sa buong Pilipinas pati na sa mga Pilipinong naninirahan sa ibayong dagat. Pitumpu`t apat ang patay at mahigit limang daan ang sugatan nang magkagulo sa pila ng patimpalak ng ABS-CBN na *Wowowee*. Gaya ng dati, panay sisihan ang nangyari. Matukoy man ang may pinakamalaking pananagutan sa insidenteng ito, hindi pa rin maiiwasan na maulit itong muli gaano man ang pag-iingat ng lahat sapagkat ang pangunahing dahilan ng trahendya ay hindi pa rin nalulutas.

Bakit nga ba nangyayari ang mga ganitong insidente? Ano ba ang panghalina ng mga ganitong programa sa masa? Hindi naman tayo nagkakamali kung iisipin natin na lahat ng mga nagsipila sa *Wowowee* ay nangangarap na magkaroon ng magandang buhay. Lahat, kung hindi man malaking porsyento ng mga ito ang nasa ilalim ng *poverty line*. Sa panahong napakabilis ng pagtaas ng presyo ng mga bilihin at pangunahing serbisyo samantalang nananatiling mababa at halos hindi makabuhay ang batayang suweldo, sa panahong mataas ang bilang ng mga walang trabaho, lahat ng pagkakataong magkaroon man lamang ng perang pambili ng mga batayang pangangailangan ay hindi dapat palampasin. Para sa mga naroroon ng araw na iyon, lubhang mapanghalina ang pangako ng programa na *instant* bahay at lupa o pagkakataong makapagtayo ng maliit na negosyo sa halagang mapapanalunan. Kaunting salapi, kaunting suwerte makaahon man lamang sa hirap ng araw-araw na pamumuhay. Tila nawalan na ng pag-asa ang bayan sa kanyang kakayahang mapaunlad ang kanyang buhay sa pamamagitan ng sariling pagsisikap. Tila nawalan na ito ng pagtitiwala sa pamahalaang dapat sana ay tutulong sa pag-angat ng kanyang kabuhayan sa pamamagitan ng mga polisiyang kumakalinga sa kanyang kapakanan.

Walang simplistikong paliwanag ni solusyon sa trahedyang ito sapagkat malalim ang batayang dahilan. Nangangailangan ito ng malalim at tapat na pagsusuri sa bawat isa tungkol sa pananaw natin sa isyu ng *kahirapan* at ang mga ugat na dahilan nito. Ang patuloy na pagdagsa ng mga tao sa mga patimpalak gaya ng *Wowowee*, ang patuloy na pagtaya sa lotto, jai-alai, ending at sweepstakes at ang patuloy na pagbabakasakali sa mga iskemang makapagbibigay sa kanila ng karangyaan sa pinakamabilis na paraan ay ilan lamang sa mga sintomas lamang ng kahirapan. Totoo, nagkulang ang istasyon ng telebisyon sa isyu ng kaligtasan ng mga taong naroroon ngunit hindi dapat magtapos ang usaping ito sa isyu ng kaligtasan at kung sino ang mananagot. Hangga`t hindi nawawala ang mga batas na gumagarantiya ng kapakanan ng iilan, hangga`t hindi nagbabago ang hindi pantay na mga patakaran ng pakikipagkalakalan, hangga`t may mga nagsasamantala at may mga nagbubulag-bulagan, hangga`t hindi nagbabago ang ating pagtingin sa isyu ng kahirapan, patuloy tayong makakasaksi ng trahedya ng *Wowowee*. ▼

Thoughts of the Heart

THE CULTURE of COMPETITION

Luke 6: 36 - 38

Bishop Soc Villegas

The culture of modern people is competition. We want to compete. We love to compete. We get excited when there is competition. We begin by competing in school for grades and awards. And then the competition goes on to oratorical and art contests. Then it goes on to college - for relationships, for career, for politics and for business. Even the present crisis of Iraq and the United States is a product of the culture of competition.

Competition is good but if it is pushed too far, it can make all of us neurotics. We will just trample one another because the goal is to get to the top as soon as we can and as fast as we can.

The culture of the world is competition. But that is **not** the culture of Jesus. The culture of Jesus is called ***compassion***.

There was one psychologist who asked, "Is the culture of competition totally opposed to the culture of compassion?" He was saying that if we choose a culture of competition and we can get to the top at the soonest possible time, we could get the most money and the most people to our side.

But as I said, it can burn us out. It can dry us up. It can raise the incidence of suicide. It can raise the incidence of depression. Then we will give more money to psychitrists for professional fees.

On the other hand, if it is totally and only a culture of compassion, then people will slap one cheek and we will have to offer the other and they will get accustomed to doing that. The culture of compassion is not a culture of passivity. In the end, we will just be black and blue.

Today, my invitation is to ask God to ***make us more aggressive for compassion***. Look at those words - *to be more aggressive, to be more convinced towards compassion*. I pray that we will take everything to be more compassionate with one another.

The culture of the Lord and the culture of Christianity is never competition. It is ***compassion***. Look at the word *compete* and *complete*. One letter is inserted in the middle and that is **L**. **L** is for **LOVE**. ***God came to put love in this world so that we will complete each other and make each other whole.*** Jesus came so we could win together because the victory of one need not mean the other`s defeat. We can win together if we love together.

"Thoughts of the Heart" is a regular column dedicated to the homilies of Bishop Socrates Villegas, Bishop of the Archdiocese of Balanga, Bataan. They are reprinted in condensed form with permission from the bishop himself.

Ang Tambuli (Horn) ay ang opisyal na pahayagan ng Filipino Community of Oxford (FilCom Oxford) at may layuning maggahatid ng mga balita at pananaw sa mga isyung may kinalaman sa buhay-Pinoy dito sa Oxford. Ito'y inilalathala dalawang beses isang taon (Enero-Pebrero at Hulyo-Agosto).

Para sa mga mungkahi, liham at kontribusyon, sumulat lamang sa Patnugot (precimc@yahoo.com).

Patnugot: Precy M. Dayabyab. Lay-out: Sinag-tala. Pagpapalimbag: FilCom Oxford. Mga larawan: Don at Gigi Yebra.

Your suggestions, letters and contributions are always welcome.