

Liwanag - Tanglaw

International



Silent Night, Holy Night

S ometime in 1818 in the village of Oberndorf, Austria a young priest named Father Joseph Mohr wrote these words: "Silent night, holy night". The phrase was to become the first line of his poem. Since then, he couldn't get it out of his mind.

Two years later, on Christmas Eve, Father Mohr decided to include the poem in his church service. Perhaps intuiting a song hidden within the verses, he ventured outdoors in the cold December morning and went to see Franz Gruber, a schoolteacher and gifted organist who lived in the neighboring village. He asked Gruber if he could turn the poem into a carol the same day in time for the midnight mass.

Gruber obliged. Knowing that the church's organ was broken, he composed the

melody on his guitar while Father Mohr waited. What came out was a tune that hummed like a lullaby.

On the night of December 24, 1818, the song, "Silent Night, Holy Night", was performed for the first time at the church of St. Nicholas in Oberndorf. Mohr and Gruber sang duet while the church choir sang along.

The symphony of human voices accompanied by Father Mohr's soft guitar must have made an impression on



the churchgoers because when a repairman came to the church later to fix the organ and found a copy of the song, he took it and gave it to two families of traveling folk singers. Like the Von Trapp family in "The Sound of Music", the traveling folk singers since then performed the song as part of their regular repertoire.

They sang the song in other villages. They sang it in other countries and for royalty, too. The King of Prussia, Emperor of Austria, and Tsar of Russia were taken by the song that they mandated it be sung in cathedrals every Christmas Eve.

The song reached America when one of the traveling family of folk singers sang it at Trinity Church in New

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December 2008

**East Coast
Next Sesyon:**

**December 27 –
Saturday, 5:00 p.m.**

Pag-diriwang sa pag-silang sa laman ng Jesus, ang Kristo; Pag-gunita sa pag-silang sa ispiritu ng Fundador ng Espiritu ng Katotohanan. Gaganapin sa tahanan nina Bro. Regie at Sis. Lina Lopez.

160-15 12th Avenue,
Whitestone, NY 11357
Tel. (718) 746-3123

West Coast:

Maaring tumawag kina:

- Bro.Louie & family:
(619) 264-4251
- Sis.Fia Zabat Swartz:
(619) 656-3138
- Sis.Amor &
Bro.Salvador Pia:
(619) *82-656-0325,
or Fax (619) 421-5240.

A Piece of History

Wearing White

I n the late 1890s, as the sun begins to shine in Niugan, Malabon, IEVES members can be seen exercising at their Centro's grounds. The early morning ritual was encouraged by Gran Supermo as a way of caring for their physical health and achieving holistic development.

In the morning exercises, individuals were asked to

wear uniforms made of the old textile called "cacha" in Spanish. The textile—recycled from flour sacks that whitened as it underwent washing—was free and had the capacity to withstand the test of time.

The exercises stopped when the occupying U.S. government grew fearful that the members might be training for an uprising. The members,

however, continued to wear the cachá uniforms at sesyons because its white color symbolized and instilled in them the virtues of purity and cleanliness, in spite of appearing odd in a predominantly Catholic community whose clergy wore black.

Historically, Catholic priests wore the clothing of

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Jonathan Nibungco: String Concierto

By Deanna Clarin
Reprinted with permission from Filipinas Magazine,
November 2008.

Born into a musically inclined family, it's no surprise that Jonathan Nibungco followed suit (his twin sisters play the piano and his grandparents were professional singers and dancers). While still in the womb, his mother exposed him to classical music by Mozart and Beethoven in the belief that it would enhance her unborn child's intelligence. The deed also gifted Jonathan with an exceptional talent. This past June, the 12-year-old violinist became the youngest member of the Central Florida Youth Orchestra (CFYO) to perform at Carnegie Hall in New York. The opportunity to perform at one of the most prestigious venues in the world happened after Jonathan's CFYO and Florida Young Artists Orchestra (FYAO) conductor submitted a piece for the Carnegie Hall youth orchestra auditions; Jonathan, who's a member of both orchestras, was among

those chosen by the conductor to play at the famed music facility. Jonathan picked up the violin at age three, taking lessons at the Good Shepherd Montessori School in Eustis, Florida. He made his public debut at four, playing at the Tavares, Florida Public Library. A year later he enrolled in the CFYO summer camp in Leesburg, Florida; he eventually became one of two lead violinists during CFYO's public performance at Good Shepherd Montessori School. Wanting to expand his musical horizons, Jonathan began cello lessons when he was eight years old. In 2004, he was invited to audition for the FYAO and got in. He is currently FYAO's third chair violinist and principal cellist. During his free time Jonathan volunteers as a member of a chamber orchestra that plays at grocery stores, hospitals, public libraries and nursing homes.



Bro. Jonathan Nibungco (center) is the son of Bro. Jun and Sis. Beth Nibungco.

Congratulations...

...to **Bro. Greg** and **Sis. Faye Till** on the birth of their daughter and first child, **Katelyn**, on June 13, 2008! Sis. Faye is the daughter of **Bro. Ed** and **Sis. Susan Nibungco**.

Silent Night, Holy Night

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York City in 1839. Since then the song has been translated into over 300 languages. "Silent Night, Holy Night" has become the most popular Christmas carol of all time.

*Silent night, holy night.
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and
child
Holy infant so tender and
mild
Sleep in heavenly peace
Sleep in heavenly peace*

Mohr and Gruber did not become famous. Until an old manuscript was found in 1995 showing them as the composers, the world thought that the song was the work of Haydn, Mozart, or Beethoven.

The song's writers probably only intended to have a new

carol for midnight mass. Perhaps they never envisioned it being sung around the world. But their song made an impact to everyone who heard it until it spread. Its simple melody and the image of the Madonna aglow at her newborn child evoke a feeling of joy and meditative calm that can fill the listener's heart with heavenly peace.

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- Egan, Bill. "SILENT NIGHT: The Song Heard 'Round The World" Silent Night Web. 2001. JAK Olivier. 14 Nov. 2008 <<http://www.silentnight.web.za/history/index.htm>>.
- "Silent Night" Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia. 17 Nov. 2008. Wikimedia Foundation, Inc. 17 Nov. 2008. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Silent_night>.

Wearing White

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the day. When peasants in Europe wore black, priests did the same to symbolize humility, modesty, and simplicity. When clothing trends changed, necessitated by warmer climes, or graced by the charisma of the congregation, priests made adjustments to their garb, keeping blue for education, red for passion, and white for baptisms. Today, priests in tropical countries wear white, too.

Then as well as now, wearing white clothing can be inconvenient. One has to take special care to keep it pristine that for regular use many simply forego white in favor of color.

But no one today doubts the power of wearing white. Psychologists would advise anyone facing high authority such as a judge, consul, or potential employer to wear a white shirt or blouse. In practical, day-to-day

affairs, wearing white not only projects sincerity and honesty but also frees the mind to focus on the task at hand. It would seem that white has also come to symbolize humility, another of Gran Supermo's teachings.

Like many of Gran Supermo's teachings, wearing white—a custom that began over a century ago and continues among IEVES members today—is a humble tradition that proved ahead of its time if not timeless.

Sources:

- "Cassock" Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia. 25 Oct. 2008. Wikimedia Foundation, Inc. 1 Dec. 2008. <<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cassock>>.
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Humility

By Sis. Dulce Batao

We hear countless stories all remarkably admirable about the life of our Gran Suprema, Dra. Rosa Peña Tongko. Her teachings help and continue to guide us toward the betterment of both our physical and spiritual beings. One teaching that stands out is Humility. In Gran Suprema's words, the Great Teacher, Jesus Christ, lived a great example of Humility:

Anupa't sa sukdulang pagpapakumbaba ng Dakilang Guro ay binubad Niya ang pagka-Dios at nakipamahay sa gitna ng mga taong nais N'yang akayin, at naging lubos na masunurin sa Kanyang Ama, hanggang sa kamatayan sa krus.

Ang kabaliktaran nga niyang kababaang-loob ay kapalaluan – vanidad o vanity. Isa nga itong uri ng kasamaan ng tao na lalong nagpapalubog sa kanya sa bangin ng kamatayan ng kanyang kaluluwa. Tulad ng larawan sa ating Templo Sol na sinisimbolisa ng tigre at baka – ang dalawang uri ng hayop na tumalik sa pag-uugali: isang mabangis at palalo, at ang isa nama'y may kababaang-loob at maamo, na anupa't ang may kapalaluan at hindi matututong magyuko ng kanyang ulo ay hindi makakainom sa tubig ng bubay. Iyan ang isang napakalaking kabalagaban ng humildad o kababaang-loob.

What is Humility?

Humility is the defining characteristic of an unpretentious and modest person, one who does not think of being better or more important than others. It is also accepting

our selves as we really are before God, beginning with a sense of subordination to God, indeed, a complete submission to the will of God. God is the teacher and we are His disciples, and a disciple is not above the teacher. Humility does not return evil for evil. Nor is humility a life based on perceived right. Humility asserts Truth and is never bolstered by ego, the control of others, or triumphs in debates. In loving one's enemy, humility becomes a service to Christ. Humility is to know that one is fallible and a humble person welcomes and learns from criticism.

Acquiring the habit – or, shall we say, the virtue – of humility can begin with small steps. You may start by turning certain humble behavior into habit. Before you know it you will be demonstrating humility without even knowing. Should you wish people to think well of you, then don't speak well of yourself. Address their lives and thoughts instead. Let others discover who you are, without boasting or bragging, and value each person regardless of position in society, profession, age, or economic status. Humility requires that you value yourself, too, but not so much as to spoil yourself. One who gives in to one's own desires develops self-centered behavioral patterns. But if one does not

give in to one's whims, then humility is allowed to continually grow. Respecting yourself involves refraining from unhealthy and superficial behavior. Obsessions with appearance or material possessions do nothing but create roadblocks to humility.

What are the Results of Developing Humility?

Humility may begin as an act, but when it becomes habit, positive life changes occur. Those changes not only impact the quality of your life, but also the lives of those around you. Humble people are wiser because they listen well and speak only after great thought. Humility also leads to trustworthiness as others realize your goals are never

“
... Humility asserts Truth and is never bolstered by ego ...”

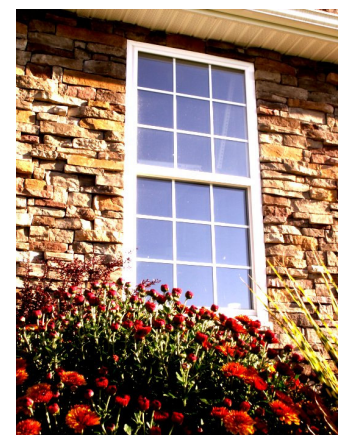
self-motivated. Leadership with humility fosters loyalty. Humble leaders understand that they are nothing without those who work with them. They don't strive to make them look successful, but revel in the success of others.

It therefore behooves us to practice humility in all our dealings -- in fact, in all aspects of life. However, we must guard against false humility. Denying that we are in possession of the virtues, the strengths, or the wealth that we do have creates a negative atmosphere and drives away the blessings that we receive from our Creator. We should humbly accept them, be they

material or spiritual. That is true humility.

The life of our Lola Itang is replete with examples of humility. Despite her station in life, Lola Itang preferred simple clothing and simple foods. She led a life of service to humanity instead of wallowing in the comforts and conveniences that are normally associated with material wealth.

Therefore, we must begin to think deeply about humility and do our best to internalize its meaning. Once internalized, humility's manifestations will become a daily occurrence in our external lives. The world at large will take notice and, in time, through our examples, others will follow. People will acquire other virtues as well because humility, being the Mother of all virtues, spawns other virtues. When this happens, the world will be at peace. By living in accordance with the design of our Lord, we can create our Heaven right here on Earth.



Garden of Bro. Lito and Sis. Grace Zabata in Martinsburg, West Virginia.

Affirmations

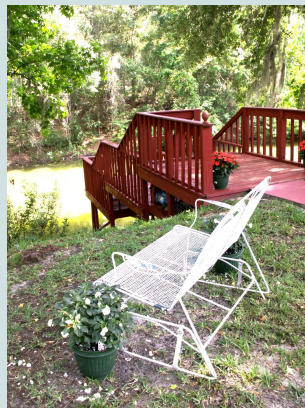
Oct. 12, 2008, Lola Itang's birthday, Templo Sol

- Inilalagay ko sa kamay ng Dios ang lahat ng pangyayari sa aking buhay, Matapos kong maisagawa ang kataas-taasan kong kaalaman at pag-sisikap.
- Ako ang may pananagutan sa lahat ng mabubuti at di kabutihang mangyayari sa aking buhay, Wala akong karapatang sisihin ang sarili at lalo ang ibang nilalang.
- Kung mayroong di akakit-akit na mga pangitain sa king buhay, mayroon akong paniniwala na: Ang lahat ng inaakalang problema ay may katapat na lunas o solusyon . Nananalig ako na hindi ako pinababayaan.
- Ang mga aralin tungo sa kaligayahan at katahimikan ay nagaganap sa mga nangyayari sa aking buhay.
- Ako ay masaya, tahimik at masagana.

Oct. 19, 2008, Templo Sol

- Ang lahat ng aking mga alalahanin ay inilalagay ko sa kamay ng Dios. Ako ay matahimik.
- Ako bilang anak ng Dios ay makaiwas sa lahat ng gawaing magbubunga ng kaguluhan ng isip.

- Ako ay palaging matahimik.
- Hindi maaaring ako ay pasakop sa masama, sapagka't sa lahat ng sandali, ay nadarama ko ang Dios na umaakay sa akin. Ako ay matahimik.
- Kung may mga sandaling ako ay mayroong mga alalahanin, gagawin ko ang lahat upang makahanap ng lunas, sa tulong ng Dios at ng mabubuting kaluluwa, ang lahat ay daraan at malalampasan – ang mga ito ay mabubuting aral upang – Ako ay matahimik.
- Sa aking pagtatanong sa kapwa ko tao, kung ano ang pinakamahalagang bagay sa daigdig, ang agot nila ay iba-iba. Ang aking sagot – katahimikan ng kalooban! Ako ay matahimik.



Backyard garden of Bro. Jun and Sis. Beth Nibungco in Leesburg, Florida.

A Christmas Message

By Sis. Videlfia P. Carpio



Gandhi, celebrator of life's beauty and most especially love, once said, "We notice it between father and son, between brother and sister, friend and friend ... Where there is love there is life."

I'm sure Jesus could not agree more.

Christmas to me is the re-awakening of this pure love that we often neglect or push aside when getting through a rough day at work, at school, or quite simply in life. We should not hesitate or restrain ourselves from showing the love that we have for the people around us. We should ex-

press this love through charity, forgiveness, and joy. And when we step back from the microscope of life and see the view from afar we can begin to appreciate and enjoy the many blessings that we have.

Create wonderful memories as time unfolds! Treasure the moments shared with your loved ones! Rejoice because Christmas is the celebration of love, gift-giving whether material or not, and the birth of Christ!

"Where there is love there is life." For this Christmas and all Christmases to come, live heartily, love, and celebrate!

Coming Sesyon

Marso 7 – Sabado, 5:00 p.m.

Pag-diriwang at pagalaala sa pag-silang sa laman ng KGG na Gran Supermo, Don Casimiro Peña. Gaganapin ito sa tahanan ng mga kapatid na

Bro. Sixto at Sis. Norma Roman, sa 860 Colonia Road, Elizabeth, NJ 07208. (908) 354-5060

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We Welcome Submissions!

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