

Vicariate of St. Ferdinand

1) Bacnotan

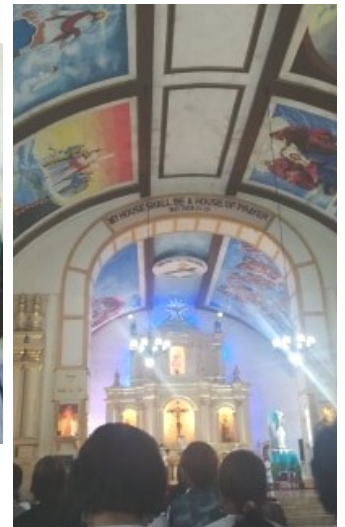


Confession — Rev. Fr. Manuel Jason Ragil

Nila travels from Vigan arriving on time to be with Luz for the Diocese of La Union Golden Foundation Anniversary celebration at Bacnotan on January 16. Mass officiated by Bishop Daniel Presto. It's also the twins' birthday.

Vicariate of St. Nicholas

2) Bangar



Gospels are taught in visual catechism on its ceilings likening it to Sistine Chapel at the Vatican



Talk of Fr. Froilan Saluta—Laudato si' (English: Praise Be to You) is the second encyclical of Pope Francis. The encyclical has the subtitle "on care for our common home".

Holy Doors

1) St. William Cathedral



Opening of the Jubilee Door
—November 29, 2019 ·

2) Bangar



3) Luna



Our Lady of Namacpacan (Luna), Our Lady of Charity (Agoo) and Our Lady of Mar Cautiva (Sto Tomas) at Basilica of Our Lady of Charity at Agoo, La Union

4) Agoo, La Union



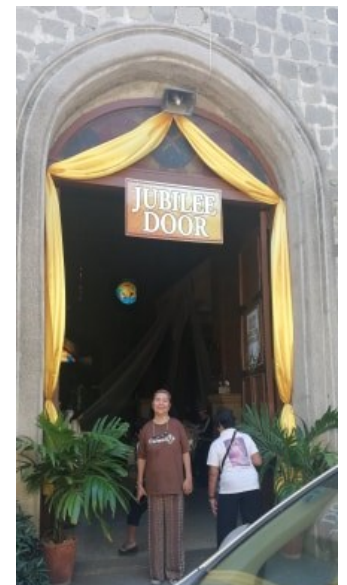
5) Sto Tomas, La Union



6) Naguilian, La Union



7) Bauang, La Union



Feasts

1) Feasts of Christ the King _ November

A considerable number of festivals celebrated in the country are of religious origin, honoring the city or province's patron saint. A mass, novenas, grand parade, beauty pageants, processions, and many other activities are prepared for this special day that brings all the whole community together to express gratitude to God. Often, such occasions draw many balikbayans to return home and reminisce the olden times.



2019 — LUZ with OCDS at St. Isidoro the Parish, Corro-oy, Santol, La Union

2) Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord—

Is a Christian feast day that celebrates the revelation of God incarnate as Jesus Christ. In Western Christianity, the feast commemorates principally the visit of the Magi to the Christ Child, and thus Jesus' physical manifestation to the Gentiles.

Luz made "Chalking the Door Epiphany presentation 2020 January 5



Hapi 6-month BREE! Love LOLA LUZ

3) Feast of the Sto. Nino_ 2020 January 19

The feast of Sto. Niño falls every January. An annual festival is held in Cebu City to honor the vision of the Santo Niño, called the Sinulog.

Our mother, the late Rosa Ubaldo Ortega gifted us twins with statues of Sto. Niño which are shown in the picture below. The stampita reproduced by Ma. Luz was given as a Christmas gift to OCDS members for 2012. She wrote: My Christmas greetings to you is not material but something long-lasting. It will enable you to be a dedicated Secular Carmelite. It includes: 1. Novena to the Child Jesus of Prague; Handouts of the OCDS Philippines Formators Congress held from November 29 to "December 2, 2012;

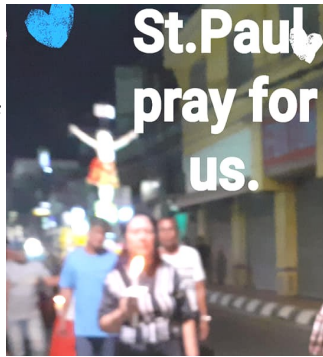
LOH Calendar; Pictures taken; Report of Formation; Poster given by National Commission of the Fifth Birth Centenary of St. Teresa of Avila; and The Catholic Daily Bible Reading Guide.



4) Patronal Feasts of St. Paul and St. William _

Archbishop Emeritus Ernesto Salgado, D.D. graces the feast celebrations.

Ortega Twins, best friends caring genuinely about each other. Although twin Ma. Nila lives at Vigan City, the seat of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Nueva Segovia while twin Ma. Luz remains at the City of San Fernando, La Union, their birthplace in 1954, they will never truly be apart, for they grew to the same beat of their mother's heart, Rosa Ubaldo Ortega. The diocese of San Fernando de La Union was established in 1970 from the Archdiocese of Nueva Segovia.



L –R : Procession at Vigan; San Fernando

On January 24, 2020, twin Luz arrives at Vigan on time for the procession at 6 in the evening for the Feast of St. Paul. And on February 10, Nila is at San Fernando for the Feast of St. William.



L –R : Mass at Vigan; San Fernando



5) Presentation of the Lord _ February 1

As Catholics, we commemorate when our Lady dedicated herself to God entirely. Mary was born without original sin, but she still needed an environment conducive to her nature. She needed her parents. Mary's first educators were Saints Joachim and Anne.

Similarly, parents are responsible for forming their children and each of them have a purpose to fulfill. During Mary's time, according to the law of Moses, presenting a child in the temple was a means of purification. Today we have baptism. In baptizing our children we are making the first step in introducing them to God,

2020 February 11 _ Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes

We twins are members of the Confraternity of Our Lady of Lourdes. The Confraternity at San Fernando, La Union is made up of several members who meet on the First Sunday of the month. As members we celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes; we visit those in prison and conduct grotto visitations.



February 25—Grotto Visitation at the residence of sev-
Mr. & Mrs. Danny Bolong Jr. Sat-
cele-

6) Feast of Our Lady of Candelaria_ February 2

We celebrate, today, the glorious event of Jesus being presented in the Temple by Mary and Joseph. Simeon, a “righteous and devout” man, had been waiting for this moment throughout his life. The passage above is what he spoke when the moment finally arrived.

The traditional blessing of candles, which are brought home by devotees and pilgrims, like the palms (palaspas) on Palm Sunday. Pilgrims believe that the blessed candle will protect them against evil, harm, and misfortune.



The Church also commemorates the Solemnity of the Presentation of the Lord. Also known as Candlemas Day, many Catholic churches will hold the traditional procession of blessed candles to remind the faithful that “Jesus is the Light of the world, who, by His birth, saved the human race from eternal damnation and expelled the darkness of evil and death.”

7) Feast of St. Blaise_ February 3

We should also ask St. Blaise his protection against any spiritual ailment — profanity, cursing, unkind remarks, detraction or gossip. St. James reminds us, "If a man who does not control his tongue imagines that he is devout, he is self-deceived; his worship is pointless" (1:26) and later, "We use [the tongue] to say, Praised be the Lord and Father'; then we use it to curse men, though they are made in the likeness of God. Blessing and curse come out of the same mouth. This ought not to be, my brothers!" (3:9-10).



Therefore, may St. Blaise protect us from all evil, physical and spiritual, which may attack the throat.

8) Ash Wednesday_ February 26

Ash Wednesday derives its name from the placing of repentance ashes on the foreheads of participants to either the words "Repent, and believe in the Gospel" or the dictum "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." The ashes are prepared by burning palm leaves from the previous year's Palm Sunday.

Due to COVID-19, the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) issued Circular No. 20-06 released on Thursday, February 20, for additional liturgical guidelines and precautions to reduce the risk of transmission of the 2019 novel coronavirus (nCoV), especially during Holy Week.



The priests shall sprinkle or drop small portions of blessed ash on the crown of the head during the imposition of Ashes on Ash Wednesday. **“And your Father who sees in secret will repay you.”**

13.3 Religious Organizations

1) Confraternity of Our Mother of Perpetual Help

on the occasion of the
50th Foundation Anniversary of the
DIOCESE OF LA UNION



1

Place: The Holy Family Parish,
Sudipen



St. William's Cathedral



2

Parish Priest: Rev.
Fr. Ryan C. Abellera re-
ceived the



3

Place: St. Joseph Parish, Bagulin
Date: Nov 27, 2019 (AM)
Parish Priest: Rev. Benjie
Manzano



4

Place: Our Lady of the Holy
Rosary Parish, Sevilla
Date: Nov 27, 2019 (PM)
Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. Jojo Quesada

2) Confraternity of Our Lady of Lourdes



July 2013 -Crowning of Our Lady
of Lourdes by the Ortega Twins



Confraternity of Our of Lourdes president
Tina Zambrano receives Ortega twins book
on God the Father from Luz.

3) Mother Butlers Mission Guild

Mother Marie Joseph Butler, an Irish nun of the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary, founded the Mother Butlers Mission Guild in New York, and later on in Los Angeles, California. She encouraged her students and the alumnae of their schools to sew vestments and linens, as well as procure sacred vessels to be used for Holy Mass and other liturgical celebrations. These were then distributed to needy parishes. This was to ensure that Jesus in the Eucharist was never left unattended on altars of churches, especially in depressed areas. In the late fifties, this same love for the Eucharist inspired some Catholic lay women who came in contact with the schools Mother Butler had founded to begin the apostolate of providing poor parishes in the Philippines with liturgical paraphernalia.



Mama Rosa Ortega, OCDS and MBMG member just like daughter Nila

4) Altar Keepers Society

An Altar Keeper's Society was formed at the St. William's Cathedral during the term of Fr. Froilan Saluta, parish priest. It is a group of laypersons who maintain the ceremonial objects used in worship. The next parish priest, Fr. Samuel Banayat requested the Altar Keeper's Society to have the four statues at the Altar of Saints: St. Roque, St. Anthony of Padua, St. Rita of Cascia and St. Martin de Porres repaired at Sto. Tomas. A project under Charter President (2007-2009) Ma. Luz O. Bolong was the restoration of the statues of the four saints and provided chandelier. In honor of the great number of holy men and women who dedicated and sacrificed their lives for the sake of the Kingdom of God. With reverence we gaze upon their images. May we be inspired to follow their life example, so that we can attain personal sanctification and eternal salvation.



Fr. Froilan Saluta formed the Altar Keepers Society



Restored four statues and donated five-sided table stand for statues.



9. Make Way! (Make Way!) For The King Of Kings! Christ The King

On November 18, 2020 at the Evaristo-Rosa Ortega Ancestral Home, I went outside our Ortega Twins Haven door to look at the statue of Christ the King which previously I mistook as the statue of the God the Father. I removed it from its place facing the Gov. Lucero Street and put it on top of a table. Then, I asked Nila her opinion and she told me that all that the statue needs is a “bath” just like what she did for the statue of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel which we used when we had our shooting.

At the Sea and Sky College I asked Architect Jimmy Suguitan of his suggestion whether

1. Nila to wash the statue with soap
2. Jimmy to paint the statue
3. Tony Belleza to paint the statue

He preferred Tony to do the work.

I called Tony Belleza the following day to avail his painting services. “Yes, your architect came to see me and I agreed to pick the statue at your house.” On November 20 I dropped by the shop of Tony and he was just starting to paint. He was charging me a minimal amount of P300.00. I gave him P200.00 deposit.



On November 21, I dropped by Belleza’s shop and he was still painting the statue. He said some repair work has to be done. I gave P200.00 because I had anticipated a P500.00 budget for the work.

Evelyn Halog requested that she leave early for they are praying for the soul of her father-in-law. We left Sea and Sky College together and I went to the shop of Belleza. Tony’s son told me that his father is at St. Jude Church. With the statue I proceeded to St. Jude at Poro, San Fernando City, La Union. Tony was at the church gate when I arrived. He was waiting for Mrs. Baladad who also requested him to repaint the statue of Christ the King.

I went inside the church and was delighted to see the altar prepared for the celebration of the Christ the King. At the Parish office I inquired about their celebration. Coincidentally, it was Mrs. Baladad whom I met. Together we went to the church and waited for Tony Belleza to put the statue he repainted. Actually, it is a Family religious sacramental left behind by our loved ones particularly our mother Rosa Ubaldo Ortega, OCDS. It is newly repainted through my inspiration.

I proceeded to the Twins Haven to dress up for the 4:30 P.M. mass. I called up my husband Danny to pick me up just the same. Earlier I told him I was busy at school and we just see each other for mass Sunday 5:15 at St. William Cathedral. But because of the turn of events I am join-

At church I could not contain my happiness to see my statue at the altar so while mass was on going I took a photo of the priest saying mass. After mass I told Danny to join me at the altar proudly telling him that I brought the statue. Here is my photo with Christ The King and my husband, praising God for a good family relationship in spite of different views.



It was a pleasant surprise to see my daughter Mari Diane Bolong– De Leon and Family outside the church. I wanted to call her but because of time constraints and besides they are old enough to decide for themselves, I opted not to call. I was in a hurry to go and see Nila. I learned Danny ate at Maridi's house, our first house with Danny at Poro.




You Are Loved!
God wants you to know Him and enjoy His magnificence. Take a few minutes now to discover how you can begin a personal relationship with Him.

If there is something good of the pandemic it is the mass attendance of my husband two days in a week _ Saturday anticipated mass which I join him if not busy with the computerization of our work by Evelyn Halog and Sunday first mass in the morning which I regularly attend with Danny at the St. William Cathedral.

Danny and I were seated together at the church and unfortunately leaves during Holy Communion. Since he already receives Holy Communion Saturday he does not understand the importance of receiving again Holy Communion Sunday. Well, time will enlighten his mind that mass

The diocese of San Fernando de La Union cancelled the festive and grand procession of Christ the King within the province, and instead the celebration is done by each barangay in the parish due to the Pandemic.



A Prayer to Christ the King

O Jesus Christ,
 I acknowledge You as universal King.
 All that has been made,
 has been created for You.
 Exercise all Your rights over me.
 I renew my Baptismal Vows.
 I renounce Satan, his pomps and his works,
 I promise to live as a good Christian.
 And, in particular do I pledge myself to labour,
 to the best of my ability,
 for the triumph of the rights of God
 and of Your Church.
 Divine Heart of Jesus,
 to You do I offer my poor services,
 labouring that all hearts
 may acknowledge Your sacred kingship
 and that thus, the reign of Your peace,
 be established throughout the whole universe.
 Amen *Anastpaul18*



At 95 years old vibrant faith in Christ.

After the mass, we twins proceeded to the altar to have a souvenir photo with Christ the King. Luz sprayed perfume in the area where Christ is seated as King. While going out at the Cathedral I was approached by flower vendors. I am glad I bought some.

As a finale, we twins headed for St. Jude Church. I gave Nila the perfume and I offered the



We brought home the statue of Christ the King at the Ancestral Home.

*Angels, saints and nations sing
 "Praised be Jesus Christ, our King;
 Lord of life, earth sky and sea,
 King of love on Calvary."*

Hymn for Christ the King

flowers to Christ the King.

Giant Jesus statues: standing tall with arms outstretched

—a symbol of peace, protection, and blessing.

By: Maria Luz O. Bolong

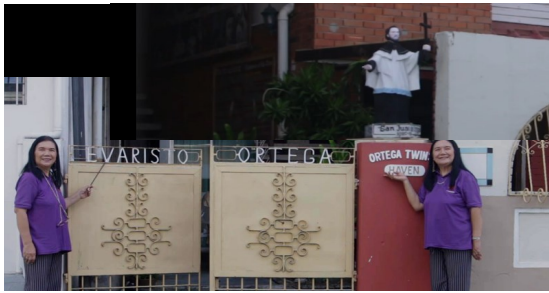
My twin Nila and I have been together since June 10, 2020 staying at Ortega the Evaristo-Rosa Ortega Ancestral Home located at 11 Governor Lucero St., City of San Fernando, La Union. We named the second floor as Twins Haven. It is where we twins stay together whenever twin Nila goes home to San Fernando from Vigan.

Our unplanned drive up to the Christ the Redeemer Statue on December 2, 2020 is worth recalling and sharing.

We are indeed blessed for as we get in and out of the house, we could see the huge image of Christ the Redeemer. In going up to the statue at the Hill top or Reservoir Hill, there are two routes: Governor Lucero Street via Lubrin Heights and the other through corner Zandueta street.

After attending the birthday celebration of Rosedilla Marquez, we dropped the Maguio sisters, Cion and Christy to the house of fellow member Urbana Ancheta at Zandueta street. Since I am not a good driver, rather than backing the car I went forward. Anyway, I knew there is a lot where I could turn. Unfortunately, It was already closed. Without wide area to maneuver the car to turn I kept going up the street just like our going to Pias earlier. It turned out that we were entering a narrow and steep way, without knowing where it was leading us.

A big surprise, we were at Christ the Redeemer statue, one of the popular tourist spots at San Fernando, La Union.



Still confused or frightened, I was disoriented, and just can't figure out

For Posterity's sake

On December 9, with driver Lito, we twins had our photos taken for this article. Then Nila saw the real location of the stairs used for the stations of the cross. We attended the stations of the cross on March 30, 2018.



See me, my hands outstretched following Christ the Redeemer. Indeed, our unplanned visit to the Christ the Redeemer had a purpose _ it taught us that the statues of Christ the King and Christ the King could both be standing tall with arms outstretched —a symbol of peace, protection, and blessing.



Stations of the Cross

On May 22, 2011, members of the St. Teresa of Avila Community went on a pilgrimage at the "Kamay ni Jesus", located in Lucban, Quezon Province. Wearing comfortable attire with rubber shoes, twin Luz climbed up the almost 300-step to the



We the Ortega twins were fortunate to have visited Rio de Janeiro in 2017. In fact, it was a memorable one because the visit was on the feast of Christ the King. However, in my research, for the year 2020, the Feast of Christ the King is November 22 while the feast of the Most Holy Redeemer is on October 23.

The most famous statue of Jesus is also considered the largest Art Deco statue in the world. It is the 5th largest statue of Jesus in the world with a height of 30 meters (98 ft) – not including its 8 meters (26 ft) pedestal. The statue's arms stretch 28 meters (92 ft) wide. It is located at the peak of the 700-meter (2,300 ft) Corcovado mountain. The statue has become an icon for Rio de Janeiro and Brazil's most famous monument. It was constructed between 1926 and 1931. In July 2007, the Christ the Redeemer was declared as one of the New Seven Wonders of the World.

Overlooking the city of Lisbon, this Cristo Rei (Christ the King), statue was inspired by the Christ the Redeemer statue in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil after the Cardinal Patriarch of Lisbon visited that monument. The monument consists of a trapezoidal pedestal of 82 metres (269 ft) height, formed by four arches and a flat platform, supporting the 28 metres (92 ft) image of Christ. The four arches of the pedestal are oriented in the directions of the compass rose. At the base of the statue is the observation deck, at 82 metres (269 ft), which enables panoramic views of the city of Lisbon, the Tagus River and the 25 de Abril Bridge. Year of completion: 1959

Romans 8:28- And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.



1931
Christ the Redeemer
(Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.)



1959
Christ the King
(Lisbon)



Nov. 24, 2018
Pacifico "Chicoy" Argel,
Nila's husband poses with
a huge Christ statue

12.6 No more adventure with Luz driving

We twins love celebrations, so every time we get invited to a party, we attend as long as there are no previous commitments or we are not busy.

Luz said, "I received a message but there is no name of sender. It says, Good morning ma'am today is Wednesday, our Novena, and am very very thankful for another added year to my present age. I am inviting you at our house for a lunch today. Hope to see you this 6 am mass."

During Communion, I saw Manang Cristy and Rosedilla. I asked whose birthday is today. Rosedilla said, it's my birthday and see you at lunch. We are all members of the Confraternity of Our Mother of Perpetual Help . Manang Christy and Manang Cion, Baguio sisters were our companions in going to Pias. Good because we don't know the place.

At 11:30 we fetched them in front of the St. William's Cathedral. I asked Manang Christy if she knows where the house of Rosedilla is. She said yes. When I saw the signage Welcome to Pias, I said, we have arrived. But Manang Christy said, it is not yet here, go on. When we were already going up, up, I suspected we were going the wrong way. Luz said, take a look at the San Fernando Bay. I told Luz many times that we go back, but since it is hard for her to turn back, I kept silent. But, figuring that we might reach the top of the hill if we don't go back, I said turn back now. I insisted, and good we were able to turn successfully. Really, if you can overlook the San Fernando Bay, then we have already gone up to a steep hill. When driving into or out of these places, not all of these locations have room for your car to get back, specially if you are not a professional driver.

When we had reached the home of Rosedilla, we heaved a great sigh of relief. See the arrow I placed on the cemented stairs on the left? It is the stairs going up to the house of Rosedilla. When I said, "we have arrived," we actually did. But things do happen. Right? Anyway, God spared us from accident and we enjoyed the sumptuous food prepared by the celebrant. By the way, Rosedilla is an agriculturist and when we were leaving, her next visitors were office-mates from the Department of Agriculture.

Here's a little history. My twin sister is the more adventurous between us twins. I can drive only on straight road. If I go up, surely I slid down. The farthest place I reached is at Narvacan, Ilocos Sur and going north, to Cabugao, Ilocos Sur. My twin had tried going up to Baguio, and to Vigan City, Ilocos Sur. But now that we are seniors, I resolve no more adventure with Luz, not knowing what will happen to us next if we go on driving to an unknown place.

