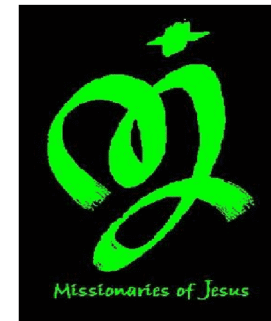


FRIENDS & DISCIPLES

USA DISTRICT



ANNIVERSARY ISSUE JUNE 2006





THE COMMUNITY OF THE MISSIONARIES OF JESUS

The Missionaries of Jesus (MJ) is an international and multicultural religious missionary community. It was founded in the Philippines on 12 June 2002 by a group of forty-one men called and inspired by the mission and humanity of Jesus, who calls us to “make disciples of all nations” (Mt.28:19)

We are sent to frontier situations to witness and proclaim to the nations the presence and the coming of God’s Reign. With deep respect and in a spirit of dialogue, we approach peoples of other cultures, traditions, and faiths. We firmly believe that the inculturation of the gospel is a mutual enrichment and critical interaction between faith and culture.

Led by the Spirit of Jesus Christ, we are challenged to give prophetic witness to and live out radically God’s option for the poor with whom we live and act in solidarity. We work for and are in solidarity with the marginalized sectors of society, e.g., the indigenous communities, the urban poor, migrant workers, refugees, and displaced populations. We are partners in their aspiration for a new humanity rooted in Jesus Christ. Our objective is the promotion of the universality of the Christian message through presence (witness and dialogue of Life), proclamation, and prayer.

At present, we are working in the Philippines in the Diocese of Antipolo, the Apostolic Vicariate of Baguio, the Archdiocese of Davao, the Prelature of Marawi, the Apostolic Vicariate of San Jose in Occidental Mindoro, and in various places in Metro-Manila. We are also engaged in the Diocese of Lae in Papua New Guinea and in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles in the USA.

MISSIONARIES OF JESUS

435 S. Occidental Blvd

Los Angeles, CA 90057

Tel# 1 213 389 8439 Fax#1 213 389 1951

E-mail address: missionaries_of_jesus_usa@yahoo.com

or

P.O.Box 172, Araneta Center

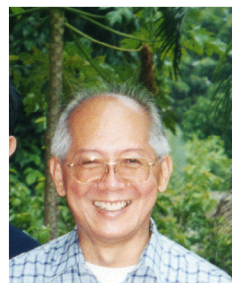
Cubao, Quezon City

Philippines 1135

E-mail address: missionaries_of_jesus@yahoo.com

Visit our website <http://www.freewebs.com/missionariesofjesus/>.

From the general coordinator...



A TIME TO BUILD UP

Today twenty-six years ago, on a Saturday, the 24th of March 1980, the archbishop of San Salvador, Oscar

Arnulfo Romero, was felled by an assassin’s lone bullet as he was celebrating the Eucharist in the Chapel of the Divine Providence Hospital. Just over a month later, on a Thursday, the 1st of May, Father Conrado de la Cruz, one of the first two Filipino missionaries to work in Guatemala, together with a lay Guatemalan catechist were kidnapped a few meters away from the Metropolitan Cathedral of Guatemala City. Scores of labor leaders, students and committed Christians also disappeared that day. They or their remains were never found. Today, the 12th of June, Independence Day in the Philippines, lot of people will be taking to the streets to join the protests against the Arroyo government. More likely than not, people would get hurt, or killed. “For what?” one might ask. “For what did the Archbishop die? For what did Father Conrado die?” We are still asking.

Impelled by the Spirit that anointed him, Jesus proclaims a message of grace and liberation to the poor. What disappointed his town mates, what eventually would become the basis for their rejection of Jesus as the Messiah, was his intentional omission of the end of Isaiah’s text (61.2b): ***and the day of vengeance of our God***. They expected a messiah who will avenge them by bringing down the Romans. They expected a swift and violent revolution, and were looking for

someone who would bring it about. Actually Jesus turned the world upside down and brought about the most radical revolution ever known and will ever be known. But it was not what they were expecting. They did not realize that they were hopelessly trying to prevent the revolution that will transform the world, but in God's own good time. Not when they wanted it. And not how they wanted it.

"Revolutions are a strange thing," muses the American Benedictine Joan Chittister. "They give us a wild sense of triumph and, at the same time, they confront us with the fragility of victory ..." In a way our little revolution succeeded. The Missionaries of Jesus came to be. Now we are beginning to notice that harping on what we wanted to change will not suffice to proceed. There comes a moment in our life as a group when we must dedicate ourselves to creating our future. And that is hard work.

The Sage of the Book of Ecclesiastes hints at what we can and should be doing at this stage. The author delivers his message in couplets: "a time to break down, and a time to build up." There was a lot of breaking down. All of us were hurt. Some almost got broken. Now it's time to rebuild. And the trouble is (if haven't noticed it yet!) God does not provide us with a clean slate. We are to work with the same materials. Rebuilding means doing it with the very same people who did the tearing down, our very same selves. "Rebuilders look to the rainbow with the eye of a Noah. They intend to save as well as to flee, to begin as well as to end, yes to repeat the good things of life on a higher key. They do not deter easily, and because of them the human spirit has lived on from one fiasco to the next, always better, always with the faith of the unfalteringly simple who have heard the word of God and have been foolish to believe" (Chittister). They are called many names - rebels, power grabbers, troublemakers, or more flatteringly perhaps, reformers and liberators. But they are first of all believers, ordinary creatures gone wild with hope, drunk with the possibility of a better tomorrow.

That was why Romero was killed, why Conrado was killed. They got drunk with hope, with the vision of a better tomorrow for Central America. They wanted to rebuild a more humane society and truly believed it was possible. That is why today, on Independence Day, Filipinos will go to the streets to risk life and limb because they, too, have drunk from the cup of hope - God's promise of a better tomorrow.

Isn't this the very reason why our community, the Missionaries of Jesus, was born at a time Christianity seems on the downswing in the First World? Why we came to be when many religious groups are folding up in so many parts of the Christian world? This is also the reason why we shall continue to build up from where we broke off. Just like the first disciples we have partaken of the Lord's meal. We have drunk from his cup. We are learning that, often, in the following of Jesus, in the task of building up courage is the fear that has held on a minute longer. How many times did we hold on when we were just about to give up? There lies the true strength of a simple disciple - the habit of giving God a last chance to prove himself to us, albeit it *is* God who keeps providing us limitless opportunities to show our true mettle.

Congratulations to the members of the American District of the Missionaries of Jesus. Congratulations to the parishioners of Precious Blood and St. Kevin for everything that has been accomplished during the past couple of years. With all the difficulties inherent to the founding years of a community, we are slowly realizing that we don't give up on a dream. We build on it.

Enhorabuena! Mabuhay!

Wilfredo T. Dulay mj
Coordinator General

from the district coordinator...



This is the third year that we celebrate our MJ Family Day here in the US. It is a celebration that recognizes God's blessings to the Missionaries of Jesus through you, our families and friends that continue to journey with us. It is a celebration of our mission companioning in making sure that we remain faithful to God's mission.

Celebration connotes public recognition and proclamation of who we are – our story and our history and the people who partner with us. It is to honor all that has been given, received and shared. It is openness to how God continues to write our story, using our families, friends, and all MJ missionaries, living and deceased, as ink.

As God writes on a canvass prepared for us, we allow God's hand to direct our movement. With us as the ink to which God writes our story, let those who read see through us not just the MJ story, but The Story of our loving God who has remained faithful to us and to the whole history of humanity's struggle towards total well being.

The MJ logo depicts this even more graphically. It is a movement from the inside reaching outwards – a call to mission if you may. It is a free and flowing movement, much like the rendering of an Asian calligraphic master. The heart shape that sets the parameter of this one stroke movement determines its provenance, its present praxis and its intent. The neon green background exudes life at its fullest. And yes, the cross on top brings us back to the memory of Jesus.

As we gather, we recommit ourselves towards journeying together in celebrating our passion for God's mission!

Rev. Michael Montoya, MJ
MJ-USA District Coordinator

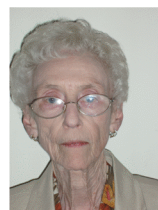
Greetings from ...



Les M. Rangel-Santos [with Monica, Daniel (10) and Lorenzo (8)]
Pastoral Manager, St. Kevin Church, LA
Pastoral Musician, Precious Blood Church, Los Angeles

"Like a shepherd I will feed you. I will gather you with care. I will lead you and hold you close to my heart..."

My family and I have come to know the MJ through the grace of God. Our relationship with the MJ has continued to be a blessing and privilege for us in the service of the People of God. The MJ, no doubt, follow the example of the Good Shepherd. I see this in their love and care for people, their commitment to the edification of the Body of Christ, and in the joy in which they live out their MJ vocation. How wonderful they have been to the twin parishes of Precious Blood and St. Kevin! The Good Shepherd continues to bless the work He has begun in the MJ, and this reverberates throughout the two communities here in Los Angeles. I look forward to the exciting MJ years ahead, when the fruits of prayer and labor come to fruition. The process of getting there will be the best part of this journey for me and my family.



I am **Sr. Patricia Smith, B.V.M.** At present, I am the Business Manager of Precious Blood Parish. My sincere congratulations to the Missionaries of Jesus on the fourth anniversary of their foundation I am happy to be here working with them and helping them get established in Precious Blood Parish. I pray for the continued growth of their community and wish them great success in the future as they continue to work for God's people in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles and throughout the world.....



Congratulations and many thanks, Missionaries of Jesus on your 4th Anniversary!

Greetings! My name is **Carlos Magos**. I was ordained permanent deacon on June in the year 2002. Since that time I have worked at Precious Blood as a permanent deacon, and since May of last year(2005) I also worked at St. Kevin as their deacon.

In the year 2003 Fathers Mike Montoya MJ, Melchor Villero MJ and Gino Santos MJ were assigned to Precious Blood. Later on, the Parish of St. Kevin was also placed under their care. Last year, Fathers Manuel Gacad MJ and Enrique Ymson MJ joined us in our parishes.

Since then I've had the pleasure and privilege of working alongside them. I would like to congratulate our Missionaries of Jesus on their fourth anniversary, and I'd like to thank God for having brought them to us. Personally, I think that it has been a blessing for our parishes to have them with us. They are working hard to bring the people together as one family.

Once again, my congratulations and gratitude to our Missionaries!



Greetings.

My name is **Symeon Rendall Yee**, currently the Director of Faith Formation at two Missionaries of Jesus (M.J.) Parishes; St. Kevin and Precious Blood. I am originally from the Fiji Islands, now living in Los Angeles. Having traveled widely under different pastoral circumstances, one of my most precious

stays was in the Philippines. While in the Philippines I lived in Quezon City for a year, taking up a few courses at the Institute for Formation and Religious Studies. I also had the opportunity to participate in some pastoral work with the sick at a St. Camillus facility in Marikina.

I have been privileged to journey with the MJ for close to a year now and it has been the most rewarding and enriching moments of my pastoral ministry. One of my most significant reflections about this journey with the MJ has been their authentic response to mission, living it out in the day to day lives of the people. The faith accompaniment I have experienced with the MJ is a grateful opportunity which is truly gift. Thank you and congratulations to the Missionaries of Jesus.



My name is **Edith Tolentino-Fadriquela** and I come from Baguio City, Philippines. I work as an administrative assistant for MJ-USA and I help Fr Manny with our Mission Appeals to the entire Archdiocese and Diocese in the United States. I am also in charge of sending out all communications to all our benefactors.

When I started my work with the MJ-USA, I felt as if it was a homecoming for me (I worked with the old group for 20 years) because it was a time to renew friendship and again meet friends who have been a part of who I am today.

I was so amazed to work with MJ-USA and see the perseverance, sincerity, patience and commitment to their work so they can reach their goals and dreams for the Missionaries of Jesus. I know in the near future they will reap all the blessings and share this with all those in need.

Keep sailing on our 4th year...keep going...keep smiling till we reach our dreams for the MJ family.



My name is **Ana I. Tobar** and I have been with the community of St. Kevin Church for 30 years. I started as a volunteer in the rectory helping with the mailing and translating the bulletin. After the lady who was working in the rectory retired, the pastor at that time invited me to work for them. I've been working for St. Kevin's for almost ten years now. The first MJ I met was Fr. Gino Santos. He was here with us only for a short time, but he did a great job. I still remember that time when Fr. Gino told me that he had to go back to the Philippines. I felt very sad. Many of us did not want him to leave because we liked the work he was doing for our people. For example he started to do our Christmas novena masses in Spanish and English. He was trying to have both groups (Filipinos and Hispanics) to work together. Then I met Fr. Mike, Fr. Melchor and Fr. Benedict. All of them were cool. Soon after, Fr. Manny and Fr. Ike arrived. I really like the way they all work because their priority is to form the community into one family and one Body of Christ. One of the best experiences I had was the Holy Week 2006. It was the first time I was present in all the activities in this church of St. Kevin. All the ceremonies were bilingual (Spanish and English). Everybody worked together, the old and young too. I thought it was wonderful! It's so easy to love and care for each of the MJs because they make you feel like you are one of their own family members. We could talk to them and they listen to you. They share what they have and they don't mind who you are. They go the extra mile to help you if they can. Fr. Manny and Fr. Ike are doing their best to learn Spanish and I see that they really care for our people. In my opinion, God has finally blessed us by sending the MJs to our community. Now we sure are "alive".



My name is **Rosalinda Grajeda**. I have been working at St. Kevin's Parish for a year now. My work here began in May of 2005 and this was also the beginning of my experience with the Missionaries of Jesus (MJ). Since meeting the MJs, I have found their presence enriching because together we work and serve the community in their needs. The simplicity they bring to the work environment is encouraging as I am always blessed with their informal conversations each time they come into the office. Being here with the MJs at St Kevin enables me to feel a strong commitment also to my own ministry in the Church. Being a Catechist at another Parish, my work at St. Kevin gives meaning to my ministry. This is very encouraging to me. Looking back over the past year, it has certainly been one of blessing. I thank especially the MJs for their blessings in ministry that they bring to us in the Parish. My commitment is to continue to journey with the Missionaries of Jesus as we accompany each other in ministry.

PREPARING FOR A NEW MISSION ASSIGNMENT....

Ike Ymson mj



our first task in approaching another people, another culture, another religion, is to take off our shoes; for the place we are approaching is holy. Else we may find ourselves treading on another's dream. More serious still, we may forget that God was there before our arrival.

For Frs. Manuel Gacad and Enrique Ymson, it was a time for taking off their shoes and going 'barefoot'. After several years of working in their home country, the Philippines, they received a new mission assignment...to join the USA MJ team based in two parishes in Los Angeles. Fr. Manny left the RP on June 13, 2005. Two months later, on August 20, Fr. Ike followed. For a smoother and more meaningful integration into their new missionary task, they went through two programs: **language studies** and a **cultural orientation** offered by the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.

Language Studies

The predominant languages used in the two parishes given to the care of MJ are Spanish and English. 70%-80% of the parishioners are Hispanics. Not so long after their respective arrivals in LA, the two newcomers left for Antigua, Guatemala for a month-long intensive language studies. And intensive it was! 6 days a week, 8 hours a day of Latin American Spanish. They woke up and slept and even dreamt in Spanish. Coming

back to LA after their studies, they discover that the agony (and joy) they experienced in beautiful Antigua was nothing compared to the agony (and joy) of actually having to communicate with their parishioners in their native language. At present, with the help of some parish personnel, they regularly celebrate the Eucharist in Spanish. They are also giving their homilies in Spanish. Manny and Ike have no problem understanding what they are saying in Spanish. The question is: do the people understand what they are saying? That is another matter altogether!

Cultural Orientation

Part of the program of the Archdiocese of LA to welcome and support international ministers working in the Archdiocese is invite them to attend the **CULTURAL ORIENTATION PROGRAM FOR INTERNATIONAL MINISTERS (COPIM)**. The program consists of three sessions of 3 days each. The three sessions were spread out in a period of six months. In the recently concluded program which Manny and Ike attended, there were a little over 30 participants. Most of the participants were Hispanic priests from Mexico, Guatemala, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Peru and Columbia. The others came from India, Nigeria, Croatia, Korea, Poland, and the Philippines.

In these sessions, the topics discussed were *culture, the American culture and the diverse cultures we find in our parishes and the tensions arising from this diversity, different kinds of theologies and how they are manifested in our parishes*. Particular current issues like *homosexuality, sexual abuse, liturgical renewal, alcoholism, change and grieving, feminist theology, collegiality and collaboration* were also reflected on.

COPIM was a very meaningful experience for Manny and Ike...not only for the relevant topics and issues. The interaction and sharing of experiences, fears, tensions, frustrations and

joys were very enriching. They clarified and offered new insights on the reality of the Church, the parishes in the US and the role of the ordained minister in such a context.

Learning is ongoing...

During all this time, Frs. Manny and Ike have realized that they are never too old to learn...and in fact, it is when they stop learning that they grow old. They also discovered that while a lot of learning can come from schools, books, seminars and conferences, it is when you enter into the lives of people, listen to their stories, eat at their tables, understand their dreams and share their pains that learning truly comes to LIFE !

Doing Old Things in a New Way

by Manny Gacad, mj



Novenas. Block rosary prayer. Thanksgiving Day. The fiesta of Our lady of Guadalupe. Posadas. Simbang Gabi. Stations of the Cross. Passion Sunday. The Salubong (Encuentro). Traditional fold religiosity? Well, yes, but not really...I mean, not with MJ in LA. Here in LA, we do some old things in a new way.

Since I arrived here in June last year, I have witnessed these colorful novenas and dramatic prayer-based celebrations a lot of times. Even if they are familiar to me and to the people who participate, I wouldn't call them traditional any more. The spirit with which these traditional things are done is what

makes them new and which makes us who do them feel high. How so and why so?

In this land of immigrants, the novena for San Lorenzo Ruiz, the Filipino martyred in Japan, lends meaning to their own life stories. When they gathered for the nine days of prayer in different homes, they told their own stories as people crossing borders and living a new life in new and sometimes threatening surroundings. The block rosary novenas, also at home, was another chance to focus on their experience as family here in the U.S. In the Posada, where Joseph and Mary look for a welcoming place for the Child, they told their stories of being strangers in this place, their problems about rent, the safety of their streets, the drug and alcohol problem breaking families apart, and so on. All told, these were evenings of full of emotion and passion. At times, in these religious gatherings they tell each other what they like about each other as cultural or ethnic group. A delicate yet a purifying process.

Multi-culturality and diversity is so L. A. These feature in the novenas and the spiritual exercises. Bilingualism is the code word that stands for our community wanting to integrate cultural treasures and heritages into our gatherings for worship and meetings. For the block rosary, for instance, people would pray a decade in Spanish and the next decade in English. In October during the rosary month, we started a new gimmick; those used to praying in English would pray in Spanish and those in Spanish will try praying in English. At first, the protest was: but we are not familiar with the language! The next day, we printed out the prayers in both languages. Initially stammering, then, smiling, until little by little a certain smoothness and fascination at the new language of prayer, came! Some exclamations: *We never thought would pray in a different language!* I overheard some Filipinos remark: *why did we not take seriously our Spanish when we were in college?* I'm sure the Hispanics came to similar realizations. When you dare to make your dreams come true, you yourself will be surprised!

For Advent / novena for Christmas, we combine two cultural devotions alternately each evening: the Filipino Simbang Gabi (night mass) and the Latin American Posada. And, oh yes! How can I not talk of the food that always overflows whenever we have these intercultural encounters! The names of food stuffs are by now familiar; also, the effects of food served after prayers are equally familiar. Our Filipinos must be ready with a lot of paper napkins, a lot of water, and probably fans, when taking Mexican food. Pansit and lumpia have a favored status among our Hispanics. But most of all, hearty and loud laughter almost brings the house crashing down when a Hispanic says: *I like puto!* This native Filipino delicacy has a 'delicate' translation in Latin American parlance.

Yes, over here in L.A. with the M.J., there is a fascinating way of doing old things in new ways. When we open our cultural treasures and share them, we become new, too.

Mj in Washington D.C....

Mike Montoya mj

I am now six months into the job as the Executive Director of the United States Catholic Mission Association (USCMA). These months have gone by so fast. They are days characterized by a period of transition from Los Angeles to Washington, DC, from parish ministry to an administrative position in a national office, from living in a community to being alone. They were months of meetings, getting to know people, and yes, getting familiar with my new location. I have had meetings in West Africa, New York, Chicago, Indiana, and soon will be in California. And within these months, I had to go to the Philippines for the General Assembly of the MJ, and also participate in a Mission Conference in Manila. "Busy schedule" is an understatement!

USCMA is an association of lay and religious members who are involved in missionary activity. It unites and supports people committed to the cross-cultural and global mission of Jesus Christ in service to Church and world. Our efforts are geared towards the integration of the key elements of mission: proclamation, witness, dialogue, spirituality and prayer, reconciliation and social transformation. We maintain publications, research, conferences, and mission statistics. We collaborate and network with mission offices (congregation and diocesan), campus ministry offices, and mission oriented groups and individuals, as well as work ecumenically.

This year, USCMA celebrates its 25th anniversary as an association. While USCMA traces its roots from the Mission Secretariat of the Bishops in 1949, and which later on became the United States Catholic Mission Council, its present mode was approved by the Annual Assembly of the Board of Directors in May 1981.

Presently, we are in the process of preparing for the USCMA 25th Anniversary Annual Mission Conference: "Celebrating and Integrating Our Mission Perspectives: Short Term, Long Term, On Whose Terms?" It will be held at the University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Indiana on October 1-3, 2006. This conference invites every missionary, whether on short-term or long-term, to engage in dialogue that will deepen, inspire and renew our commitment to God's mission. We have a lot to learn from each other's rich stories of mission and from the many perspectives that our experiences allow us to see.

(For more information visit our website:

www.uscatholicmission.org)

As a member of the Missionaries of Jesus, it is an honor to contribute, however humbly, to the work of mission in the United States. Both the challenges and opportunities presented by my new assignment enkindle in me the passion for God's mission. I pray that you continue to journey with me.

Missionary Cooperative Plan(mission appeals)

The Catholic Church in the United States has a program called Missionary Cooperative Plan (MCP). Priests and religious (not necessarily priests), especially from different missionary communities all over the world, are welcomed to speak in different churches at Sunday gatherings mostly during summertime. This year, the 'Missionaries of Jesus' were given at least 28 different churches/parishes with whom to share our stories of mission. Mer Viuya, MJ will travel to Hawaii, Canada, and to one parish in the Archdiocese of Baltimore, Maryland. Mer is, of course, a veteran in this venture, popularly known as mission appeals. Joel Canuel, MJ will be in three parishes in the Diocese of Colorado Springs, Colorado and in two Dioceses in Texas, namely: El Paso and of San Angelo; a total of five weekends. Dict Lagarde, MJ will be re-visit dioceses in southern California where he has been to last year, namely: San Bernardino, of Orange, and, of course, of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. The Archdiocese of San Francisco in northern California accepted our request this year and gave us one parish to go to. Dict will have a total of 10 weekends. Apol Dulawan, MJ will be kept busy by two dioceses, Lafayette in Louisiana and of Saginaw in Michigan; a total of 11 weekends.



Welcome, Mer, Joel, Dict, and Apol, although you know that our MJ community is as much a home to you as ours who are here in the USA. Thank you for taking precious time out of your own demanding work-schedule. Enjoy the hospitality of our Catholic brothers and sisters in North America who are largely generous in their financial support for world mission. Enjoy, too, the beauty and comfort this vast country has to offer.

MJ UPDATES

1. New mission in Mindanao: After two fact-finding visits and extensive consultation with the members of the Mindanao District, the GCC decided to accept the offer of Msgr. Guillermo Afable, the bishop of Digos, for MJ to work among the **Tagakaulo tribe** in his diocese. **Ver Pozon, Naz Sawey,** and **Elmo Tactacan** will compose the first team in **Digos**. They will function as a team and be in charge of 2 mission stations.

2. Goodbye and Hello: After the Easter celebration, the Parish of Sablan, Benguet, was turned over to the Diocese of Baguio. Msgr Carlito Cenzone of the Diocese of Baguio has requested MJ for assistance in the area of campus ministry. He requested **Percy Bacani** to assume the post of Superintendent of the Baguio Diocesan schools for a period of two years while a member of the local clergy prepares himself for the position.

3. **Gino Santos** has been appointed as the third member of the Lubang team. **Gino** is replacing **Joey Evangelista**.

4. Formation work:

Joey Evangelista and **Melanio Viuya** were appointed to form the Pre-Novitiate Formation Team. **Joey** will be the Director of Aspirants while **Melanio** will be the Director of Postulants. **Wilfredo Dulay** and **Eugenio Cañete** will form the Novitiate Formation Team. **Wilfredo** will be the acting Director of Novices and **Eugene** the Assistant Director. The Novitiate will be in Antipolo, near the MJ Generalate.

5. The 5th (11th) General Assembly was held on April 26 to May 01, 2006 at the St. Francis Retreat Center in Marikina. The main theme of the Assembly was **MJ Spirituality**. **Mike Montoya** gave a reflection on ***Toward Articulating A Spirituality for the Missionaries of Jesus***. The other highlights of the Assembly were: the blessing of the new Novitiate in Antipolo, a prayerful visit to the grave of our dear **Fr. Joe Saplala**, and the mission send-off for the new team assigned to Digos. The Assembly has shown inspiring signs of MJ vitality.



PRECIOUS BLOOD CHURCH
435 S. Occidental Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90057
Tel: (213) 389-8439



ST. KEVIN CHURCH
4072 Beverly Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90004
Tel: (213) 383-8206



MJ- USA MISSION STATEMENT

***We, the MJ-USA,
friends and disciples of Jesus,
heard and responded to God's call to
mission.***

***As a community,
we partner with institutions
and all peoples of goodwill
in their passion to address issues
brought about by
exclusion and dislocation,
fear and resignation,
isolation and marginalization.***

***The multi-cultural context of the
USA
colors our particular approaches
to the challenges confronted
by the communities entrusted to us.***

***Together with them
in the dialogue of life and culture,
we build inclusive communities of
faith
that celebrate and witness
to the values of the Reign of God.***

***May the Spirit of God burn within
our hearts!***