READING—LUKE 2: 1-14
Do not be afraid, for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.

REFLECTION
This Christmas stands out for me as one most different from previous Christmases. This is the first Christmas when there seems to be less merry-making going around. The food is much simpler and the gifts are much less - many of them carrying cards that say "In your name we have made a donation to those affected by the typhoon."

It may be that our Christmas this year may be less merry but it is, in fact, more truly filled with hope and with expectant joy. And it all depends on what it is that we came to find. For if we came to the stable on that first Christmas night looking for a King in noble robes attended to by servants, we would be very disappointed to find a mere child wrapped in swaddling clothes. For the kingship of the Lord as the Gospel reflects, is not to be found in these trappings of power. His power came with his ability to join us in our poverty. His wisdom and strength came in his solidarity with our vulnerability and weakness. And those who have not become strangers to the poor, see this and find a savior on Christmas Day.

This year, for us Filipinos, our Christmas will be worth celebrating, despite its apparent somber mood, because we find ourselves in deeper solidarity with the vulnerabilities of those among us who have experienced tragedy and loss. Our solidarity with our suffering brethren has transformed our celebration of Christmas from a time of merry-making to an exaltation of our finest and most noble traits as a people. And for those who look with their heart, there is cause for much rejoicing.

May this simple celebration of Christmas open our hearts to all that truly matters. When we welcome those we love and those whom we find difficult to love, may Jesus, God's compassion and forgiveness made flesh, penetrate our hearts and life there forever.

RESPONSE
Vulnerable God,
You challenge the powers that rule this world
Through the needy, the compassionate
And those who are filled with longing.
Make us hunger and thirst to see
Justice, right and solidarity prevail;
That we may see your face
And behold your peace
Through Jesus Christ. Amen.


BIRTHDAYS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>NAME</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24 DEC</td>
<td>Br. Armin Luistro FSC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 DEC</td>
<td>Fr. Gratian Murray AFSC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01 JAN</td>
<td>Br. John David Ong FSC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02 JAN</td>
<td>Br. Michael Valenzuela FSC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Imelda Rosales (Lipa FSC Community)</td>
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<tr>
<td>05 JAN</td>
<td>Br. Gregory Wright FSC</td>
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<tr>
<td>06 JAN</td>
<td>Maricar Ricalde (DLSPCH-HRDS)</td>
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</tbody>
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PAASCU REACCREDITS LSCA BASIC EDUCATION UNIT

The Philippine Accrediting Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (PAASCU) granted La Salle College Antipolo’s Basic Education Unit Level 2 reaccreditation for another five years, valid until November 2018. The result was released to LSCA last 25 November by the PAASCU Board of Directors after the 10-11 October visit.
CENTENNIAL MEMORIAL MARKER
UNVEILED AND BLESSED

A Commemorative Marker in honor of the De La Salle Brothers of the Philippine Sector was blessed on 23 December at the Central House in La Salle Green Hills. The solid-granite fountain was made to recognize all De La Salle Brothers, both foreign and local, who have served to educate the Filipino youth since the Sector’s beginning in 1911. Several Brothers were on hand for the event, including Br. Edmundo Fernandez FSC, Brother Visitor of the Lasallian East Asia District and Br. Jose Mari Jimenez FSC, Sector Leader of the De La Salle Brothers Philippines.

CONGRATULATIONS

We wish to congratulate Brs. Kenneth Martinez and Noel Hrang Lal FSC for their successful proposal defense for their doctorate and master’s thesis respectively.

CONDOLENCES

Prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of Dr. Albert Estrada, brother of Mr. Francis Estrada, member of the Investments Committee of De La Salle Philippines. Dr. Estrada passed away in the United States at the age of 73. Let us also pray for the consolation of his loved ones.

CENTRAL HOUSE ADMINISTRATION

De La Salle Philippines Central House Administration is currently on Christmas Break. Offices will resume daily operations on 6 January 2014.

DE LA SALLE PHILIPPINES CHRISTMAS MESSAGE 2013

With the inns and homes in Bethlehem crowded, Joseph and Mary had nowhere else to go but a stable. The baby Jesus, with no proper crib available, was placed in a manger. Everything about the first Christmas was humble and simple. On this dark and quiet night, the greatest night in human history, the generosity of God is revealed. “For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.”

The very same spirit of generosity flows through us when we banded together to help the victims of typhoon Haiyan. Filipinos, regardless of their background, displayed solidarity and compassion. Some opted to forego lavish celebrations, others gave what little they could, but together, we all were moved to share what we could with our brothers and sisters who are suffering.

For the past month, we HAVE already been celebrating Christmas, drawn to see Christ’s light in those who are in need and opting to live simply so that the victims of typhoon Haiyan may simply live. As we continue move forward as a nation, may the spirit of giving and simplicity remind us of the true meaning of the birth of our Lord and His significance in our lives. (http://youtu.be/t1JLck0REoo)