

# Pastor's updates

September 4, 2020



## Things you may want to know this week

- 1. WELCOME to the month of September,** the start of the “ember months.” In the Philippines where I originally came from, Christmas season starts early because they start playing Christmas songs and displaying Christmas decorations as soon as September starts. Now, I welcome the initiative of our school parents of turning our lower school parking area into a Christmas Tree Lot where they will be selling fresh cut Christmas trees from Oregon. This will happen a week after the Thanksgiving weekend. See print ads for details!
- 2. WELCOME to the parish!** The Culture Project composed of **Myra Gonzalez** (*team leader*), **Andrew Benne**, **Brianna Massey**, **Michelle Nguyen** and **Nick Schartz** are now with us staying at our parish convent. They are all young graduates from school who chose to become fulltime missionaries. We will be hosting them till May of next year. Pray for their apostolate and mission to the young people.
- 3. WELCOME to our devotions!** We started observing a devotion and praying the Novena to the Sacred Heart of Jesus today and we will be doing this every first Friday of the month, a day to honor the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Tomorrow, Saturday, we will also start our devotion and consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary every first Saturday of the month. Our Fil-Am ministry at St. Roberts will soon be doing a novena to honor the first Filipino saint, San Lorenzo Ruiz.
- 4. WELCOME donations!** Our patron saint, Robert di Turlande, was an advocate to the poor. We are so blessed to have the Saint Vincent Paul Society (SVdP) in our parish who can concretize and continue our patron's mission to the poor. However, our SVdP food supply is low at this time and so they are reaching out to parishioners to donate these items to replenish their stock: Canned Meats (chicken/Spam) - Peanut Butter - Jam (medium jars) - Canned Fruit - Apple Sauce - Cake Mixes - Frosting - Canned Peas, Carrots, Mixed Vegetables - Canned Beans with or without Meat - Soups - Pasta Sauce - Health Bars (various flavors). God bless your generosity!
- 5. WELCOME to eternal life!** My mother, **Ricarda Escobilla Zamora**, passed away peacefully last Tuesday, September 1<sup>st</sup> at home in the Philippines, surrounded by our eldest sister, Teopista and Teopista's two daughters. My mom celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday last April 27 and relatives and friends from all over the world had made arrangements to travel to the Philippines to attend her big celebration but due to pandemic all plans had been cancelled. Due to travel restrictions at this time, my younger sister, who now lives in Edmonton, Canada with her family, and I were not able to attend her funeral yesterday (September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2PM, in the Philippines) presided by Most Rev. Alberto Uy, D.D., bishop of the Diocese of Tagbilaran, my diocese of origin. I could say with utmost certainty that I am the most favorite son of my mom not because I am a priest but because I am her only son. We are only three in the family. She lived a happy and full life and she had a happy and peaceful death. What a blessing! It is a sad news but it is good news. As Christmas comes early in the Philippines, I say: *“Sleep in heavenly peace, my dear mother!”*

**Fr. Arnold**