

People and Events

'FCNY'

by REV. DR. JOSEPH G. MARABE, JCD
COORDINATOR, FILIPINO CLERGY IN NEW YORK

DURING the Spanish regime in the Philippines, whenever native clergy attempted to band themselves, they were immediately branded as 'insurrectos.' That's what happened to GomBurZa, the three priests who were executed by 'garrote', only for having been overheard they were to come together to bring 'amunitions', when actually they were only organizing a poker game in a town fiesta, to which they should bring 'ammo', that is pot money.

In this time, clericophobia has been apparently overcome. Last April 28, the Philippine Consulate General sponsored a dinner in order that the Filipino priests and deacons in greater New York might be able to ratify their Constitution and elect their officers.

The hold-over coordinator noted in thanking ConGen Cecile Rebond that the so-called 'separation-of-church-and-state' of Thomas Jefferson would only mean separation in funds and power. The rest is cooperation.

FCNY has turned the corner. Not dramati-

cally, but enough to notice that prospects for unity and collaboration are better now for themselves and for the Filipino communities. For the clerics, in mutual affirmation, pastoral consultation, friendship; for the communities, disappearance of competition, suspicion, monopoly of charisms.

The yield curve predicts growth. Only if the clergy could improve the balance sheet of personalities.

As Reinhold Neibuhr opines - "There ought to be a club in which preachers and journalists could come together and have the sentimentalism of one matched with the cynicism of the other. That ought to bring them pretty close to the truth." ■



Lito Biala (far right), rehearses with friends Ratthana Leng (far left) and Mike Huynh (middle) for the school's talent show and competition at Shakopee High School in Shakopee, Minn. Biala, who is Filipino and is known by friends as Ninja Boy, won 2nd place for his innovative break dancing performance at the May 7 event. The show was coordinated and hosted by the school's LEAD (Leaders in Education And Diversity) team, a student group which promotes and educates others about the importance of diversity. Photo by Cristina Oxta

Mega...

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...fice returns, if not to really surpass its existing record," quipped MPG lady boss Mely "Bing" Pechangco Gabriel. "There's no stopping after this. Since I've started promoting shows of this kind, I don't have to prove to anybody my capacity as producer but to myself. As much as possible, I want to befriend my colleagues in the field to create a harmonious environment for the entertainment business in the region... whereby, the public will be benefiting all the best results in the end."

So save the date (Sunday, May 31, 2009 at 3pm) and reserve a seat now (at the NJPAC Prudential Hall in Newark, NJ). Brought to you in cooperation with *Asian Journal* and *Balikbayan Magazine* with S.C. Cabalfin Services and Christy's Kitchen (Home of Filipino Cuisine), *Megathirty* Concert is one show not to be missed. Be part of another great event. Tickets are on sale now and priced at: VIP, \$150, \$138, \$98, and \$78 and available at www.mpgglobalproductions.com, or you can call NJPAC Ticket Services at 1-800-466-5722 or

login at ticketsservices@njpac.org, www.ticketnonline.com and www.Pinoyticket.com

For ticket reservation and information, please call: Bing: (732)668-8892, (732)533-8880, (732)651-8556 & (732)447-8678; Nel: (917)691-2335; Girlie: (703)304-0547 & (703)992-5441;

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