

HAPPY 50TH BIRTHDAY!

AUGUST 15, 2011



1963



1965



1971



1985



2011

Fr. Romeo Agustin Ma. G. Miciano Jr., SDB

REV. FATHER ROMEO "TING" AGUSTIN MA. G. MICIANO JR ... "A SON...A BROTHER...A SOLDIER OF GOD"

By Col. Paolo Leo Ma. Miciano

Rev. Father Romeo Agustin Ma. Miciano Jr. is not only a dutiful son and a brother but a soldier of God. Although we seldom see each other because we have different but complementary vocations, he being a priest and I being a soldier, Fr. Ting's spiritual guidance and material assistance made his strong presence felt within my family. Despite the absence of a father from childhood, Fr. Ting and I became successful in our fields of interest through the untiring hard work of our mother, the former Evangeline Galipot. Our father, Romeo Miciano, died when I was only 10 while Fr. Ting was 9 and our youngest, Jose Renato (Pete), was 8.

Brought up by our religious and conservative mother, Fr. Ting, a consistent valedictorian, entered the Don Bosco Juniorate in Bacolor, Pampanga in 1974 when he was 13 in pursuit of his dream of becoming a Salesian priest. Our aunt, Sr. Maria Fides, a Pauline nun, was very grateful upon learning that her nephew chose to become a servant of God.

After his ordination in 1990, he was assigned to Don Bosco schools in Tarlac, Cebu and Negros. In 1993, he was sent to teach at Don Bosco Technological Institute in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea where he stayed for almost 13 years until December 2006, save for two years from 1996 to 1998 when he took up his master's degree at the Ateneo de Manila University.

In 2009, Fr. Ting became the parish priest of St John Bosco Parish Church in Makati City where he carried on with his advocacy of helping the youth and poor families to become Christ-centered and socially-committed.

Indeed, our late mother, a public school teacher in Sta Cruz, Laguna, who single-handedly raised three sons, was proud and fulfilled at the way her sons turned out. I also believe that our father, a former USAFFE member who worked at the Philippine Veterans Bank, must have greeted our beloved mother in heaven with a snappy salute for a "job well done" in raising two soldier-sons, one a soldier of the people and Fr. Ting, a soldier of God.

**FATHER ROMEO AGUSTIN MA. G. MICIANO JR., SDB
THE NAME, THE MAN**

By Arjun J. Socco

PPC Coordinator and EMHC

What's in a name? What's in his name. "ROMEO" recalls a character who loves. "AGUSTIN" connotes a soul that is both searching and found. The name "MARIA" speaks of Obedience to Divine Will. His nickname "TING" is the sound indicating a flash of inspiration or a leap of faith.

He is hands-on but fosters trust. He guides, inspires, motivates, leads. He's always where things happen yet exudes an aura of calm and serenity. He knows his limits, rests when needed, rises above the suffering and illness and bounces back. He is real.

He is, for me, an assurance of shepherd-like leadership and guidance in our joyful journey towards holiness. He is ...

- An instrument in the fulfillment of His Will
- A mirror of His Kindness and Love
- A channel of His Truth and Grace
- A comfort to the afflicted
- A light to the lost



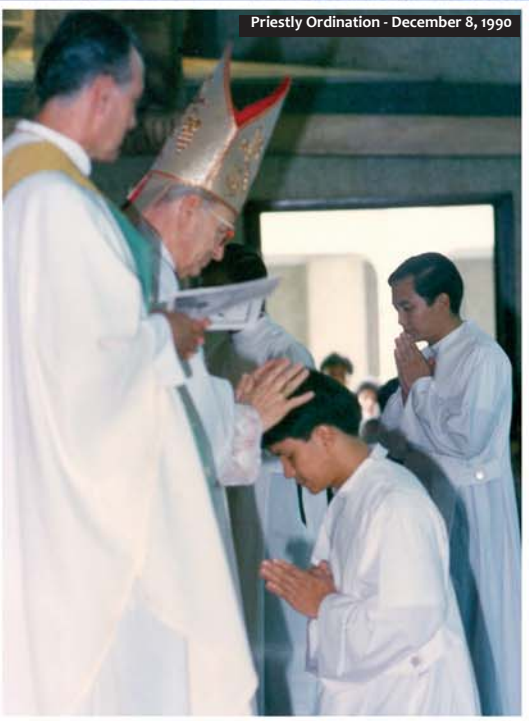
magkacombó, 1976



magkumpare



Priestly Ordination - December 8, 1990



January 1995 - Pope John Paul II's visit to Papua New Guinea



A cultural presentation in PNG, 1993-2006



A BROTHERLY BOND

Fr. Martin M. Macasaet SDB

June 28, 2011

I first met Ting Miciano way back in 1974; we were both incoming high school freshmen in the seminary (Don Bosco Juniorate, Pampanga). Ours was a big batch so that for the first time, two sections were created. I was elected as the class president in one section, as Ting was elected in the other. A rivalry of sorts began, as you can imagine.

In less than a month, many of our batch mates left and our two sections were merged into one for which I became the lone holdover class president. The "competition" between Ting and me spilled over into other fields, notably in academics.

Remarkably, instead of becoming bitter, our rivalry soon turned into camaraderie. If it's any "proof," see this 1976 photograph of me and Ting, standing next to each other during a performance with our class combo for a Visiting Sunday program. He played the electrical guitar while I was on bass guitar.

As our individual-yet-common vocation journeys went on, there were like forks along the way. In 1983, we parted ways for our first-ever assignments, our practical training stints. I was assigned in Pampanga, while Bro. Ting went to Law-an, Cebu. We were only reunited three years later, as we began our theology years. Those were years of intense study and prayer, but equally intense joy and camaraderie. Much of life then revolved around the batch. In a particularly rare instance, we were assigned together in Tondo for our weekend apostolate with three other classmates - we called ourselves the "Band of the Hand". Through these and similar instances, the bonds of previous years were strengthened all the more, indeed more than ever.

Of course, after our priestly ordination it was time to part ways again - especially as Fr. Ting spent years in the missions in Papua-New Guinea. While, we were assigned together briefly in the same community of St. John Bosco Parish (Makati), I eventually assumed my present rectorship in Mandaluyong while, Fr. Ting, of course, remained to be the present parish priest.

We always keep in touch when possible, especially when we hold our much-looked-forward-to batch reunions. In between, we text one another NBA or Smart Gilas game results and scores, occasionally even those of tennis matches like the French Open - when either of us can't watch TV due to other commitments.

Obviously, it's a bond based on friendship, shared interests, and more. I believe it's all from those years of journeying together in a marvelous vocation, with a shared Bosconian and Salesian heritage, and ultimately from a call by God. "Pare" was how we'd call each other, in fact. "Pare," as in a fellow priest, a companion through the years. And "pare," not as in siblings or blood brothers, but just like *magkumpare*: sharing an established bond, deepened in time. If it's indeed so, then there's certainly no room for rivalry - only for more brotherhood. *Pare*, in this case, *lamang ka sa akin*. Happy 50th Birthday!

A MESSAGE FROM FR. SALVADOR PABLO, SDB

Happy Birthday, Fr. Ting!

Alam mo, Ting, mula noong nagkasama tayo sa summer camp noong aspirant ka pa, hanggang sa Badili at dito sa SJB Makati, talaga namang bilib na ako sa iyo dahil di ka lamang matalino, napaka-gentlemanly mo pa.

Sana tumanda ka pa nang husto, kahit fifty years, sa gayon ay may matutuhanan pa ang mga katauhan sa iyo.

Wala na akong masyadong maibibigay sa iyo. Mahirap na ako ngayon, di tulad nang dati. Alipin na lang ako ngayon ng mga tao sa resettlement sa Calauan.

Pero, huwag kang mag-alala. Lahat kami ay magdarasal para sa iyo. Araw-araw ilagay namin ang pangalan mo doon sa altar, nang sa gayon, ay lalong lumawig ang iyong kabutihan at kaalaman at higit sa lahat, ang iyong pagmamahal.

Happy 50th anniversary of your natal day!

Boysdb



THE GIFT OF A SON

by Aurora Garcia

My dear Fr. Ting,

I can still remember that blessed day in 1996 when my niece, Peachy, introduced me over lunch to her classmate in Ateneo, a young, Filipino Salesian missionary assigned to Papua New Guinea who was on Sabbatical leave to earn his Master's degree in Education. Then as now, you were soft-spoken and quiet, a very courteous and personable gentleman-priest.

Little did I know at the time, that that would be the first of many enjoyable meals together, great conversations, memorable visits, happy homecomings, fun outings, lively correspondence, thoughtful phone calls . . . years of wonderful memories. In no time, you had endeared yourself not only to me but to the rest of my family.

When your *nanay* passed away while you were in PNG, unable to be with her, you wrote me a poignantly beautiful letter about the pain of losing mother, teacher and confidante. And then, you asked me, since I was all three, if you could ADOPT me as your mother. How could I refuse such a gift from the Lord? You are the son whom I never had, the one I had been yearning for all my life and a man of God, at that!

So Fr. Ting, thank you so much for sharing 16 of your 50 years (and of my 90) and making this old lady feel so happy, proud and cherished. And though I get to talk to you less often now that you have a big parish to run, my deep affection for you has and will never wane, my son.

Happy Birthday!

Love,

Mommy

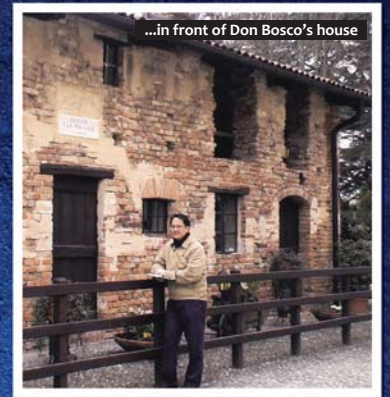
P.S. Anytime you feel like eating your favorite Callos, cooked with love, the way I taught you, just come around.



Fr. Ting with Maris & Lito



...posing with the pavlova cake he baked for a friend



...in front of Don Bosco's house

EveryTING About Father

by Maris Katigbak San Juan

When I was requested to write about our parish priest, I was a bit hesitant. "Let me think about it", I replied. But the better part of me said, "Why not? Yes, I shall write down my thoughts about the birthday celebrant".

Rev. Fr. Romeo Agustin Ma. G. Miciano, SDB, fondly called, Fr. Ting, was born on August 15, the feast of the Assumption. I'd like to think his *nanay* Ellen included the name "Ma." in honor of the Blessed Mother on whose feast day a future priest was born.

Fr. Ting was ordained on December 8, 1990, the feast of the Immaculate Conception. And on May 24, 2009, the feast of Mary Help of Christians, he was installed as parish priest of St. John Bosco Parish Makati.

Indeed, great feasts of Mama Mary are Fr. Ting's anniversaries too!

Fr. Ting comes from a family of three boys: the eldest, Paolo, an AFP Colonel, the *Kuya* whom Fr. Ting describes as even kinder than he is, next comes Fr. Ting and their *bunso*, the lovable Pete.

Two Christmases ago, Fr. Ting wrote, "Ate Maris" in his card. "Surprised?", Fr. Ting asked. Indeed it was a pleasant surprise to me. I guess in some little ways, he found an Ate in me - one that he never had.

The seed of yearning to serve God was planted in Fr. Ting's heart at a very early age by his *lola* who inspired him greatly. Growing up in Sta. Cruz, Laguna, as a young boy, he was often teased by his family and relatives because of his *bahay-simbahan-bahay* routine.

Fr. Ting excelled in his studies. His parents, especially his *nanay*, proudly displayed his academic awards in one part of their *sala*. He is also gifted with a beautiful singing voice. Watch out for an upcoming event - but that is another story.

In closing, I'd like to borrow a few lines from the birthday greeting to Pope Benedict XVI on his 79th birthday from his older brother, Monsignor Georg Ratzinger.

May the Lord give you spiritual and intellectual inspiration, as well as physical strength, to be able to make just decisions and find appropriate words, and maintain the courage and firmness in the face of the waves, which according to the secret divine will, surround the Church and, with her, you also.

A very Happy 50th Birthday, Fr. Ting!

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