



ALLiance for the FAMILY  
Foundation Philippines, Inc.

# News

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ALFI is a multi-sectoral organization committed to foster and defend the sanctity of marriage, to promote family solidarity, and to protect life at all stages of development.

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A Moral Choice

**Our Constitution recognizes the right of all citizens to quality education and mandates that the highest budgetary priority be assigned to education.**

## FITCH & KRISTEL

by Atty. Maria Concepcion S. Noche

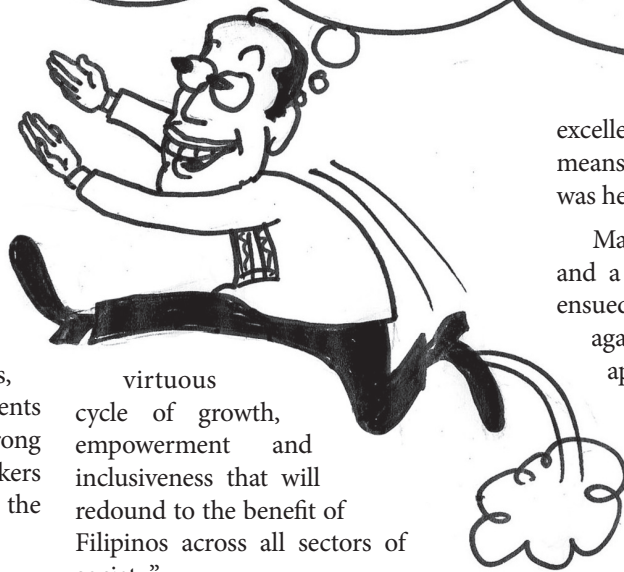
Fitch Ratings, a major credit rating agency in the world, announced a Philippine credit rating upgrade. According to the statement, it is a seal of good housekeeping and a resounding vote of confidence in the Philippine economy.

With the upgrade, Fitch says that we can expect an increase in investment inflow which translates into more funds for social services, infrastructure and other long-term investments for economic development. Fitch credits the strong remittance inflow from overseas foreign workers and the strong domestic demand, as one of the main drivers for the improved rating.

President Benigno Aquino III was euphoric at the positive news and said: "It is one among many other positive developments that demonstrates the reclamation of our national pride. Truly, what was once known as the perennial laggard of Asia is taking off, and is accelerating towards its goal of an equitably progressive society."

He lost no time in enumerating the consequent benefits to the country which he said would foster "a

## INVESTMENTS



virtuous cycle of growth, empowerment and inclusiveness that will redound to the benefit of Filipinos across all sectors of society."

Kristel was a 16-year old freshman at the University of the Philippines Manila. She took her life after she had to file a leave of absence during the middle of her second semester for failure to pay her tuition fees. The amount involved was a paltry sum of Php6,377. It was reported that Kristel devoted her childhood to learning and she

excelled at school. To her, studying was a means "to cope with life's worries" and it was her beacon of light — her hope.

Many have weighed in on Kristel's death and a bandwagon of finger-pointing has ensued. Experts, however, have cautioned against a 'cause-and-effect' simplistic approach because not one factor could be pinpointed to have driven Kristel to end her life. But for the myriad of reasons that could have brought Kristel to despondency, one thing is certain: The "meaningless" lives of disturbed young people will not gain "meaning" when they commit suicide to drive home a point.

I am not ready to jump into the bandwagon, but I am moved. Kristel's death is a biting commentary on the state of affairs in Philippine society.

The case of Kristel has brought to the fore  
*continued on page 2...*



## Nourishing the 'Love and Bliss'

by Nicole Bautista

Love and bliss—no groom- or bride-to-be ever considers doing without these two important things in *The Life After The Big Day*. But more often than not, when a marriage is built upon the superficial, love and bliss tend to quickly peter out and eventually get zapped to oblivion after the so-called honeymoon phase. How can love and bliss last when they are hinged upon those fleeting feelings that come with the trappings of dream weddings (and dream honeymoons)? And why is there hardly such a thing as "dream large family"?

**...what makes this method such a "breath of fresh air" is the emphasis on values that the husband and wife acquire as they work their way through mastering the art of understanding their shared fertility.**

Perhaps this is why Linda Valenzona's new family planning book, *Gugma ug Kalipay: The Porsuelo NFP Way*, feels like a breath of fresh air. The process of family planning has long been associated with birth control and prevention, leading many married couples to associate having more children with heightened financial challenges, fewer luxuries, and disordered homes. If they are not careful, even users of natural family planning methods may fall into that trap known as the "contraceptive mentality." As the author notes, the Porsuelo Natural Family Planning removes

that tendency to fall into a contraceptive mindset by taking the focus from the widely-accepted family planning idea of controlling births and returning it to the actual ultimate end of every family planning endeavor: that of enriching the relationship between husband and wife.

But first, what is Porsuelo NFP? It is a method of Natural Family Planning that originated in Malaybalay, Bukidnon through the efforts of Felicidad Cuel Porsuelo, a midwife, a mother of five, and the pioneer of NFP education in the Philippines. Together with her husband Eli, Nang Piling—as she is fondly called—developed a method for natural family planning and taught it to married couples in the grassroots level beginning 1966.

History details Nang Piling's humble yet scientific process in setting down the rules for the NFP method. She promoted the use of basal body temperature, mucus, breastfeeding, and symptothermal methods in helping the couple—not just the wife—understand the cycle of the woman's body, and therefore predict the fertile and infertile periods. But what makes this method such a "breath of fresh air" is the emphasis on values that the husband and wife acquire as they work their way through mastering the art of understanding their shared fertility.

The Porsuelo way brings out values like communication, patience, self control, and teamwork as couples go through the process of mastering the method in the workshops. The discipline involved in carrying out the NFP-related tasks (for example, taking the temperature, noting down the quality of  
*continued on page 2...*

## SC Issues Status Quo Ante Order

The Supreme Court has consolidated the 10 petitions filed that question the constitutionality of R.A. No. 10354 or popularly known as the Reproductive Health Law.

On March 19, 2013, by a vote of 10-5, the Supreme Court issued a *Status Quo Ante Order* (SQAQO) "effective immediately and for a period of one hundred twenty (120) days, requiring the parties to observe the status quo prevailing before the issuance of Republic Act No. 10354."

The 10 justices who voted for the issuance of the SQAQO are Associate Justices Teresita De Castro, Arturo T. Brion, Diosdado M. Peralta, Lucas P. Bersamin, Roberto A. Abad, Martin Villarama, Jr., Jose P. Perez, Jose C. Mendoza, Bienvenido L. Reyes, and Presbitero J. Velasco, Jr. Those who voted against are Chief Justice Maria Lourdes P. A. Sereno, Associate Justices Antonio T. Carpio, Mariano C. del Castillo, Estela Perlas-Bernabe, and Marvic M. V. F. Leonen.

A motion for reconsideration of the SQAQO was filed but the said motion was denied.

Associate Justice Marvic Leonen wrote a dissenting opinion to the issuance of the SQAQO. Associate Justice Arturo Brion, on the other hand, wrote a concurring opinion and reply to the dissenting opinion.

The Supreme Court likewise scheduled the oral arguments for the consolidated petitions before the court *en banc* on June 18, 2013. The oral arguments will help the Court determine if there are grounds to extend the SQAQO beyond July 17, 2013 and will guide the Court on how to decide the petitions.

### What is a *Status Quo Ante Order*?

A *status quo ante order* is in "the nature of a temporary restraining order" (TRO) because it has the same effect, that is, the maintenance of the last, actual, peaceful and uncontested status that precedes the controversy. The status which the TRO seeks to maintain is that which exists at the time of the filing of the case which is that which existed prior to the issuance of the assailed RH Law which has yet to be implemented. With the SQAQO, it is as if there is no RH Law.

Under the law, the issuance of a SQAQO or TRO may be justified if the applicant is able to show the presence of the following conditions: (a) that the right to be protected exists *prima facie*; (b) that the act sought to be enjoined is violative of that right; and (c) that there is an urgent and paramount necessity for the writ to prevent serious damage. With the issuance of the SQAQO, the Supreme Court has favourably considered the existence of such conditions. ■



what we know has ailed this country for years. Education has been in the backburner and is hardly considered to be a major tool for our progress. Yet, our Constitution recognizes the right of all citizens to quality education and mandates that the highest budgetary priority be assigned to education.

Fitch has acknowledged the value of our human resources — our overseas foreign workers for their remittances and our local population for the strong consumer demand. Would it not make better sense for our government to empower our people through education? Wouldn't government resources be better spent in providing quality and affordable education to every Filipino? Wouldn't the billions be better spent to ensure that education is made accessible to every Filipino including those in the remotest villages of our country? And would it not also make our society more caring and sensitive if you and I reach out to a Kristel to make sure a dream is kept alive?

Education empowers people and contributes greatly to economic growth. We probably do not realize how much is lost in terms of peso value from lack of or inadequate education. On a simple linear cause-and-effect analysis, it results to lower income, which diminishes buying power, lowers tax revenues, and slows down and reduces economic growth. When this analysis is extended, it results to less desirable health conditions, increased peace and order concerns, and higher rates of teen pregnancy and single motherhood. In short, no education or lack thereof means more costs for government. More important than the quantitative effects, however, is the deprivation of the opportunity to live better and to dream bigger.



ALFI would like to thank Jess Abrera for his contribution as guest cartoonist for ALFI News.

The President is ecstatic over Fitch and claims a promising future is well in sight. But when a life is lost for a measly sum of Php6,000, we just know that it takes more than economic prosperity to reclaim our “national pride” because we remain poor as ever, and poorer still, because we have lost our “soul” as a nation. Fitch is meaningless unless our government sets its priorities to ensuring that

every Filipino is given that fair chance to become what he is truly destined to be.

Fitch and Kristel plainly don't match up — at least for now. Kristel lost her dream and her hope in a future. But Fitch promises a future: let that promise rekindle that dream and re-awaken that hope. Kristel deserves a fair chance at life. Give it to her. ■ [mcnoche@philonline.com](mailto:mcnoche@philonline.com)

## Another Life Issue

by Tim A. Laws

Among the threats to life and health that are entirely within human control, contraception and abortion are the greatest by far, because they take many more lives than any others, and will determine the fate of civilization. But they are not the only such threats. Assisted suicide and euthanasia have both been gaining acceptance for decades, particularly in developed nations. Here in the developing world, one of the greater threats is inadequate access to medical care. There is also tobacco, which was much in the news a little while back. One such threat which has not been in the news is improper use and promotion of breast milk substitutes.

The World Health Organization (WHO) stated in 2001 that “up to one and one-half million children die each year because they are not breastfed.” In August of last year, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) said that “strong national policies supporting breastfeeding could prevent the deaths of around 1 million children under five in the developing world each year,” indicating that progress has been made over the past decade. However, this progress has stalled, both in the developing world at large, and here in the Philippines. UNICEF says that “global rates of breastfeeding have remained relatively stagnant in the developing world, growing from 32% in 1995 to 39% in 2010.” UNICEF Executive Director Anthony Lake states that, “If breastfeeding were promoted more effectively and women were protected from aggressive marketing of breast milk substitutes, we would see more children survive and thrive, with lower rates of disease and lower rates of malnutrition and stunting.”

According to UNICEF, hindrances to improving breastfeeding rates include “widespread and unethical marketing by makers of breast milk substitutes, poor national policies that do not support maternity leave, and a lack of understanding of the risks of not breastfeeding.” It has also reported that scientific papers in the “Maternal and Child Under nutrition Series” published in 2008 in *The Lancet*, one of the top medical journals in the world, “highlighted the remarkable fact that a non-breastfed child is 14 times more likely to die in the first six months than an exclusively breastfed child.”

The good but worrisome news here in the Philippines is that, from 1993 to 2008, exclusive breastfeeding — that is, breastfeeding as the only source of nutrition for the infant — began at 25%, rose to 37%, but then fell back to 34%, according to the “Consolidated Report of Six-Country Review of Breastfeeding Programmes” published by UNICEF in 2010. The report also notes that “Exclusive breastfeeding ... is the most important breastfeeding

practice indicator because of its impact of on child survival, morbidity, and nutritional outcomes.” The recent decline in exclusive breastfeeding here is particularly disturbing as the Philippines was an early adopter — one of only 37 countries up to June 2011, out of about 200 — of the International Code of Marketing of Breast Milk Substitutes, titled here as the Philippine Milk Code, which was adopted by President Corazon Aquino as Executive Order 51 in 1986. Recently, a bill entitled “An Act Promoting a Comprehensive Program on Breastfeeding Practices and Regulating the Trade, Marketing and Promotions of Certain Foods for Infants and Children”

### Breastfeeding practices and policies are part of the battle for life: a small part, in comparison to contraception and abortion, but an important one, nevertheless.

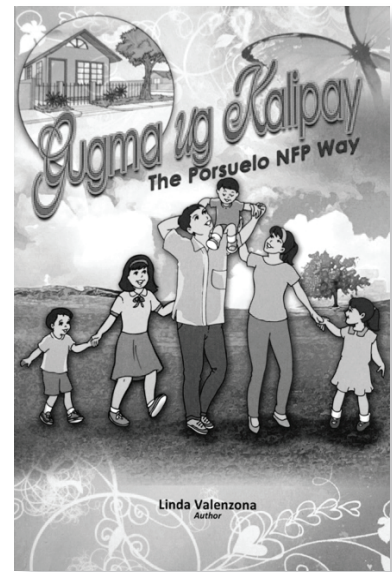
was proposed at the House of Representatives of the Philippine Congress. According to media reports, the DOH, WHO and UNICEF all opposed this bill because it would weaken existing law, and benefit multinational companies at the expense of children. Because these same entities are all lined up on the wrong side of reproductive health, this position on milk marketing can not be simply be accepted, but instead must be investigated, to determine its validity. Human lives are at stake. However, as the Congressional session is now practically ended because of the approaching elections, it is highly unlikely that any action will be taken concerning this particular bill. But similar legislation could always be introduced in the future. Supporters of life must remain vigilant, to ensure that the paramount concern for human life is the primary criterion on which any and all bills are judged.

Breastfeeding practices and policies are part of the battle for life: a small part, in comparison to contraception and abortion, but an important one, nevertheless. At the present time, the pro-life movement must concentrate its attention and efforts on the greater issue, because so many more lives are at stake, as well as the foundations of civilization itself. But we should not be unaware of the other threats to life, and what others — including some who hold views on the issue of contraception and abortion contrary to ours — are doing to combat them. If we cannot join these battles in strength now, because to do so would be to neglect the greater threats, we can at least understand them, and pray for the Lord's assistance to protect and preserve life. ■ [timlaws@hotmail.com](mailto:timlaws@hotmail.com)

## Nourishing the ‘Love and Bliss’ ... *continued from p.1*

mucus) develops into an acquired value that the husband and wife are able to apply in their life together. It's no wonder the work of the Porsuelos, though humble, got the attention of the Vatican, with Pope John Paul II himself inviting them in the 1980s to participate in the Pontifical Council on the Family and the Synod of Families.

Valenzona's book records not just the how-to of the method developed by Nang Piling, but also how natural family planning must be understood and applied by couples today. With detailed instructions on the method, including the different ways of identifying the woman's fertile periods, the book is easy to use and may help beginners achieve results after a year or two of serious practice. The charts are easy to understand, follow, and replicate, and the rules before each method are clear and concise.



What makes this book transcend beyond mere how-to instructions, however, is the spirit with which its principles were created. Nang Piling never saw NFP as a way to space or prevent births—in fact, what makes this midwife believe that the NFP has been done

correctly is “when the couple gets pregnant!” According to Porsuelo, “NFP is not for family planning. NFP is to restore marital intimacy. When there is no marital intimacy, couples will stop loving each other and they cannot be close to God because God is love.”

This method is different from other (i.e. artificial) family planning methods in that it promotes an authentic kind of family planning, one that is about family building, relationship building, communication, and love. That's perhaps why those who promote natural family planning insist that it is a lifestyle: couples cannot just use it without being wholly affected—that is, affected in a way that keeps love and bliss (gugma ug kalipay) alive... even long after hubby and wifey say “I do!”



# Life is a Gift

by Mercedes B. Suleik

Some years ago, I was impressed by a heart-warming item in the papers about a Southern California woman who gave birth to octoplets, after already having borne six children. The story said that when it was found that she was pregnant with multiple babies, she was given the option, nay the counsel, by doctors to selectively abort some of the foetuses. She declined, realizing the challenge entailed in raising all her children, what with her husband working overseas. Pro-abortionists would of course consider her stupid or crazy. And yet, intentionally snuffing out a life which has already begun in the mother's womb, I believe is what is crazy, even criminal. Simple woman that she was, she knew that life is precious, that it is a gift that only God can give.

Indeed, the arrival of a new human being is a wonderful event. To be gifted with a baby brings joy to a woman, as that mother must have felt when she said, "I looked at those ba-

The TRO on the RH law, albeit providing some breathing space for pro-lifers, must remind us to continue to be vigilant. We have to be on guard, for this law, which was passed for all the wrong reasons, may still find its way into the law of our land ...

## A Few Good Men and Women

ALFI commends and thanks the following legislators for bravely standing up for life.

### Members of the Senate Who Voted NO TO RH BILL on Second & Third Reading

\* = Running for Re-election

|  |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|
| Senator Juan Ponce Enrile                    | Senator Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr. |
| Senator Jinggoy Estrada                      | *Senator Antonio Trillanes IV    |
| Senator Vicente Sotto III                    | Senator Manny Villar             |
| *Senator Aquilino Martin "Koko" Pimentel III | *Senator Gregorio Honasan        |

(Source: Journal No.44 pages 1295 & 1296, December 17, 2012 of the Senate of the Philippines; Link: <http://www.senate.gov.ph/lisdata/15077127021.pdf>)

### Members of the House of Representatives Who Voted NO to RH BILL on Second Reading

\* = Running for Re-election

| NAME                               | REGION/DISTRICT                   |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| *Abayon, Daryl Grace               | PL-AANGAT TAYO                    |
| *Acharon, Pedro Jr.                | South Cotabato, 1st District      |
| *Acop, Rom eo                      | Antipolo City, 2nd District       |
| *Alcover, Pastor Jr. M.            | PL-ANAD                           |
| *Almario, Thelma Z.                | Davao Oriental, 2nd District      |
| Alvarez, Antonio C.                | Palawan, 1st District             |
| *Angping, Ma. Zenaida B.           | Manila, 3rd District              |
| Antonino, Rodolfo W.               | Nueva Ecija, 4th District         |
| *Apacible, Tomas V.                | Batangas, 1st District            |
| Aquino, Jose II S.                 | Agusan del Note, 1st District     |
| *Arago, Maria Evita                | Laguna, 3rd District              |
| *Arnaiz, George P.                 | Negros Occidental, 2nd District   |
| *Asilo, Benjamin DR.               | Manila, 1st District              |
| *Bagasina, Catalina C.             | PL-ALE                            |
| *Bagatsing, Amado S.               | Manila, 5th District              |
| *Bataoil, Leopoldo N.              | Pangasinan, 2nd District          |
| *Bichara, Al Francis DC.           | Albay, 2nd District               |
| *Bonoan-David, Ma. Theresa         | Manila, 4th District              |
| *Cabaluna, Salvador III P.         | PL-1 CARE                         |
| Cabilao Yambao, Jonathan           | Zamboanga Sibugay, 1st District   |
| Calimbas-Villarosa, Ma. Amelita A. | Occidental Mindoro, Lone District |
| *Cari, Jose Carlos                 | Leyte, 6th District               |
| *Castro, Jane T.                   | Capiz, 2nd District               |
| Climaco, Maria Isabelle            | Zamboanga City, 1st District      |
| *Co, Christopher                   | PL-AKO BICOL                      |
| *Collantes, Nelson                 | Batangas, 3rd District            |
| Crisologo, Vincent 'Bingbong' P.   | Quezon City, 1st District         |
| *Cua, Dakila Carlo E.              | Quirino, Lone District            |
| *Dalog, Maximo                     | Mountain Province, Lone District  |
| *De Venecia, Ma. Georgina P.       | Pangasinan, 4th District          |
| Del Mar, Rachel Marguerite B.      | Cebu City, 1st District           |
| Dimaporo, Fatima Aliah Q.          | Lanao del Norte, 2nd District     |
| *Ejercito, Joseph Victor G.        | Running for Senator (UNA)         |
| Fabian, Erico Basilio              | Zamboanga City, 2nd District      |
| Ferrer, Antonio A.                 | Cavite, 6th District              |
| *Fortuno, Salvio B.                | Camarines Sur, 5th District       |
| *Fua, Orlando B.                   | Siquijor, Lone District           |
| Fuentebella, Arnulfo               | Camarines Sur, 4th District       |
| *Garay, Florencio                  | Surigao del Sur, 2nd District     |
| *Garbin, Alfredo Jr. A.            | PL-AKO BICOL                      |
| Garcia, Albert Raymond S.          | Bataan, 2nd District              |
| *Garcia, Pablo P.                  | Cebu, 2nd District                |
| Garcia, Pablo John                 | Cebu, 3rd District                |
| *Golez, Anthony Rolando Jr. T.     | Bacolod City, Lone District       |
| *Gomez, Lucy T.                    | Leyte, 4th District               |
| Gonzales, Aurelio, Jr.             | Pampanga, 3rd District            |
| *Gonzalez, Fernando                | Albay, 3rd District               |
| Gullas, Eduardo R.                 | Cebu, 1st District                |
| *Javier, Paolo S.                  | Antique, Lone District            |
| *Lanete, Scott Davies              | Masbate, 3rd District             |
| *Lico, Isidro Q.                   | PL-ATING KOOP                     |
| *Macapagal Arroyo, Juan Miguel     | PL-AGP                            |
| *Madrone, Eleandro Jesus           | Romblon, Lone district            |
| *Magsaysay, Ma. Milagros H.        | Running for Senator (UNA)         |

bies. They are so tiny and so beautiful..." Eight new babies! Pro-abortionists must have been horrified, and likely thought that if she had wanted another baby, she was perfectly justified, as counselled by doctors, to abort some of the foetuses. After all, in the United States, the Roe vs. Wade "doctrine" held that a mother may abort her pregnancy for any reason, up until the point at which the foetus becomes "viable."

The Roe vs. Wade decision by the U.S. Supreme Court has been challenged, it being anchored on an apparently murky interpretation of a U.S. provision on "right of privacy" within their Bill of Rights. For that matter, that decision could be considered "moot" (per my understanding of that word) because when it came out, Norma McCorvey, the Jane Roe of that petition had already brought her baby to term, and by 1995 she had already become a member of the pro-life movement and since 1998 has supported moves to make abortion illegal.

The Roe vs. Wade decision remains controversial. Polls continue to show division about the landmark ruling. Some pro-life supporters argue that the justices in the case failed to adequately recognize that life begins at conception (sometimes referred to as fertilization), and therefore should be protected by the Constitution. We should note that the Philippine Constitution affirms that life begins at conception, and that the State should protect it. Indeed, even in Roe vs. Wade, a dissenting judge (Justice Byron White) asserted that the Court "values the convenience of the pregnant mother more than the continued existence and development of the life or potential life that she carries."

The passage of the Reproductive Health Bill in the Philippines, albeit it is currently under TRO, has totally ignored the provisions of the Philippine Constitution about the protection of life from the moment of conception. In the debates

about the RH bill, some senators had argued against conception, holding that life begins at "viability." This argument, I believe is not just about semantics, it is more about how well-formed are the consciences of those who would believe that life begins much later than when the father implants his seed on the mother's womb.

Actually, I found an interesting sidelight of the Roe vs. Wade debate in an article that commented that the rights of the father were never taken into consideration; that a father too, should be consulted, and that the woman alone does not have the sole right to have his child aborted. Indeed, that bears thinking, since so much is made of "women's rights" in matters relating to fecundity, but surely, a man who shares the creation of new life should have a say!

The TRO on the RH law, albeit providing some breathing space for pro-lifers, must remind us to continue to be vigilant. We have to be on guard, for this law, which was passed for all the wrong reasons, may still find its way into the law of our land, much as the Roe vs. Wade decision although being questioned, is in effect. We must hold on to our belief that life is a gift from God, that He had allowed man and woman to participate in His ineffable creative power, and not be discouraged. Archbishop Burke, who is known in the U.S. as one of the most outspoken members of the U.S. hierarchy on the Church's teachings on the sanctity of life, said at the time: "Discouragement is itself a prime temptation that Satan uses to get people to stop working for the good; the minute you give in to discouragement, he can get you to do whatever he wants. But if we are people of life, if we are people who honor the dignity of every human life, then we also are necessarily people of hope." And we can hold on to this hope for our new Pope Francis has made his position clear on the issues of life.

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|                                    |                                   |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| *Bagasina, Catalina C.             | PL-ALE                            |
| *Bagatsing, Amado S.               | Manila, 5th District              |
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| *Bichara, Al Francis DC.           | Albay, 2nd District               |
| *Bonoan-David, Ma. Theresa         | Manila, 4th District              |
| *Cabaluna, Salvador III P.         | PL-1 CARE                         |
| Cabilao Yambao, Jonathan           | Zamboanga Sibugay, 1st District   |
| Calimbas-Villarosa, Ma. Amelita A. | Occidental Mindoro, Lone District |
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| Del Mar, Rachel Marguerite B.      | Cebu City, 1st District           |
| Dimaporo, Fatima Aliah Q.          | Lanao del Norte, 2nd District     |
| Durano, Ramon VI H.                | Cebu, 5th District                |
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| *Fortuno, Salvio B.                | Camarines Sur, 5th District       |
| *Fua, Orlando B.                   | Siquijor, Lone District           |
| *Garbin, Alfredo Jr. A.            | PL-AKO BICOL                      |
| Garcia, Albert Raymond S.          | Bataan, 2nd District              |
| *Garcia, Pablo P.                  | Cebu, 2nd District                |
| *Golez, Anthony Rolando Jr. T.     | Bacolod City, Lone District       |
| *Gomez, Lucy T.                    | Leyte, 4th District               |
| Gullas, Eduardo R.                 | Cebu, 1st District                |
| *Javier, Paolo S.                  | Antique, Lone District            |
| Labadlabad, Rosendo S.             | Zamboanga del Norte, 2nd          |
| *Lico, Isidro Q.                   | PL-ATING KOOP                     |
| *Macapagal Arroyo, Juan Miguel     | PL-AGP                            |
| *Magsaysay, Ma. Milagros H.        | Running for Senator (UNA)         |
| Malapitan, Oscar G.                | Caloocan City, 1st District       |
| Mandanas, Hermilando I.            | Batangas, 2nd District            |
| Marañon, Alfredo III D.            | Negros Occidental, 2nd District   |
| *Mendoza, Mark Llandro L.          | Batangas, 4th District            |
| *Mercado-Revilla, Lani             | Cavite, 2nd District              |
| *Noel, Florencio G.                | PL-AN WARAY                       |
| *Nogralas, Karlo Alexei B.         | Davao City, 1st District          |
| *Obillo, Reena Concepcion G.       | PL- UNA ANG PAMILYA               |
| *Ong, Emil                         | Northern Samar, 2nd District      |
| *Pacquiao, Emmanuel                | Saranggani, Lone District         |
| *Panotes, Elmer E.                 | Camarines Norte, 2nd District     |
| *Paras, Jesus Emmanuel M.          | Bukidnon, 1st District            |
| *Payuyo, Ponciano D.               | PL-APEC                           |
| *Piamonte, Mariano Jr. U.          | PL-A TEACHER                      |
| Plaza, Ma. Valentina               | Agusan del Sur, 1st District      |
| *Puno, Roberto V.                  | Antipolo City, 1st District       |
| Ramos, Deogracias Jr               | Sorsogon, 2nd District            |
| *Rivera, Michael Angelo C.         | PL-1 CARE                         |
| *Robes, Arturo                     | San Jose del Monte, Lone District |
| *Rodriguez, Isidro Jr. S.          | Rizal, 2nd District               |
| *Rodriguez, Maximo Jr. B.          | PL-ABAMIN                         |
| *Rodriguez, Rufus B.               | Cagayan de Oro City, 2nd District |
| Romarate, Guillermo, Jr.           | Surigao del Norte, 2nd District   |
| *Romualdez, Ferdinand Martin G.    | Leyte, 1st District               |
| Romualdo, Pedro P.                 | Camiguin, 1st District            |
| *Romulo, Roman T.                  | Pasig City, Lone District         |
| *Salimbangon, Benhur L.            | Cebu, 4th District                |
| *Sarmiento, Cesar                  | Catanduanes, Lone District        |
| Socrates, Victorino Dennis M.      | Palawan, 2nd District             |
| Suarez, Danilo E.                  | Quezon, 3rd District              |
| *Syjuco, Augusto Boboy, Ph.D.      | Iloilo, 2nd District              |
| *Teves, Pryde Henry A.             | Negros Oriental, 3rd District     |
| *Tiangco, Tobias 'Toby' M.         | Navotas City, Lone District       |
| *Tieng, William Irwin              | PL-BUHAY                          |
| *Ting, Randolph S.                 | Cagayan, 3rd District             |
| *Ty, Arnel U.                      | PL-LPGMA                          |
| *Umali, Czarina                    | Nueva Ecija, 3rd District         |
| *Unabia, Peter 'Sr. Pedro' M.      | Misamis Oriental, 1st District    |
| Unico, Renato Jr. J.               | Camarines Norte, 1st District     |
| Valencia, Rodolfo G.               | Oriental Mindoro, 1st District    |
| *Velarde, Mariano Michael Jr.      | PL-BUHAY                          |
| *Velasco, Lord Allan Jay           | Marinduque, Lone District         |
| *Vergara, Bernardo M.              | Baguio City, Lone District        |
| *Violago, Joseph Gilbert F.        | Nueva Ecija, 2nd District         |
| *Yap, Arthur C.                    | Bohol, 3rd District               |

(Source: Journal No.39 page 51 & 52, Dec. 12, 2012 of the House of Representatives; Link: [http://www.congress.gov.ph/download/journals\\_15/UJ39\\_3.pdf](http://www.congress.gov.ph/download/journals_15/UJ39_3.pdf))

### Members of the House of Representatives Who Voted NO to RH BILL on Third Reading

\* = Running for Re-election

| NAME | REGION/DISTRICT |
|------|-----------------|
|------|-----------------|

|                             |                                  |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| *Abayon, Daryl Grace        | PL-AANGAT TAYO                   |
| *Alcover, Pastor Jr. M.     | PL-ANAD                          |
| *Almario, Thelma Z.         | Davao Oriental, 2nd District     |
| *Almonte, Jorge T.          | Misamis Occidental, 1st District |
| Alvarez, Antonio C.         | Palawan, 1st District            |
| *Angping, Ma. Zenaida B.    | Manila, 3rd District             |
| Antonino, Rodolfo W.        | Nueva Ecija, 4th District        |
| *Apacible, Tomas V.         | Batangas, 1st District           |
| Aquino, Jose II S.          | Agusan del Note, 1st District    |
| *Arenas, Ma. Rachel J.      | Pangasinan, 3rd District         |
| *Arnaiz, George P.          | Negros Occidental, 2nd District  |
| *Arroyo, Diosdado Macapagal | Camarines Sur, 2nd District      |
| *Asilo, Benjamin DR.        | Manila, 1st District             |

You may access the following links as additional guidance in the selection of candidates and party-list groups:

- 1.) Catholic Vote Philippines - <http://catholicvote.ph/index.php/blog/51-the-three-pillars-of-catholic-vote>
- 2.) White Vote Movement - <http://www.whitevote.org/>
- 3.) Catholic Philippines - <https://www.facebook.com.catholicph>
- 4.) Couples for Christ Foundation for Family and Life -[http:// cfcffl.net/cfc-ffl-endorses-white-vote-6-3/](http://cfcffl.net/cfc-ffl-endorses-white-vote-6-3/)



# Modesty Aside

Thoughts and tips for parents on imparting a virtue that has become easy to overlook

by Diana Uichanco

Unkempt and often barefoot children gleefully playing on the streets of slum areas are not unfamiliar sights, but have we stopped to wonder why they seem to regard the sidewalks and even the middle of the street as part of their home? Several factors are behind it, but one of the reasons that may explain this situation is that the concept of privacy is unknown to them. When one's home is a 40-square-meter space for all eight members of the family, and the younger ones don't see examples of the idea of privacy in their elders, they don't recognize any difference between what belongs to the realm of privacy and what can

Maybe parents need more reassurance that they have the authority to guide their children into making sound choices, even when these are deemed petty by some – such as fashion choices. Of course, the manner in which the guidance is provided will depend on the age and personality of the child as well as the circumstances.

be shown and done in public. Hence, it's like the street is part of their home and they do there whatever they wish.

It's amazing how so many teachable moments crop up every day for parents to impart virtues such as modesty to children – and often it doesn't even involve talking. It has a lot to do with example.

Do you go out of your bedroom wearing your flimsy nightgown sans robe, where your kids can see you? When your spouse brings up the latest news in extra-marital affairs, or what scandals are rocking showbiz, with all the sordid details, do you let him go on even with the little ones around, perhaps making gossip seem part of civilized conversation? Whenever you buy a slick new gadget or an irresistibly stylish bag, do you announce it to everyone with a loud and melodious “look at my new...!” for days? Or perhaps when the unwanted pounds are finally shed, are you planning to dramatically show off your svelte figure with outfits that would rival Lady Gaga's?

Because modesty is most often equated with matters of dress, its other forms tend to be overlooked – specifically in speech. Fortunately, parents are there to guide their kids on this matter, which is mostly easily done during their younger years. In other words, parents had better take advantage of the years when the little ones “idolize their mom and dad and believe everything they say,” as one dad puts it.

It's therefore up to the older members in the family to distinguish private and public: things that are better discussed in private and those that are okay to say in public (speech); the way part of each person's body is meant to be protected and hidden, which is okay for exposure, and how the sensible look to aim for should be dignified and decent.

But here's some good news: dads, your daughters need you, even in matters that are usually dismissed as “girl stuff”

(I'm referring to fashion choices) and even when they act as if they don't care about your opinion. Many times, it takes a man to see the practical side of things and sum up everything in a word when women are lost in the details and fail to see the bigger picture.

An incident at a tiangge demonstrates how dads can put things in the proper perspective, via one-liners that express an idea succinctly:

A couple was looking at some clothes and the woman started studying a bunch of spaghetti-strapped, lace-fringed pieces – which at the time began to be marketed as inner-wear-turned-outerwear. When she fingered the colorful pieces one by one, apparently trying to decide which to buy, her husband standing behind her casually protested.

“Well, this is what she likes,” the wife said.

“But they look like undergarments! I don't want our daughter wearing that,” the husband ended. He said it quietly but firmly, and both left without buying any of the pieces.

Maybe parents need more reassurance that they have the authority to guide their children into making sound choices, even when these are deemed petty by some – such as fashion choices. Of course, the manner in which the guidance is provided will depend on the age and personality of the child as well as the circumstances. When the child is all grown up, a parent can only hope and pray for the best – and perhaps make a casual observation once in a while, made in the same light tone and with affection that normally make it easier for anyone to accept – and not deflect – a piece of advice. ■ [dianauichanco@gmail.com](mailto:dianauichanco@gmail.com)

(Diana Uichanco is a writer who focuses mostly on issues pertaining to children, family and life. She is currently news editor at CBCP for Life and her blog, *This is not a job for superheroes*, is at <http://notjustforsuperheroes.blogspot.com>.)

## Elections 2013: A Political Exercise, A Moral Choice

by Rosie B. Luistro

As we prepare to go to the polls on May 13, it is critical that we choose well those who will be representing us in legislation as well as in local government.

To vote is both a civic and moral duty. It is important that we elect into office those who have a moral standard, those who will defend the dignity of human life from conception to natural death, and protect life at every stage of development.

Genuine respect for life, in law and in policy, is an essential responsibility of elected politicians because they are directly involved in crafting bills in Congress that promote the common good, foremost of which is the Right to Life. The people we elect will be the same people who will write or rewrite history with their support or lack thereof, of laws and regulations that promote Christian values and human dignity.

Defending life at all stages of development also means defending the values of the Filipino Family. All that we are, all that we have become, our habits, our virtues and values derive from our own families. We acquire our personality, our beliefs and our moral standards from the families that raised us. Thus, the family is the cornerstone of a strong and moral nation. And yet, this fundamental and basic unit of society is now, more than ever, under severe attack, threatened and assaulted in many quarters by new political and social agenda that try to keep up with other purportedly modern but not necessarily moral societies.

At no time in the history of our country do we need to be unyielding in defending family and life from those

who oppose the teachings, the values and principles taught by the Church. The threat lies in the weakening of these values, in the assault directed against the Catholic Church, in undermining our Constitution, in debasing our culture and in disrespecting our religious beliefs.

When the 16th Congress opens in July 2013, we will be treading on very dangerous grounds. In spite of all the efforts exerted by pro-life and pro-family advocates and allies in Congress the Reproductive Health bill passed in the 15th Congress.

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, in his Address to the Members of the European People's Party on March 30, 2006, urges us with these words:

*“As far as the Catholic Church is concerned, the principal focus of her interventions in the public arena is the protection and promotion of the dignity of the person, and she is thereby consciously drawing particular attention to principles which are NOT NEGOTIABLE. Among these the following emerge clearly today:*

- 1. protection of life in all its stages, from the first moment of conception until natural death;*
- 2. recognition and promotion of the natural structure of the family - as a union between a man and a woman based on marriage - and its defense from attempts to make it juridically equivalent to radically different forms of union which in reality harm it and contribute to its destabilization, obscuring its particular character and its irreplaceable social role;*
- 3. the protection of the right of parents to educate their children.”*

The Pope Emeritus also exhorts everyone *“to be credible and consistent witnesses of these basic truths through your political activity, and more fundamentally through your*

*commitment to live authentic and consistent lives”.*

Come election time, therefore, we must make sure that the authors who introduced anti-life bills or candidates who think like them should not be voted into office.

- When a candidate advocates the use of immoral means to solve social, economic and demographic problems,
- When he tells us that we can or should control human life and death through abortion, euthanasia, in vitro fertilization or cloning
- When he believes that, by way of legislation, human laws can be superior to that of God's laws

**THEN EACH AND EVERY ONE OF US MUST REJECT HIM/HER AT THE BALLOT BOX!**

Candidates must --

- Have good knowledge of the demands of the position and can lead constituents
- Know enough to help the poor and work for the common good
- Have a good record as a family man in his private or public life and not blemished by scandal or graft
- Advocate life and family and fight anti-life/anti-family policies
- Believe in the preservation of the family as the basic unit of society
- Be open to new life, responsibly bringing up and educating those that God has brought into the world

It is out duty to know our candidates' stand on life and family issues.

**Vote ONLY for Pro Life/Pro Family Candidates!**

■ [rb luistro@gmail.com](mailto:rb luistro@gmail.com)

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