

## *E ditor's Choice - Saving the Best for the Last*

(Fun and Inspiration Special)

### *Perspective*

#### **Tanjay's rich cultural and historical heritage**

By: Fr Jun Q. Limbaga

When I am in Cebu, I take the opportunity to visit Bino and we talk and talk as we dream and dream for our dear Tanjay. There is a pride beyond telling for being a Tanjayanon, but I must admit I have my own pains, too, being such. It pains me to see Tanjay, slowly losing its rich cultural and historical heritage.

When I did a research on the mission of the Jesuits in Tanjay at the end of the 16th century, I was so overwhelmed with joy and pride to find out that once upon a time, in a thriving village, near a river, townfolks welcomed the missionaries. I could picture in my mind the very same river where I used to swim on summer afternoons. In one account, it was narrated that because the missionary Fr. Gabriel Sanchez, who was also based in Bohol, had to leave Tanjay (after a month of Evangelization to return months after), he decided that the truths of faith which he taught be sung by the faithful. The truths of faith were reduced in song to facilitate memorization of the people. And this music and song became ingrained in the minds of Tanjayanons, both parents and their children, and their children's children. Is this not a vivid trace of the richness of our musical heritage? Is this not the reason why every Tanjayanon desires to come home to Tanjay to listen to old latin songs, which although, we do not fully understand, significantly echo a profound spiritual communion of our people?

It pains me to see, fewer traces of Tanjay's antiquity. Our historicity provides our meaning. But will our children or our children's children have something to help them remember? What if the significant people who have become crucial links to our wonderful history are gone? Change, though important, should not undermine continuity. And so we dream, we dream that this history of the town we love be told, and retold, appreciated and preserved.

#### **Where are the Oscines now?**

By: Babes Bernadez-Martin

When my family relocated to Tanjay in the late '70s (till we moved again to Manila) we loved hearing the 6:30 pm Sunday Mass as the choir then provided the parishioners with 'magnificent' music. They were then known as the Oscines, a group of dedicated men who saw fit to sing songs and hymns in prayerful adoration of the Creator. The sound of strong deep mature male voices singing familiar hymns resonated with such ecstatic power that to many of us, it seemed like a foretaste of heavenly bliss. Conveniently living in the vicinity of the Church, I remember wandering around Sunday evenings with the Limbaga's, the Garcia's, the Agir's and other neighbors, listening to the rich melodious hymns coming from the Oscines as it echoes and pervades around the Rizal Park area.

But where are the Oscines now? Some of the members are still around, but soon the group will only be a memory. Everybody admits Tanjay is rich in its musical heritage. We are the envy of most other places. We have still with us Andrews Calumpang, a composer of songs and hymns, Tia Tutang Manapol, herself a living legend, the Munozes, the Calumpangs, the Limbagas, and many others ... They are God-given gifts to the town of Tanjay. But just like the Oscines, someday soon, they too will be just a memory. I wish there were something we could do to preserve this heritage.

*Reprinted at the request of MrJaime (Jumbo) Ponce de Leon,  
"for those who just stand by the sides and criticize..."*

#### **Not the Critic**

"It is not the critic who counts: not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done better.

"The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood who strives valiantly, who errs and comes up short again and again, because there is no effort without error or shortcoming, but who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions, who spends himself for a worthy cause; who, at the best, knows, in the end, the triumph of high achievement, and who, at the worst, if he fails, at least he fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who knew neither victory nor defeat . . ."

Theodore Roosevelt

#### **On Marrying a Tanjayanon**

On 10/14/2005, [nenetorres.guillen@yahoo.com](mailto:nenetorres.guillen@yahoo.com) wrote:

***Marrying a Tanjayanon is a win-win situation – if you're a man.*** Ha? Sa ato pa diay, if you are a

woman: - marrying a Tanjayanon man... is what? A lose-lose situation? Madahan! Dili pud dagway!

So I replied. Of course I thanked her first, but then insisted that many a Tanjayanon man would take exception to her hypothesis. She emailed back starting with a big "lol" (laughing out loud)! The fact is, she explained, "*I've been happily married for the last 14 years to the most wonderful man in the whole wide world – Angelo Guillen, engineer born in Tanjay.*" She says she and her Angelo love to visit [www.tanjaycity.org](http://www.tanjaycity.org) and she likes the "unique Tanjay format". She claims to be, quote: "an expert in handling a Tanjayanon husband, heh, heh, heh!", unquote. Here's the rest of her "essay" (edited for brevity only):

*"... The Tanjayanon husband is a delight ... manumpa nga ikaw lang ang iyang kalipay, wa'a ug wa'a nay lain konohay! Ka-anindot, no? But beware: his words have hidden meanings! ... adto sa kusina, mosulod: "Day, lo-oy pud ka, tabangan ko ikaw." What he really means: Kadugay pud nimo. Gutom na baya ko (lol)! In the living room: "Pahuway usa, 'Langga! Tupad diri." What he means: "Langas kaayo imong vacuum, di ko kadungog ining TV" (lol)! Imo dad-on mag-shopping: "Oo, luv, lami iyang color, bagay kaayo nimo." Ang ipasabut diay: Hinugay na'g panukod, pa-uli na ta. Kapoy na ko (lol)! ... Nevertheless, dear Sir, know that if I had to live my life all over again, I would want to be as happy as I am now and therefore still choose to marry my Angelo, that proud Tanjayanon. Yes, yes, siya pa rin (unless of course Mel Gibson proposes first!) lol! lol!"*

(Ed's note: Nene, thank you for allowing us this reprint. Hey, if we get his address, we'll send a copy of this issue to Mr. Mel Gibson!?!?! (lol) )