

Arthur and Grace's new house in San Ramon.
FROM LEFT: Gina, Paul, and Grace.



HOME IS WHERE THE SCHOOL IS...

by Arthur and Grace David

It's been another year of moving for Grace and me. Twice this year, in fact. It seems no matter how much space we have, it's only a matter of time before it all gets filled up. Not to worry though, this will probably be our last move for some time. We sold our condo in December 1999. At first we thought the sellers were swell when they agreed to let us lease back our condo, but we did not anticipate that they would hike our rent that much. The nerve! So in February we decided to move into an apartment in San Ramon while our new house was being built. It worked out well eventually in that Grace and I were closer to work allowing us precious extra minutes of snooze time. It also gave us a preview of the lay of the land over here. We joined the church choir here right away. In addition Grace is also a Eucharistic Minister and I'm a lector -- our community service.

My mother in law, Tita, came to visit in April for a month. We had a nice time taking her around the Bay Area on weekends. She also pampered us with her excellent culinary expertise. A week after she left in May, on Mother's Day, we moved into our new house. One nice thing about having a big family is that you can count on help during house moves. As always quite a few good friends and relatives were up to the task, which made

for a pleasant experience. We had our house blessing in June and invited some friends and the same priest who had blessed our previous abode in Fremont. On the weekend of the 4th of July, we had another houseblessing party with the relatives. Among the visitors was our brother Paul, who had arrived in June from the Philippines on his first visit to this land of opportunity.

The Davids have enjoyed tennis since our brother Rey introduced us to the sport. These days, all the US-based Davids (Arthur, Rey, Gina and Paul) get together for a tennis match on Sundays, now a family tradition.

The other big news for the year is Grace's venture to create her own Montessori pre-school in our house. She had been teaching Montessori for years already and decided it was time to go for it. She has turned our family room into a classroom complete with tiny tables and chairs and Montessori materials. A small playground has been set up in our backyard by Tita Malu's landscaper.

There hasn't been much chance to go out of town this summer save for a trip to Camel for our 8th wedding anniversary in August and a weekend in Lake Tahoe to celebrate Grace's birthday. Our main adventure for this year is yet to come. In mid-November, Grace and I will go to the Philippines for a few days

to visit our families, especially my mom, Ching. These are turbulent times there with the political crisis in progress. But then again, nothing can stop us from visiting our loved ones. God will take care.

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You know you're a Laico when...

-yearly travels and vacations are a necessity and not a luxury.

-you would give up your airplane seats to receive \$ 200.00 travel vouchers even if it means the person meeting you at your destination would have to wait.

-fine dining is your favorite pasttime as long as it's either at half price, with coupons, or the early bird special.

-you are invited to attend an affair at 10:00 AM and show up at 11:30AM and your excuse is I thought we were on Day Light Savings Time.

-you love to watch movies or plays and would always make it in time for the matinee shows.

-you never throw anything from your storage closet-- "sayang kasi" (it would be a waste).

-you have this verbal expression like a gagging sound that goes "Agh..."

-you have an amusing and unique nickname and wonder how it could be related to your first name.

-ensaymada, pancit luglug, bibingka and green mangoes are the most valuable Filipino foods in your family.

-a sale is never a final sale unless *may tawad* (you bargained the price down).

-you walk into a movie theater with a large purse with a full picnic of sodas and drinks inside.

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