

Three Angels from Heaven

- *Isabelle loves to watch HOURS of MAHJONG!*
- *Kathleen is world's biggest "BLUES CLUES" fan!*
- *Tita ("Baba") Ester - God's Gift to HUMANKIND!*

by AISA LAICO DIZON

Laico Lines is really living up to its purpose of keeping the Laico relatives, who are divided between several states and two continents, informed of the goings-on with the many *kamag-anaks*. In the first issue you read all about our wedding. In the second issue we introduced Isabelle Leona who is now two-and-a-half years old. In this issue we would like to introduce the newest addition to our family... Kathleen Victoria Dizon!

Kathleen Victoria was born on February 20, 1998. She weighed 7 lbs. 3.2 oz. and looks just like her mommy. She is Isabelle's opposite, almost in every way. Kathleen has a temper that's unbelievable. She would cry about the littlest thing until she literally turns blue causing everyone around her to panic. Isabelle on the other hand was the well-behaved "low maintenance" baby. I could play mahjong for four hours straight and she would just be in her car seat right next to me, being entertained by the shuffling noise of the mahjong cards while flashing all the mahjong players her sweetest smile.

With majority of you *Laico Lines* readers being parents, I'm sure you'll understand and forgive me for sounding dotting and extremely proud of my children as I talk about them....

Isabelle learned to recite and read the entire alphabet phonetically, knew how to count up to fifteen, knew all the different animal sounds, and was able to differentiate a cat from a kitten and a dog from a puppy by the age of one year and nine months old. Now at two years and five months old, she is very courteous, always saying "May I please...", "thank you", "excuse me", "I'm sorry", "you're welcome", etc.... Isabelle is now learning to read two to three letter (simple) words and knows how to read numbers and count items (candies, M&Ms) up to ten. She knows all her shapes and colors,

she even calls fuschia pink, magenta. I would say she is 99% potty-trained, that is, she only wears diapers to bed and when leaving the house. She speaks in complete sentences and fully understands reason. I say this because every time she is restricted from doing something, she repeats out loud the reason given to her and respects that. There are times though, when she will insist on her way and if she is still restricted from getting it, she will then threaten, "Sige, I will go to Lolo's house!" (Lolo Chicho and Lola Tonnette live across the street from us). She quickly absorbs and retains information she learns from other people, T.V. and by merely observing things that go on around her. Isabelle is a very entertaining, sociable and self confident little girl. Of course she is Daddy's little girl, Mommy's "munchkin" and Tita Ester's ("Baba" - as Isabelle fondly calls her) little angel.

Kathleen, who is eight months old, thinks she is two-and-a-half years old. She imitates Isabelle's every move. Just like any eight-month old infant, Kathleen babbles a lot, sings in her own "foreign" language, dances to music, and just recently learned to clap loudly. Running after Isabelle and Cousin Andre in her walker while they are riding their tricycles in the backyard is one of the things that excites her most. Every time she watches "*Blue's Clues*", Kathleen gets hypnotized by Steve Burns. She's his biggest fan. She dances, sings and laughs with him and like her sister, she can watch him six hours straight without any complaints. Of course, the very first time I saw Steve Burns on television I thought he was the biggest loser in the world. (I believe Alex Silva shares the same sentiment.) But after observing how much positive impact he has on my children, I now think of him as... a loser with a positive impact on kids. Tita Ester, "Baba" as the kids fondly call her, calls Kathleen an algae-eater because she eats or chews on whatever she puts her lips on - a chair, table, a ball, shoes, slippers... you name it

she will chew on it! I think she is the most adorable algae-eater in the whole world!

God has been so good to us for giving us our two little angels, Isabelle and Kathleen. With Boggie and me both working full-time, it breaks my heart every time I think about how much we are missing out on our children's years of learning and discovery. I am very thankful and feel very blessed, however, that our children are being given the best quality care and are showered with an abundance of love by their paternal grandaunt Ester. No one but no one can top what Tita Ester has done for and given our new family. We do not know how we can ever repay her for everything she has done for us. She is our third angel... our guardian angel sent from heaven. **LL**

I REMEMBER WHEN...

by Rory Laico Packwood

POPOY...

- could not be found one day when he was six. He was finally located on top of the fence with the kid next door, making friends with Ronnie Presa, who was also to be Malu's friend later on.

- threw a shoe while in line at school. It landed right on the hand of the teacher whose hands were clasped behind her back.

- loved to watch *Popeye* and *The Three Stooges*.