



You know you're a Laico when...

-you like taking siesta. This is one habit that Lolo and Lola imposed on us and a few others as well. Jun Los Banos (of Honolulu) cannot forget that he visited Lolo Jim and Lola Luz after the war with a fellow soldier and Lola Luz would not allow them to go out until after they had taken their siesta. I remember how I hated to take siesta as a little girl (not anymore). With a big family like ours, the older siblings were in charge of making the younger ones toe the line, like taking siesta. I hated Tita Mitos for threatening me with a rolling pin until she was sure that I was asleep.

-you look for the following dishes on Christmas Day lunch: *Pancit Molo*, *Lechon de Leche*, *Pastel de Lengua*, *Chicken Relleno* (made by Doming "Set Aside" in Legazpi), *Prawns Thermidor*, *Steamed Lapu-lapu* with Rainbow dressing, *Lumpiang Ubod*, *Chicken Salad with Apples*, and 24-hour Fruit Salad.

-you know the song *Nagpabando*.

-you know *Kidlat*. The poor fellow; we never got to know his real name. We just called him *Kidlat* (lightning) maybe because of his eyes or his voice. He was the coordinator of the Block Rosary during the C. Ayala days, and we younger ones (then) would scamper away when we'd hear "*Nandiyan na si Kidlat*." (Kidlat has arrived.)

Bibot



REUNION OF THREE SISTERS

by Vic David

After more than four years, the three eldest sisters of the House of Laico had a most memorable and fun-filled reunion. Many thanks for the surprise visit of Nini and Nonon to their beloved sister, Ching. The House of David enjoyed the most varied activities packed in a single week from February 4 to 12, 2000.

On the very first day of their arrival from the States, Nini and Nonon accompanied by Peewee and her son, Jeremy, came to visit Ching and brought with them many *pasalubong* (gifts) mostly for Ching's needs. Thereafter, every afternoon they came to visit her, staying for several hours, reciting the Rosary and prayers for the sick, praying over her, talking to her and consoling her. This shows the very deep love and concern of the sisters for Ching.

Ching appeared to respond by trying her level best to talk and to stare at them sometimes with tears coming out of her eyes. While she can no longer talk, Ching is fully conscious as she responds to commands; she raises her head when I massage her scalp; she grimaces with discomfort, etc.

Lucky for me, I enjoyed many of the fringe benefits of the sisters' visit. After their morning visit to Ching on the first day, Edwin and Peewee treated all of us to a sumptuous lunch at New World Hotel which happened to be a weeklong Chinese double ten celebration.

On the second day, after the usual visit, I invited Nini and Nonon and the whole family of Edwin and Peewee for a buffet dinner at Saisaki restaurant in Ayala Alabang. Nonon remarked that this was her first Japanese buffet. Everyone was so full when we left, after eating and chatting for more than 3 hours.

The grand affair was the buffet lunch hosted by Edwin and Peewee at their Ayala Alabang residence two days before Nini and Nonon's departure. Almost all the Laico relatives in Manila, the Pronoves (Ate Pacita, Ito & Alma), the Santamarias (Tessie & Aida), and the Los Banoses (Tia Ting, Liddy & Coty) attended making the affair a mini-reunion of the Laico-Los Banos clan. The food served was just superb and mouth-watering, a combination of Filipino-Spanish-American dishes.

The next day, Ate Pacita treated Nini, Nonon and all the other Laico relatives to a delicious Thai lunch at the 5-star Shangrila Hotel Makati. Ate Pacita was just a very gracious and loving host.

As a finale in the afternoon prior to their departure, Nini and Nonon together with all the Laico relatives and two neighbors from Singalong were treated by Rene and Bibot to a special Filipino *merienda* consisting of very tasty *dinuguan* which only the host could prepare, *crispy ukoy*, *puto*, *pansit palabok*, *lumpiang ubod*, *sapin-sapin*, etc.

Indeed, the visit of Nini and Nonon to their dear sister, Ching, was a blessing from heaven.