

the Clementine Hall when Luca, perched near the door leading to the hall, shouted: "Cardinales e consultares!" I don't know any Italian but it sounded like I wouldn't get near His Holiness after all. I was dismayed. But my disappointment melted away as we entered Clementine Hall—frescoes bathed in warm light carried me away. I sat near the aisle admiring the frescoed walls and ceiling. I transferred when Sr. Rosanne prodded me to join her at the other side, three seats from the aisle. The 30-minute wait was spent in taking pictures on snappy Swiss guards assembled in front and of those escorting foreign dignitaries passing through the hall. "We are at a Vatican crossroads with a medieval army controlling traffic," a fellow delegate joked.

We were surprised when four close-in aides suddenly wheeled in Pope John Paul II from behind us. Gasps, standing ovation, picture-taking tussle ensued. Cardinal Martino introduced the group to the Pope. Punctured by labored breathing, the Holy Father read his brief message in slurred Italian. I thought he talked about the importance of applying the *Church Social Teachings* on our work. But checking out later on the Vatican website (www.vatican.va) for an official English translation of the message, I realized that the Pope urged us "to live in society as a witness to Christ the Savior and open ourselves to the horizons of charity."

Luca really meant it. Only cardinals and consultants to the Pontifical Council could go near the Pope. I sensed the difficulty his ailment was causing him. Blessing each of them with his right hand, he steadied his face with his left. He would straighten his back from time to time. His face seemed devoid of emotion but his eyes alertly flickered.

Having blessed the *cardinales e consultares* individually, and the audience commonly, his aides whisked him out of the hall, again, passing through the aisle. Awed by the Pope's

radiance, I elbowed aside Sr. Rosanne and Carlito just so I could touch him. I briefly squeezed his left forearm while uttering a totally unrehearsed wish "Get well, get well." I forgot all the personal wishes I rehearsed the night before. I snatched my camera from my pocket to capture him waving his hand before retreating to his quarters adjoining the hall.

Back in the hotel, in a workshop on the identity of church organizations, Bishop Christopher Toohey of Australia exclaimed: "We just met a sick old man who might as well be in a retirement home but who keeps on with his task of evangelization. Now we are asking ourselves our identity!" The theme of the congress was "Announcing the Gospel of Justice and Peace".

The following day, the official photographer displayed in the hotel lobby the pictures he took during the papal audience. I was lunging at the Pope, with Sr. Rosanne and Carlito partly covering me. The best spot for photos was the aisle seat I vacated, later on occupied by a Vietnamese priest.

The weather was cold but I felt warm inside. We left Rome after a pleasurable exhausting marathon tour on the first day of winter.

Tears streamed down my cheeks when Sr. Rosanne sent me a text message at five in the morning of 3 April 2005, informing me of the death of Pope John Paul II. "Transcended into immortality," I thought. I attended the 4 p.m. mass at the Church of the Holy Spirit in Tayuman, Manila. A picture of the Pope hugging a child, probably taken during one of his two visits to the Philippines, was prominently mounted in the altar. I cried once more when we sang the Our Father.

At the office the following Monday, I was riveted at CNN's footage of the Pope lying in the Clementine Hall. I recounted the day I met Pope John Paul II in the same hall—the day his selflessness crushed my selfishness. *Grazie, Santo Padre.* ■

Alamin ang inyong mga KARAPATAN

Ano ang dapat gawin kapag hahalungkat in inspeksyunin ang inyong bahay o opisina ng mga pulis o iba pang awtoridad?

- Karapatan mong huwag pahintulutan ang inspeksyon kung walang valid na **search warrant** mula sa isang huwes.
- Karapatan mong pigilin ang pagkuha ng mga bagay na hindi nakasaad sa warrant.
- Ang isang warrant ay valid kung:
 - a. pirmado ng huwes
 - b. nagsasaad ng isang sala (offense) lamang
 - c. naglalarawan ng eksaktong lokasyon at address ng lugar na iinspeksyunin
 - d. nakalista ang mga bagay o gamit na dapat kunin
 - e. ginamit ito sa loob ng sampung (10) araw mula sa paglabas nito

- Itanong sa mga pulis ang mga pangalan, ranggo (rank), opisina o yunit na kinabibilangan nila. Kunin din ang pangalan ng nakatataas na opisyal.
- Samahan ang mga pulis sa kanilang pag-iinspeksyon para maiwasan ang "pagtatanim" ng ebidensya o pagkuha ng mga bagay na hindi kasama sa warrant.
- Pwede lang isagawa ang paghahalungkat sa harap ng nakatira o may-ari o sinumang miyembro ng pamilya. Kung walang tao sa bahay o opisina, dapat kumuha ng dalawang testigong nakatira sa komunidad bago makapagsagawa ng inspeksyon.
- Kailangang magbigay ng resibo ang mga pulis kung may kukunin sa iyong tirahan. Siguraduhing may pirma ng pulis at ng isang kapit-bahay ang resibo.

Ano ang dapat gawin kung kayo ay inaaresto?

- ➔ Manatiling kalmado.
- ➔ Kumuha ng testigo o saksi sa pag-aresto (kamag-anak, kaibigan)
- ➔ Kunin ang pangalan, posisyon, at pangalan ng opisina ng mga taong nang-aaresto.
- ➔ Humingi ng kopya ng "warrant" at suriin itong mabuti. Dapat nakasaad sa "warrant" ang partikular na pagsasalawanan o pangalan ng taong aarestuhin. Dapat nakalagay din dito ang ibinibintang na krimen sa taong huhulihin.
- ➔ Kapag may depekto sa 'warrant', ipaalam ang iyong protesta sa mapayapang paraan (huwag gumamit ng dahas).
- ➔ Itanong kung saan ka dadalhin. Humingi ng pahintulot na makapagsama ng kamag-anak, kaibigan o kahit na sinong taong testigo sa pag-aresto.
- ➔ Humingi ng pahintulot na makatawag ng abogado. Kapag ito ay ipinagbawal, ipag-utos sa kamag-anak, kaibigan o iba pang testigong tumawag sa abogado.
- ➔ Huwag na huwag lumaban o pumalag kapag ikaw ay inaaresto. Kung kinakailangan, ipaalam ang iyong protesta sa pagka-aresto at hindi mo isinusuko ang kahit alin sa iyong mga karapatan, ngunit ikaw ay kusang sumasama upang maiwasan ang dahas.
- ➔ Huwag kang sasama kapag ayaw ibigay ng mga pulis ang kanilang mga pangalan. Huwag pumayag na lagyan ka ng piring sa mata.