



Active in Community

Van Nuys, CA---Orthodox Catholic Bishop David Leon Cooper of the Order of the Missionaries of Mercy has a fascinating ministry. He is becoming somewhat known in the community for the Filipino traditional weddings - with the mass outside the church - but there is more.

Bishop Cooper is conducting a ministry to Senior Citizens. The Bishop, along with two deacons, "takes the church" to the elderly in nursing homes in San Fernando Valley. He does a fully vested Mass - in the Roman Rite- right before the eyes of the spiritually hungry elderly whom he refers to as the "forgotten".

Carrying precious Icons, cloths, vestments, and solid brass candleholders "as big around as your arm and just as tall" in a trunk, he and his deacons shuttle between the facilities of his chaplaincy.

As if the seven facilities were not enough to keep him busy, he is also traveling about performing weddings, baptisms, and Masses in homes and other locations. He recently said the Mass in the Philippine

Village, Tehachapi for the Ding Le Anon, an international Filipino group.

He is known for his "Anointing of the Hands of the Care-givers" in which he blesses the hands of the doctors, nurses, and other healthcare providers. "Filipinos especially like the Blessing of the Hands since they are such devout people" the Bishop said. He does many traditional Filipino weddings in gardens and banquet halls with the Mass.

As a Bishop, he is able to assist those with special "marital situations" so that they may have the proper wedding.

He recently appeared at the coronation of his friend and supporter Mrs. Enriqueta Fonseca. Mrs. Fonseca is the 1993 Mrs. Hollywood of LASCA Hollywood Club and a lay-member of the non-profit Ecumenical Apostolic Chaplain Service. Bishop Cooper is the Secretariate Officer of the E.A.C.S.

Bishop Cooper is available for counseling and all seven sacraments by calling (818)765-3241.



Bishops Installed for Nursing Home Ministry. The Rev. Msgr. David L. Cooper, O.M.M. of Van Nuys & Rev. Fr. Miguel DeSoto, O.M.M. of Eagle Rock, CA were ceremoniously installed in Van Nuys last October 11 for the new Order of the Missionaries of Mercy. The Order is an ecumenical Orthodox Catholic & Independent Catholic Order serving the "forgotten" in Nursing homes. Bishop Cooper, VIC member, & Bishop DeSoto have been serving as priests for convalescent hospitals for several years. They are members of the Orthodox Catholic Church in America and the Confraternity of St. Michael the Archangel as well as officers of the Ecumenical Apostolic Chaplain Service.