



# SIMBAHAY

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF ST. JOHN BOSCO PARISH CHURCH, MAKATI CITY, PHILIPPINES

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 8

AUGUST 2012

## MARY'S STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN

By Emma Patricia I. Entao

Catholics around the world ponder on the **Assumption of Mary** when praying the Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary, and on the event's feast day on August 15<sup>th</sup>.

Unlike Jesus who ascended to Heaven by His own power, Mary was assumed, carried up to heaven, by Jesus and His angels. There, the Lord and King of All enthroned His mother and crowned her as Queen with the Biblical "crown of 12 stars" while all the angels and saints sang wonderful songs in praise.

Simply, this feast is about: (1) the joyful departure of Mary from this earthly life and (2) the assumption of her body and soul into heaven.

It is only fitting that the Blessed Virgin Mary joined her Divine Son in both body and soul in her Assumption into Heaven. After all, she was born uniquely *without original sin* and lived "full of grace" (Luke 1:28), sharing in Christ's victory over Satan, sin and death as His Blessed Mother.

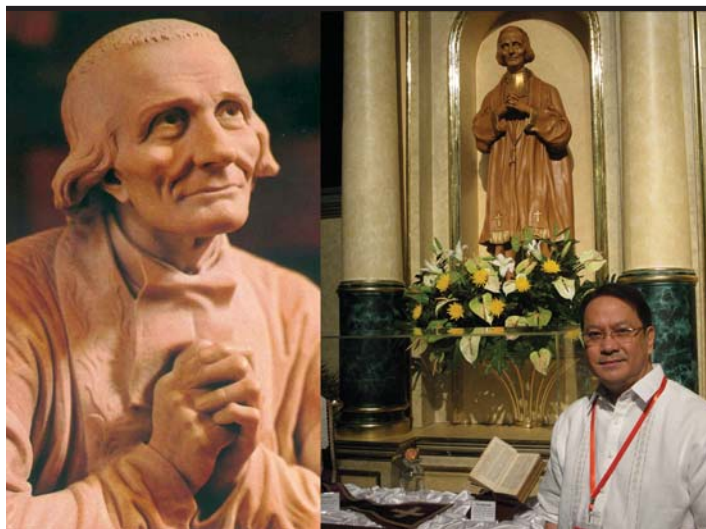
Mary's distinction lies in the fact that she humbled and surrendered herself to God. Her words to the angel at the Annunciation are words that we need to think deeply about, "Let it be done to me according to Your Word." (Luke 1:38) Throughout her life, Mary lived by these words, surrendering herself more and more to God: during the presentation of Jesus in the temple, she quietly accepted Simeon's prophecy that her soul would be pierced with sorrow; when Jesus was 12 years old and "was lost" for three days. Mary once again learned more about surrendering to God as Jesus told her that He had to be about His Father's business. But her ultimate surrender was to take place years later at the foot of His cross.

Because she surrendered herself completely to God, He filled her with His presence just as God fills us when we surrender ourselves to Him. Mary's sinlessness and being 'full of grace' served as her stairway, body and soul, into heaven at the end of her life.



The Assumption of the Virgin  
Guido Reni  
1631-1642

Ms. Emma Entao graduated in 1990 from the Assumption College where she later worked as grade school teacher and non-academic staff. She is currently a trainer of the Lectors and Commentators Core Group of the Archdiocesan Liturgical Commission.



## AUGUST 4 & 15, TWO PASTORS, TWO CELEBRATIONS

Every August 4, we celebrate the feast of a saint whose greatness is belied by his simplicity. Jean Baptist Marie Vianney (1786-1859), Parish Priest of the French village of Ars, tirelessly and patiently went about his pastoral duties, until with loving kindness, rigorous fasting and prayer, his personal holiness rubbed off on his parishioners and their once vice-ridden hamlet became a model Christian community. In 1925, the Curé of Ars was canonized a saint and later declared the heavenly patron of parish priests.

The Sunday after his feast day (Aug 5, this year) is designated as St. John Marie Vianney Sunday as well as Parish Priest's Sunday, in honor and appreciation of spiritual shepherds who not only minister to their parishioners' pastoral needs but administer their Parish's operational and fiscal requirements. Since December 2009, SJB Parish has been blessed with the able yet humble leadership

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## ST. JOHN BOSCO PARISH CHURCH MAKATI

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## SCHEDULE OF MASSES

### Monday to Friday:

6:30am • 7:30am • 12:15pm • 6:00pm

Holy Hour every Thursday after the  
6:00 pm Mass

### Saturday:

6:30am • 7:30am  
6:00pm (Anticipated Mass)

### Sunday:

6:00am • 7:15am • 8:30am • 10:00am\*  
11:15am • 12:30pm • 4:00pm • 5:30pm  
7:00pm • 8:30pm

\*with sign language interpreters

**Confessions** are available during all  
the Masses

**Adoration Chapel** - open daily from  
7:00am to 8:00pm

## PARISH OFFICE & RELIGIOUS STORE HOURS

**Monday to Friday (except Thursday)**  
8:00am - 11:30am • 12:30pm - 6:00pm

**Thursday:**  
8:00am - 11:30am • 12:30pm - 4:00pm

**Saturday:**  
8:00am - 12:00pm • 1:00pm - 5:00pm

## MARY AND DON BOSCO

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PARISH PRIEST



The month of August, in our Salesian tradition, is both Marian and Bosconian. For two successive days, we will celebrate Mary's glorious Assumption into Heaven (August 15) and St. John Bosco's birthday (August 16). Our reflection for this month's Simbahay issue will center on these two celebrations.

On November 1, 1950, Pope Pius XII declared the Dogma of the Assumption of Mary into Heaven. This decree defined for all times the doctrine *"that the Immaculate Mother of God, the ever Virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory."*<sup>1</sup> In this one sentence, the Church has presented the three most important attributes of Mary, viz., that from the beginning of time, she was designated as the Mother of God, at the start of her earthly life, she was conceived without sin and on her death, she was completely taken up into heaven.

With these three "gifts" alone, we can just wonder in amazement at how tremendously privileged Mary is. Who is she anyway and why is she so "deserving" of these special graces? The fact is, she does not deserve all of these. Authentic understanding of the role and person of Mary will point to a single conclusion: it is all the work of God. God in His goodness and wisdom has determined that Jesus would be born of a woman and that this woman would cooperate in Jesus' saving mission. Everything is grace in Mary and her faith-filled acceptance of her humble role is the key to her greatness. She was destined (Mother of God), she was prepared by the Holy Spirit (Immaculate Conception) and was rewarded (Assumption) in the end.

This is not a cause of envy or distance on our part. Rather, we should rejoice, especially at her Assumption, because she proved that our

own "human-ness", like hers, is destined for heaven. What happened to her is also our destiny. She is our hope and inspiration.

St. John Bosco is one great example of how Mary inspires people to go to heaven. For Don Bosco, Mary is everything; he owes his entire life, especially the hard beginnings of childhood and the equally challenging priestly ministry, to the ever-present maternal care of Mary. He always believed that his birthday was on the Feast of her Assumption. The very first prayers he learned were the Rosary and the Angelus. He entrusted himself to the Madonna during the rigorous years of study and training for the priesthood. When Mama Margaret died, he gave himself completely to Mary's care. When



he began his great work for the youth, Mary was always on his lips and throughout all the time he was constructing monuments, both material (the Basilica of Mary Help of Christians in Turin) and spiritual (the Congregation of the Salesian Sisters), it was all dedicated to his loving Madonna.

Don Bosco was all for Mary, because Mary was all his. The efficacy of Mary's powerful intercession in Don Bosco's work was matched by his unwavering faith and love for her.

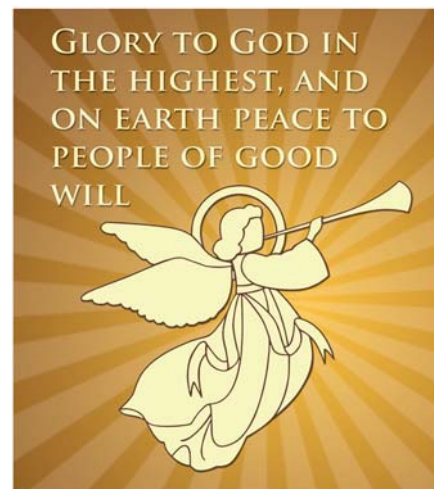
As we look forward to celebrate Mary's Assumption into heaven, let us look to her as our own mother, like Don Bosco's loving, faithful and generous sons and daughters.

<sup>1</sup> Apostolic Constitution, *"Munificentissimus Deus"*, on the Assumption of Mary

— Fr. Ting Miciano, SDB

## UPDATES ON THE GRADUAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF THE ROMAN MISSAL GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST

Among the biggest changes in the revision of the Roman Missal are those for the GLORIA, or *"Gloria to God in the highest"*. Instead of the simple phrase, *"and peace to his people on earth"*, the new translation says *"and on earth peace to people of good will"* which is what is stated in Latin. It means that God gives peace, as a gift, to people who possess good will. Then begins a series of acts towards God (*"we praise, bless, adore, glorify, give you thanks..."*). It repeats the phrase *"you take away the sins"* (sin, in the previous version) *of the world"* to emphasize the salvific role of Christ. This is a great hymn of praise to God, let us make it our own whenever we recite or sing it. Let us lift up our hearts, our minds and our spirits to glorify and praise Him.



**CELEBRATING LESSONS IN REAL LIFE**

By Fr. Chris Kennedy, SDB

It never really occurred to me that there might be some connection between my profession day and the birthday of Don Bosco. On second thoughts, I realized they are only one day apart. He was born on August 16, 1815, and I was born into the Salesian Congregation on August 15, 1966. As he will be honoured with great enthusiasm on his 200<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2015, I can only wish for a quiet reflective passage to 50 years as a Salesian in 2016.

There are other 'connecting' realities that come to mind as well. Don Bosco was the son of a farmer while mine was a farm labourer; we both grew up in the midst of great challenges. Our 'real' education in life was not in the classroom as such, but in the bigger classroom of the farms we worked on and the trades we were able to learn. For Don Bosco, these lessons would stand him in good stead in his work for destitute youth in and around an ever-expanding Turin.

**AN ORPHAN GROWS UP A GOOD FATHER**

Re-reading the early years of Don Bosco, we are confronted with the reality of the great man-saint that he was. His passion for the young despite his being without a father for most of his life is something we marvel at, especially in times when psychologists will tell us that a missing parent can do irreparable damage to a child growing up. He became a true father because he had a mother, Mama Margaret, who played a dual role as *mother-cum-father*, and instilled in him values that would last a lifetime.

**HARD WORK — PATH TO SAINTHOOD**

Descended from a family of mostly farmers, Don Bosco's father, Francis Louis was a

hired farm manager and already a widower at 27 years, when he met and later married Margaret Occhiena in 1812. Their small family home, was described as "a shed and stable with a tiled roof, and in disrepair." But all Francis' enterprising efforts came to an end when he died, leaving Mama Margaret with two very young sons (Joseph Louis, 4, and John Melchior, 2) and a lot of debts to pay off.

This impacted greatly on John, but armed with his earthly and heavenly mothers, he was to see all come to a successful conclusion despite tremendous challenges. When Mama Margaret chose John to move out, he learned more than all the books in the world could teach him in the practicalities of life as a labourer and helper on the farm. He now knew that to make him steadfast and strong, as Mary challenged in the dream, he had to take a different route than he could have ever planned himself.

**HEWERS OF WOOD AND DRAWERS OF WATER**

The idiosyncrasies of farm life were much to the fore in my growing up years too. When pneumonia and arthritis from working long days in the cold and wet Irish weather forced my father to retire as farm labourer, he trained us, his children, in the values and skills that were needed to conquer life's challenges. We became hewers of wood and drawers of water at an early age. These daily chores, in and out of season, providing for the needs of house and home, steeled us all in the challenges that co-responsibility demanded. We all learned early on to be of service to one another in mutual love and concern. To this day, I find it hard to imagine how we made ends meet, but the daily challenge and parental encouragement in all things made for a good combination. Like Don Bosco, our rewards were simple but the lessons learned were great.

**MAKING SENSE IN A FIELD OF DREAMS**

It was, in fact, from these 'reality' fields that the call to a field of dreams took place. One Saturday afternoon, the local Curate had set up a meeting with the Rector of the Salesian Aspirantate. My twin brother and I worked all morning and went to meet the priest in the afternoon. At that time it was hardly a sense of vocation that beckoned but a kind of adventure, the novelty of a secondary education, the joy of playing "new games". It was only later that the idea of pursuing a vocation began to emerge. Vocation is a work in progress, more due to God's gift that to the meagre cloth offered to the divine tailor. It was certainly a case of an oak tree growing from a simple acorn as, one by one, the parameters of a vocation were drawn up, and of 'staying put' despite the challenges that came the way from hard work, study, unfriendly teachers, and unpleasant events from time to time. I honestly believe that God has developed the art of being able to make sense of our nonsense over the centuries!

**ANNIVERSARIES: LOOKING BACK AND STEPPING FORWARD**

Anniversaries may come and go and the joy of celebration can be wonderful, but unless we look back in gratitude to what has gone before us to help and sustain us in the daily grind, we really celebrate in vain. Background and upbringing are the pillars of a worthwhile future. Don Bosco knew he could not have done what he did without his mother's help. We all know that anniversaries are a means to celebrate with gratitude what others have paid the price to attain. In this way real lessons are never lost. They are stepping stones along the path of what has yet to be achieved. As Don Bosco often said, "we will rest in heaven," knowing that what we did on earth has made that reality possible.



## SUNDAY MASS REFLECTIONS

Simbahay features the Sunday Mass Readings' themes from Fr. Sal Putzu's *"Exploring God's Word"*.

These themes are part of a systematic approach to study and have a good knowledge of the Biblical passages which will be used in the coming Sunday Masses and to relate these readings to our lives.

*Listen to Fr. Salvatore Putzu, SDB (General Manager and Editor, Word and Life) at Bisperas sa Veritas 846 AM, 5pm Saturday.*



### 19<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B)

#### August 12, 2012 Readings

\*1 Kgs 19:4-8 – Miraculously fed by a raven, Elijah reaches the mountain of God.

\*Eph 4:30-5:2 – Paul lists down some of the concrete demands of Christian love.

\*Jn 6:41-51 – Jesus presents himself as the "Bread from Heaven" which gives eternal life.

#### **Theme: JESUS, THE LIVING BREAD FROM HEAVEN**

Our life can be compared to a long, tiring journey which often puts our endurance to the test and may even bring us to the point of giving up, as what happened to the prophet Elijah on his way to Mount Horeb. But in this journey we are never alone, even when our eyes can see only an endless desert and our heart senses dangers on every side. Jesus is with us to assist us in all our difficulties and to bring us safely to our destination. He takes care of us in many ways, but especially by being our guide, our inspiration, support, and our strength.

In all truth, he can claim that he is "the living bread come down from heaven" to be the source of the strength we need to overcome the weariness of the journey and the trials of life. But especially he gives us that "living bread" that defies and overpowers all forms of ailment and even death.

### 20<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B)

#### August 19, 2012 Readings

\*Prv 9:1-6 – Divine Wisdom invites men to share in the banquet prepared for them.

\*Eph 5:15-20 – Paul exhorts the faithful to lead a sober life and devote themselves to thanksgiving.

\*Jn 6:51-58 – The Eucharist is a source of communion with God, and a seed of eternal life.

#### **Theme: EUCHARIST, THE FOOD AND DRINK THAT GIVE ETERNAL LIFE**

The scarcity of food in many parts of the world is ever more the cause of great concern for millions of people. It causes hunger and diseases that reduce human beings – especially children – to the pitiable sight of walking skeletons that can collapse at any time in exhaustion.

Just as material food is indispensable for earthly life, so is spiritual food indispensable for our everlasting life. And Jesus came to be precisely that "spiritual" food. He does so in a "sacramental manner" by transforming material food into a supernatural one that makes us share in his very life. This wonder happens in the Eucharist in which material bread and wine are transformed into Christ's body and blood (i.e., the whole of his person). When received with the proper disposition, i.e., with faith, sincere love, and rejection of sin, this sublime gift unites us with Jesus.



### 21<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B)

#### August 26, 2012 Readings

\*Jos 24:1-2a, 15-18b – Joshua challenges the people of Israel to choose to serve either the Lord or pagan gods.

\*Eph 5:21-32 – Proper relationship and attitudes between Christian spouses

\*Jn 6:60-69 – Many disciples desert Jesus but the Twelve, through Peter, renew their pledge of loyalty to him.

#### **Theme: THE COURAGE TO STAY WITH JESUS WHEN OTHERS QUIT**

Life is a series of choices of varying importance. Some are so important as to determine our future and even characterize what sort of persons we are. Such were the choices presented by Joshua to the Israelites shortly after entering the Promised Land and by Jesus to his disciples after speaking of the need to eat his body and drink his blood. The Israelites were challenged by Joshua to choose between the Lord and the pagan gods. Jesus' audience, in today's Gospel episode, was challenged to choose between accepting him as "the bread come down from heaven" and their rationalistic prejudices.

There come times in our life when we, too, have to make important choices. We are constantly challenged to choose between faithfulness to Jesus' teachings and the allurements of the hedonistic world in which we are immersed. This is a choice that demands both wisdom and generosity. Wisdom leads us to make the right choice. Generosity enables us to pay the price which choosing to follow Jesus entails.

### 22<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B)

#### September 2, 2012 Readings

\*Dt 4:1-2.6-8 – Moses exhorts the people to keep the Commandments.

\*Jas 1:17-18.21b-22.27 – The real believers are the doers of God's word.

\*Mk 7:1-8a.14-15.21-23 – A warning against the temptation to follow human traditions in preference to God's law.

#### **Theme: TREASURING THE REAL VALUES**

Since the tie humanity committed its first sin, the human heart has remained exposed to the devastation of violent passions which lead to "acts of fornication, theft, murder, adulterous conduct, greed, maliciousness, deceit, sensuality, envy, blasphemy, arrogance, materialism." These are like violent "moral hurricanes" which constantly erode our spiritual values and threaten to destroy our relationship with God and our neighbor. And in the process, our character, our very person gets deeply wounded, if not destroyed altogether.

In the Commandments, God has supplied us with a powerful defense line meant to protect us from the violence of our dark passions and to enable us to live a life of harmony, respect and fulfillment. Our task is not to question the various prohibitions that are included in this protective "defense line" but to take them seriously and make them the bulwarks of our moral life which should be characterized by the values that the Commandments enshrine.



### 23<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B)

#### Grandparents' Day

#### September 2, 2012 Readings

- \***Is 35:4-7a** – The miraculous signs of the presence of God's salvation
- \***Jas 2:1-5** – Discrimination against the poor should have no place in a real Christian community.
- \***Mk 7:31-37** – The healing of a deaf-mute by Jesus arouses the enthusiasm of the people.

### Theme: BUSTING THE MANY FORMS OF DUMBNESS AND DEAFNESS

Being unable to hear and speak is a serious handicap that isolates a person from the rest of society walling him/her up in a world of silence and incommunicability. But even worse than the physical forms of deafness and dumbness are the spiritual forms of this "handicap" – the inability or the unwillingness to hear God's Word and to respond to it, or the refusal to hear the call of our neighbor and respond to it with love.

Jesus, who was able to restore the gifts of hearing and speech to the deaf and dumb man, can perform the even greater miracle of healing the spiritually deaf and dumb among us. But for this miracle to happen, we have to approach him with humility and faith, and the readiness to obey him. Then will wonders happen: we will be able to hear God's Word clearly in our hearts, and this will move us to respond to the call of our neighbors with generous readiness and to proclaim His glory by words and deeds.

### AUGUST 23, FEAST OF STA. ROSA DE LIMA

#### SECONDARY PATRONESS OF THE PHILIPPINES, PATRON OF GARDENERS & EMBROIDERERS

*By Mayet Avis of the Parish of Sta. Rosa de Lima, Bagong Ilog, Pasig*

Santa Rosa of Lima, patron saint of the Americas and the first person from the Western Hemisphere to be canonized a saint by the Catholic Church, was born Isabel de Flores on April 20, 1586 to a wealthy family in the Parish of San Sebastian in Lima, Peru. She was later renamed Rosa during her confirmation. When her family lost their fortune, Rose helped by selling her fine needlework and the beautiful flowers she grew in their garden. Her days were spent helping the sick and hungry around her community, while her nights were devoted to prayer and penance. Emulating St. Catherine of Sienna, Rosa experienced such ardent love for God, spending many hours contemplating the Blessed Sacrament, which she received daily. She took a vow of virginity despite her parents' wishes for her to marry.

She devoted herself to a life of self-denial and mortification. Despite her family's objections and the ridicule of friends, she imposed self-cruelty to turn attention away from her beauty and focus it on God. Rosa practiced extreme forms of religious observance. It took her many years of prayers, fasting, hard work and secret penances before her family reluctantly agreed to let her become a Dominican



Tertiary. She donned the habit, chose strict enclosure and contemplation and withdrew to seclusion in a hut in the family garden, where she endured a life of severe austerity. She wore a crown of thorns, fasted, and slept on a bed of broken glass and potsherds. When Rose spoke of visions, revelations, visitations and voices, people deplored her penitential practices more than ever.

For 11 years, this self-martyrdom continued without relaxation, between intervals of ecstasy. During an illness towards the end of her life, she prayed, "Lord increase my

### SEPTEMBER 2012 CALENDAR

02 Sun	22 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time/
03 Mon	St. Gregory the Great
07 Fri	1 <sup>st</sup> Friday Vigil Adoration after 6pm Mass
08 Sat	<b>Birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary</b>
10 Sun	<b>23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>
12 Wed	Holy Name of Mary
13 Thu	St. John Chrysostom
14 Fri	<b>Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross</b>
15 Sat	Our Lady of Sorrows
16 Sun	<b>24<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>
17 Mon	St. Robert Bellarmine
19 Wed	St. Januarius
20 Thu	St. Andrew Kim Taegon & St. Paul Chang Hasang & Companions
21 Fri	<b>St. Matthew</b>
23 Sun	<b>25<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>
26 Wed	St. Cosmas & St. Damian
27 Thu	St. Vincent de Paul
28 Fri	St. Lorenzo Ruiz and Companions
29 Sat	<b>Sts. Michael, Gabriel &amp; Raphael, Archangels</b>
30 Sun	<b>26<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time/ National Seafarers' Day</b>

**Sick Visitation** – Thursdays 9AM

**Holy Hour** – Thursdays 6:30PM

**Medical & Dental** – Sundays 2:00PM

**Street Mass** – Saturdays 7:30PM

Visit our website for the complete Sept 2012 Calendar  
<http://sjbmakati.com/parish-events.html>

sufferings, and with them increase Thy love in my heart." This remarkable woman died on August 1617 at 31. She was eventually canonized in 1671 and proclaimed Patron Saint of South America, the Indies and the Philippines after many miracles were attributed to her intercession.

*Sta. Rosa de Lima's intercession is constantly invoked by Filipino Catholics in private devotions and in Church-wide Oratio Imperata against election anomalies, drought, epidemics, and passing the RH Bill.*

As part of the preparations for the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the dedication of our Parish church, we humbly appeal to those who are willing to donate the sacred vessels and other articles to be used during the Anniversary's Eucharistic celebrations to contact our parish priest, Rev. Fr. Ting Miciano, SDB. Thank you for your generosity!



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**TAPAT SA KALIDAD, TAPAT SA TIMBANG**

## YOUTH MINISTRY "OPENS" PAYONG KAIBIGAN

By Mary Grace Gueriba

Last August 29, the SJBP Youth Ministry (YM), launched its newest monthly activity, **Payong Kaibigan** (*Friendly Advice*) in the Parish Gymnasium. About 200 young people from different youth organizations were able to bond and share in a meaningful one-hour event which included among its highlights: the surprise mob dance lead by the *Ampons* which served as the ice breaker of the event,

the umbrella game, a modified version of "boat is sinking", the welcome address by our Parish Priest, Fr. Ting Miciano and the talk of Fr. Dennis Paez, the YM Salesian-in-Charge who explained the inspiration for *Payong Kaibigan*. He then asked the young people to form small groups and take turns praying for each other's concerns while the YM "Flag", a crucifix designed by Fr. Dennis, was carried in procession around the gym.

Fr. Rector, Chris Kennedy, closed the event with a prayer and a blessing for the youth.

As conceived by YM's newest "tatay", together with the Commission on Youth Ministry and the JP II Secretariat, these monthly gatherings (**every 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month, at 4PM**) of all Parish youth, is a way for the young people of our Parish to get to know each other since they are all under one "payong", the umbrella ministry of YM.



## REMEDIOS D. DURAN 30-YEAR SERVICE AWARDEE



On August 16, 2012, the birthday of our Patron Saint John Bosco, SJB Parish will honor Ms. Remedios Dizon Duran, in-charge of the Parish Religious Store, for 30 years of loyal service.

Immediately after college in 1982, Remy was hired to work in the Mass Cards section and later, in the Parish Office. In 1990, then Parish Priest, Fr. Godfrey Roozen trained and assigned Remy to take charge of the Store where she has since been courteously attending to both customers and suppliers, efficiently updating the merchandise and ensuring availability, quality and reasonable prices.

Remy considers working for the SJB Parish, not just an 8 to 5 job, but also a 24 by 7 vocation. Undoubtedly, the concern she feels for her work, the Salesian Community and the parishioners she serves, is but an extension of a cherished dream back in high school to be a Salesian Sister.

Along with her husband, Rowie and their three children (Rosarie, Lorenz and Patrick), Remy has been an active SJB parishioner from day one. She is a member of the Legion of Mary, the Lectors and Commentators Guild and is in charge of the Auxilium Family Choir.

## NEWS BRIEFS



## RENOVATED ADORATION CHAPEL REOPENS

By Ramon C. Angeles

On July 16, 2012, our beloved Parish Priest, Fr. Ting Miciano, reopened the Blessed Sacrament Adoration Chapel after weeks of renovation. Entering the newly renovated Chapel, one will notice that it is now divided into two sections. The front section is considered as the most sacred area of the Chapel; visitors are required to remove their footwear before entering this area. The back section, on the other hand, is intended for those people who prefer an enclosed quiet area where they can pray and meditate with their shoes on. Upgrading of the Parish facilities has not only provided its parishioners utmost convenience but adds dignity and grandeur to a shrine of their Catholic Faith.



The Knights of the Altar (KOA)

Is now inviting new members!

Continued from page 1

of Rev. Fr. Romeo Agustin Ma. G. Miciano, Jr., SDB whose birthday we celebrate on August 15, the Feast of the Assumption.

Like St. John Marie Vianney, Fr. Ting is known and admired for his homilies which are not dazzling and oratorical but eloquent in their simplicity – clearly and sincerely speaking to the listener's heart and soul. Simplicity is another admirable trait which Fr. Ting shares with the Curé of Ars. Through example, he reminds those who work with him to focus on what's essential, to minimize the frills (but not the creativity), and be prudent in using Parish' resources.

One can imagine the provocation, vicious attacks, and outright rage that St. John Marie Vianney had to face during his campaign against working in the fields and dancing and drinking in the taverns on



## ALTAR SERVERS, THE PRIEST'S RIGHT HAND DURING MASS

By Mark Philip M. Ragos, KOA Animator

The Knights of the Altar is an organization of boys and young men, ages 9-25, who are committed to serve the Lord by assisting in the celebration of the Holy Mass. They are the young men, dressed in white vestments, who serve closest to the priest during Mass. Therefore, being part of the KOA draws you closer to God through the celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

As part of our preparations for the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Parish Church in 2013, we are now accepting interested boys and young men to help during the sacred celebration of the Holy Mass.

Qualifications are as follows:

1. 9 to 18 years old
2. Has received first Holy Communion (please present certificate)
3. Willing to give his time to serve Masses and attend SJB Parish activities

Those interested should see **Mark Philip M. Ragos** or leave their names and contact numbers in the Parish office.

Sundays, but he persisted and eventually succeeded until "*Ars...is no longer Ars!*" While Fr. Ting doesn't wage war against modern-day taverns, as Parish priest, he has had to make difficult decisions and handle conflicts, whether, in dealing with the varying demands and temperaments of his flock, or in actively taking an unpopular, but moral stand e.g., against the RH Bill.

Fortunately for the Parishes of Ars and ours, it takes a lot to disturb the Pastors' equanimity and gentle nature. In turn, their parishioners have responded with admiration and affection.

A sampling of those who know Fr. Ting "away from the ambo", describe him as: unassuming, compassionate, soft-spoken, gentle, patient, humble, kind, *malumanay na pastor*, firm on non-negotiable issues yet flexible in considering his parishioners'



## MOMCA STAGES A HYMN TO DON BOSCO

By Mary Grace Gueriba

"Simple yet impressive", (*simple pero "may dating"*) – so say those who filled the Parish Church last July 7 to watch *A Hymn to St. John Bosco*, a two-hour concert which featured two of our very own youth groups – the SJB Children's Choir and the SJB Rondalla with conductors, Lesley Faye Beloy Verayo and Julius Anthony Garcia, respectively.

As part of the SJB – so Alive@35 preparations for the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Parish Church, the Ministry of Music and Cultural Affairs (MOMCA) under Gaylord Villa with the full support of our Parish Priest, Fr. Ting Miciano, organized the concert which showcased the musical talents of young parishioners performing praise and worship songs as well as popular tunes in honor of our Patron Saint. The most applauded numbers were the Children's Choir's spirited rendition of "We Beseech Thee" from "Godspell" and the Rondalla's "Umagang Kay Ganda" which had the audience gamely joining in the chorus. Talented young pianist, Rafael Dominic Chan Virata also wowed the crowd. Ms Karen Dela Luna-Ogbac was the evening's emcee.

sentiments, my "idol catechist", generous, affable, well-grounded, *mababa ang loob*, approachable, dependable, committed, frugal, *kahanga-hangang mamahala*, *handang makipag-usap kahit kanino*", a talented "Elvis Priestly", *napakabait*, very helpful, *napakamaunawain*, a prolific leader, holy.

We can not all be canonized saints like St. John Marie Vianney, but, like Fr. Ting, we can all draw inspiration from them, infusing this in our occupations, vocations and relationships and thereby, inspiring others with our innate holiness. **Happy Birthday, Fr. Ting!** May God continue to bless you with good health, wisdom and abiding peace. And as the beloved Curé "showed the way", may you and all priests remain faithful and true to the Lord and His Church.