

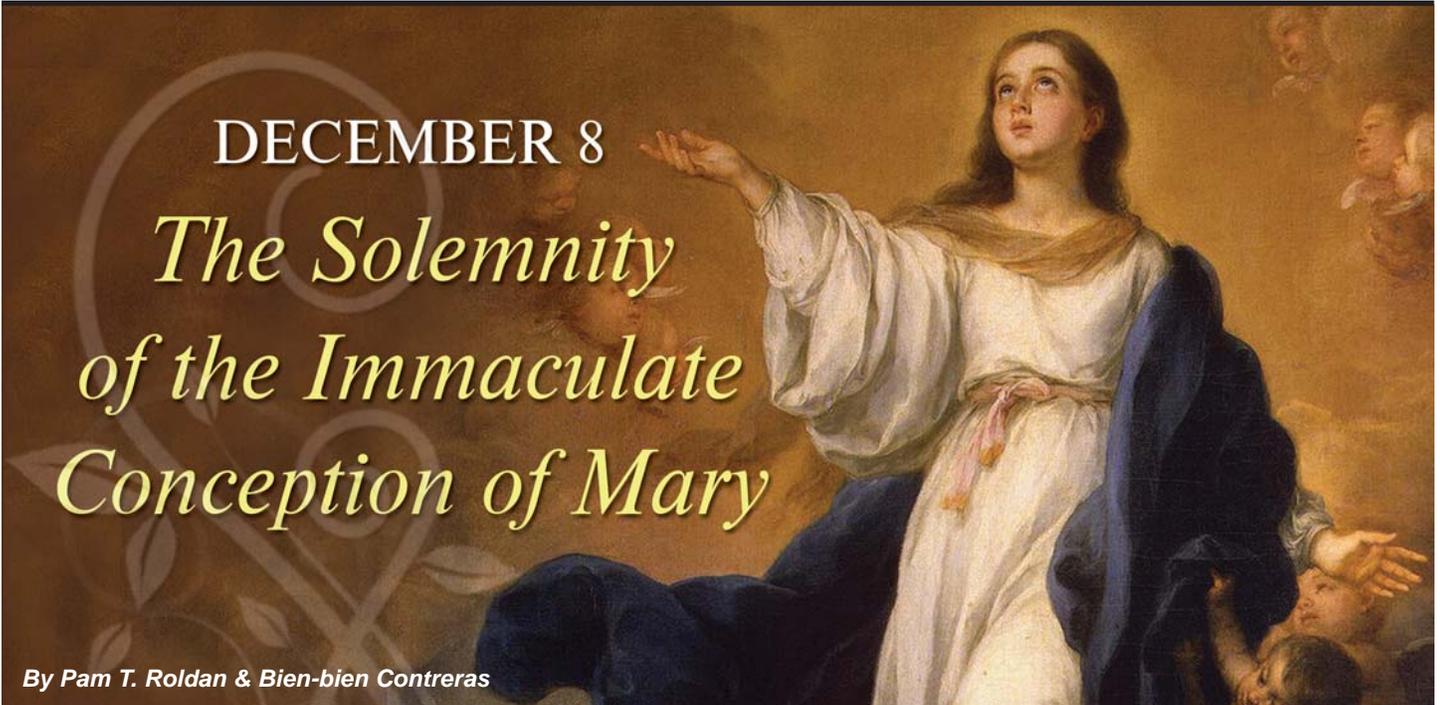


SIMBAHAY

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

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2012



DECEMBER 8

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Mary

By Pam T. Roldan & Bien-bien Contreras

A recent news feature on various Christmas displays in the Metro showed a house fully covered with Christmas lights. "Why did you do it?" the owner was asked. "To share the Christmas spirit", he answered. Indeed, seeing such a colorfully lighted house does add to the joy, excitement, energy to the Christmas "spirit".

But what of those who cannot afford such expensive decorations? How can they prepare their houses for Christmas? My *lola's* reply? Clean! Cleanliness is next to godliness, kindergarten taught us. Our folks always say, "*Kahit luma ang isang bahay, basta't malinis, ang mga tao doon ay mabubuting-loob at kagalang-galang.*" Though old, a clean house shows good-hearted and respectable dwellers. Moreover, a clean house not only reflects well on the owner, it also serves to welcome and honor guests. The more exalted our guests, the earlier we start cleaning and the more thoroughly we clean.

And so it was, that many years before the Blessed Mother consented to conceive the Son of God, as early as the first instance of her own conception in St. Anne's womb, Mary was already kept immaculately clean, spotless, free from the stigma of original sin, prepared to be the perfect receptacle to receive the supreme Guest of honor, Jesus Christ, Lord of lords and God of gods.

That is what the dogma^[1] of the Immaculate Conception confesses, as Pope Pius IX proclaimed in 1854 in his papal bull *Ineffabilis Deus* (Ineffable God):

The most Blessed Virgin Mary was, from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of almighty

God and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, Savior of the human race, preserved immune from all stain of original sin.^[2]

It is the **Immaculate Conception of Mary** and **not** as often mistaken, **the virginal conception of Jesus**, her Son, which the Catholic Church universally celebrates on December 8 as a Holy Day of Obligation.

This year, with the sword of the "imminent" passing of the RH Bill hanging over our collective heads, we pray with desperate urgency for the intercession of the Woman whom the Lord has singularly honored at the first spark of her life.

As our Constitution has "inconveniently" provided that the State "shall equally protect the life of the mother and the **life of the unborn from conception**"^[3], much of the raging debate has centered on the meaning of the "C" word.

As Catholics, we believe that "conception" (Mary's and ours) took place when our souls were created and infused into our living bodies at fertilization; it is the truth honored and taught by the Church, all other interpretations though convenient, are not.

We pray that all our leaders and legislators (especially those who profess they are Catholics) may be guided by the grace of the Holy Spirit to act responsibly on this critical present issue.

Mary, our loving mother, conceived without sin, to you we entrust the cause of life.

[1] Church teaching that must be believed and accepted as part of the Faith

[2] Catechism of the Catholic Church 491

[3] The 1987 Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines, Article II, Sec. 12



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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

DECEMBER 2012



ADVENT LIVING

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PARISH PRIEST

A few days ago, the Church began a new *liturgical year*, a yearlong journey that will be enriched by the Year of Faith, also declared by the Holy Father this year. The first part of this journey is the season of **Advent**, which is a four-week preparation for the Nativity of the Lord, that is, the mystery of the Incarnation. The word “advent” means “coming” or “presence.” In the ancient world, it indicated the visit of the king or emperor to a province; for Christians, it refers to **the coming of God**, to *His presence in the world*; a mystery that involves the entire cosmos and all of history. There are two culminating moments: the first and the second coming of Jesus Christ. The first is precisely the Incarnation, the second, His glorious return at the end of time. These two moments are chronologically far apart but touch each other in their depths, because with His death and resurrection Jesus has already realized that transformation of man and the cosmos, which is the final goal of creation. But before the end, the Gospel must be preached to all nations. So the world is in constant need of God’s presence. This is the perpetual advent in our Christian life.

Our collaboration is required in this permanent coming of the Lord not only in the proclamation of the Gospel to all but in our very own conduct. Let the Scripture readings last Sunday remind us how it is **to live the Advent season**.

In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus says to the disciples, *“Do not let your hearts be weighed by dissipation, drunkenness and the troubles of life...be vigilant, therefore, praying at all*

times” (Luke 21:34, 36). God’s presence requires vigilance, which means to be attentive or attuned to “the signs” of His presence. Let us be reminded by what St. Bernard of Clairvaux says about the *third coming of Jesus*, “not in history or at the end, *but in mystery!*” Christ is here among us but in subtle and hidden ways: in the sacraments, in Scriptures, in loving fellowship with our brethren, even in the sorrows and defeats of life. The next step is prayer which is nothing else but “to connect” to THE presence that we have detected. And the third attitude of “Advent living” is from the apostle Paul who invites us to *“grow and super abound in love” among ourselves and toward others, to make our hearts strong and blameless in sanctity* (cf. 1 Thessalonians 3:12-13). In the midst of the upheavals of the world, or in the deserts of indifference and materialism, Christians welcome the salvation that comes from God and bear witness to it with a different way of living, a living based on love and genuine concern for others. It is the love for others that will lead to holiness, which is another way of saying, leading to God.

The Virgin Mary perfectly incarnates this spirit of Advent; the spirit is one of attentive listening to God’s presence, a humble attitude of solitude and prayer and of joyous service to our neighbor. As we rejoice at the coming feasts of the Immaculate Conception and of Our Lady of Guadalupe, let Mother Mary guide and lead us in living “a life of Advent”.

— **Fr. Ting Miciano, SDB**

I BELIEVE IN JESUS CHRIST, ETERNAL SON OF GOD WHO BECAME MAN

By Fr. Ting Miciano, SDB

The name “**Jesus**” means “God saves” or “God is savior”. The child born of the Virgin Mary is called Jesus (“*Jehoshua*” or Joshua) “for He will save His people from their sins” (Mt 1:21) and for which “there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12)

The title “**Christ**” means “the Anointed One” or “the Chosen One” (*messiah*). **Jesus is the Christ**, for “God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power” (Acts 10:38).

The title “**Son of God**” signifies the unique and eternal relationship of Jesus Christ to God, His Father: **He is the only Son of the Father** (Jn 1:14) and He is God himself (Jn 1:1). To be a Christian, one must believe (know and accept) that Jesus Christ is the Son of God (Acts 8:37).

At the time appointed by God, the only Son of the Father, the eternal Word, that is, the Word

and substantial Image of the Father, became **incarnate**; without losing his divine nature, **he assumed human nature (He became man)**.

And so **Jesus Christ is true God and true**

Man, in the unity of His divine person; for this reason He is the one and only mediator between God and man.

This means that **Jesus Christ possesses two natures**, one divine and the other human, not confused, but united in the one person of God’s Son.

The **Incarnation** is therefore the mystery of the wonderful union of the divine and the human natures in the one person of Jesus Christ, the Word!



YEAR OF FAITH 2012
2013

JOSE MARIA V. ZARAGOZA BIRTH CENTENNIAL

By **Loulette Zaragoza-Banson**

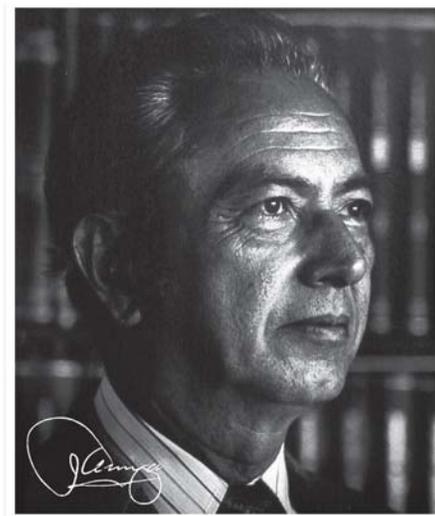
How many of us will be around to celebrate our 100th birthday? This is indeed a blessing reserved for a few. How many of us will have achievements which bear our mark and will outlive us long after we have crossed to the Great Beyond? This again is a gift for a few. My Dad, Architect Jose Maria Zaragoza lived till his 81st year. We remember him in a special way on the 6th of December 2012 because he would have been a hundred years old then.

We celebrate a birth anniversary because it reminds us to be grateful for the gift of life. Daddy is now enjoying eternal life-this is a truth my faith makes me embrace. Why then do we still need to celebrate? We celebrate because of God's GOODNESS to us. Not too many people are called to build huge magnificent structures. God, in His unique and marvelous way, chose Daddy to design places of worship like the Sto. Domingo Church, St. John Bosco Parish Church, the Shrine of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal in Posadas Village, to name a few. One of his earlier works, the Villa San Miguel has hosted two great popes within its walls. Two landmark stand along Ortigas Avenue, tributes to his genius – the Meralco Building and Virra Mall, Greenhills first mall in the 70's. In 1981, he was given the honor to design a 40-foot mural that served as a backdrop for the Pontifical rites in Rizal Park for the beatification of St. Lorenzo Ruiz by His Holiness Pope John Paul II, the first beatification Mass held outside Rome.

National Artist, Nick Joaquin once wrote that our culture is the culture that buys small (*tingi*) and thinks small (*barangay*). He challenged the Filipinos to annihilate the petty and rise to greatness. Daddy left us with a heritage of greatness, boldness and creativity. This is reason to celebrate, indeed! As Pope John Paul II said during the beatification, "to do great things is a gift for some but to do everything with excellence is a duty for all". Dad was gifted with both: the task and the ability to do great things. He showed us, by example that we must strive for excellence at all times.

He found fulfillment and welcomed the challenge to do complex structures. He consolidated and synthesized, not just building materials, but people's talents. He was bold and daring when he mastered a particular style in architecture to go and explore new lines and curves. While I don't know much about architecture, I do know who Daddy's personal foundation and original inspiration were – the greatest woman of all time: the Blessed Virgin Mary.

He prayed much while he worked and was totally devoted to the Blessed Mother. I remember schooldays in the 60's-70's with Daddy driving my younger sister and me in his sturdy and reliable Beetle, from our home in Quezon City to our school in Makati. During the 30 to 40 minute drive, we would always pray the rosary, followed by a chant-like recitation for every Rosary bead of "Sagrado Corazon de Jesus en Vos con fio" (Oh Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, I

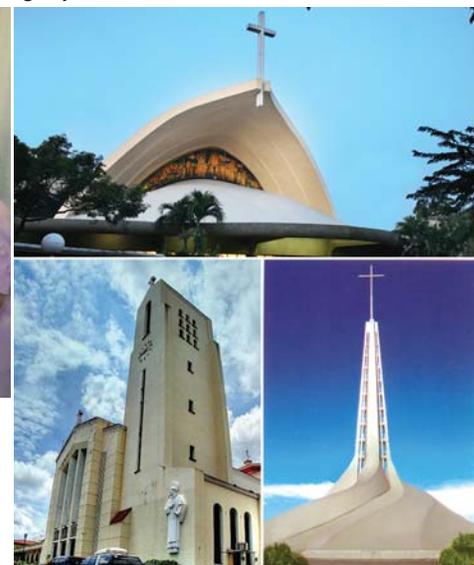


place my trust in Thee). He set the mood, the focus and the purpose of our day. His accounts on the life of the saint of the day greatly inspired us. His life was so deeply rooted in his love for God and his devotion to *Mama Virgen*. That is why I am confident that, with the help of those who believe in the preservation of cultural treasures, Dad's memory will live longer than a hundred years.

Today, we celebrate the man and his work not just to propagate his memory nor to clone him, but as his daughter, I believe that the paramount virtue I would like to bequeath is his great spirit. He soared in his humanity as he was rooted in his deep love for God and the propagation of His Kingdom, thus contributing works not only of historical importance, but also for God's greater glory.



Left photo: In his homily, H.E. Most Rev. Socrates Villegas, Archbishop of Lingayen who presided in the concelebrated Mass in honor of the Centenary of the late Arch. Jose Maria Zaragoza exhorted the assembly not to merely celebrate but also to emulate Arch. Zaragoza for his zeal, charity and humility. **Center photo:** Sra. Pilar Zaragoza and her children, presenting a commemorative chalice of the Birth Centenary of Arch. Jose Maria Zaragoza to Rev. Fr. Ting Miciano, SJBP Parish Priest. **Right photo:** Churches designed by Arch. Zaragoza - St. John Bosco Parish Church, Sto. Domingo Church Quezon City, National Shrine of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Sucat, Parañaque



UPDATES ON THE GRADUAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF THE ROMAN MISSAL

Last Sunday, 2 December 2012, the First Sunday of Advent, the whole Church in the Philippines began fully implementing the new English Translation of the Roman Mis-

sal. After months of preparation and practice, all the Catholic faithful will experience the richness and solidarity of the liturgical celebrations, particularly the Holy Eucha-

rist, which is what it is supposed to be: the universal Sacrament of the Church. Let us be more conscious and understanding as we use the new translation of the Roman Missal.

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.



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

December 8, 2012 Readings

*Gn 3:9-15.20 – The Lord asks Adam and Eve to account for their disobedience and foretells the defeat of Satan.

*Eph 1:3-6.11-12 – Prayer of praise and thanks for the blessings showered by God on all the faithful

*Lk 1:26-38 – The message of the angel Gabriel to Mary and her prompt availability to cooperate with God.

Theme: LIVING THIS ADVENT LIKE MARY, THE WOMAN OF FAITH

The Immaculate Conception of Mary marked a decisive moment in the realization of God's plan of salvation. As the "designated" Mother of the Messiah, she was to be the first to enjoy in full the liberating and sanctifying power of the work of redemption wrought by him.

That is why the Holy Spirit worked the wonder of her immaculate conception and of a life fully devoted to God's service without the least flaw or backsliding.

Mary Immaculate is the most beautiful model of how we should live this Advent. Like her, we should prepare for the coming of the Lord in our lives with a living faith, humility, prayer, availability, and readiness to do what God wants. Only by following Mary's example shall we be able to experience in ourselves the wonders of God's life-giving presence.



2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 9, 2012 Readings

*Bar 5:1-9 – A hope-filled prophecy about the return of the exiles

*Phil 1:4-6.8-11 – Prayer of Paul for the faithful of Philippi

*Lk 3:1-6 – John the Baptist begins his preaching along the Jordan.

Theme: HOW TO BRING ABOUT A COMPREHENSIVE REFORM

John the Baptist was the last of the prophets sent by God to prepare the people to welcome the Messiah. His inspired words are addressed also to us today to help us prepare to welcome Jesus not only this coming Christmas, but every day, in whatever form or way he may decide to knock at the door of our lives.

Guided by John's words, we lay open our hearts to God, and set out to bring about in ourselves a "comprehensive reform." We will do so by being determined to change for the better, under the guidance of God's Word. At the same time, we will also implore the help of His grace, for we know that without Him we will never be able to achieve this goal.



3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"Rejoice Sunday"

December 16, 2012 Readings

*Zep 3:14-18a – Invitation to rejoice for the saving presence of the Lord in the midst of His people

*Phil 4:4-9 – Paul exhorts the faithful to rejoice with prayerful confidence.

*Lk 3:10-18 – John instructs the people and

announces the imminent coming of the Messiah.

Theme: LET'S REJOICE AND LIVE OUT THE VALUES OF THE KINGDOM!

Our preparation for the coming of the Lord should not be reduced to a vague feeling of expectation or preparing external decorations. It has to find its manifestation in our daily life. **St. Paul** and **St. John the Baptist** are **our best guides** in preparing for the coming of the Lord and in living fruitfully the "Year of Faith." St. Paul reminds us to "direct our thoughts to all that is true, all that deserves respect, all that is honest, pure, admirable, decent, virtuous or worthy of praise." St. John the Baptist exhorts us to be generous, fair and service-minded, even as he fills us with hope by announcing that the Messiah will baptize us in the Holy Spirit.

In this season of joyful expectation, we open our hearts to welcome not only the Lord Jesus, but also the Spirit of Holiness, that he may work in each of us and in our communities that radical renewal we are all yearning for.



4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 23, 2012 Readings

*Mi 5:1-4a – Prophecy on the coming of the Messiah from Bethlehem, David's hometown

*Heb 10:5-10 – The Son of God becomes a human being to do the Father's will

*Lk 1:39-48a – Inspired words of Elizabeth at Mary's visit

Theme: OPEN TO THE SPIRIT IN IMITATION OF MARY

This last Sunday of Advent is meant to give the final touches to our spiritual preparation for Christmas. And the **model** with whom we are invited to emulate is **Mary Most Holy**, the person whose life was characterized by humble obedience to the promptings of the Holy Spirit, and generous availability to serve people in need.

Encouraged by Mary's example, we renew our commitment to be "servants of the Lord." We are guided and strengthened in knowing this commitment by the Holy Spirit, who led Mary to Elizabeth, and who enabled Elizabeth to recognize Mary as "the Mother of her Lord."

PREPARING THE WAY ALA DON BOSCO



INFANT JESUS AND JOHN THE BAPTIST

By Fr. Chris Kennedy, SDB

One of the haunting melodies of the musical *Godspell* is that of John the Baptist and Chorus singing, "Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord." Its message sets the tone for the Christian celebration of the season of Advent. This is not just a time of waiting, but one of actively getting ready for the coming of our Savior.

In this short article, I have the help of a collection of statements about Advent and Christmas researched and put together by the Novices of the Salesian Indian Province. The quotations are taken from the Biographical Memoirs of St. John Bosco (hereafter referred to as BM only).

In BM II we read: "The preparation for the Birth of Christ is a special moment to save souls. Don Bosco took great care to celebrate all the mysteries of our faith. He was personally touched and also encouraged others with all enthusiasm to express outwardly and with greater transport the devotion to the incarnate Word" (p.453). Since the feast of the Immaculate Conception on December 8 came within the Advent season, it also served as a preparation for Christmas. Don Bosco used his sure and tried method to prepare the Salesians and his boys on all levels – psychologically and spiritually.

The most important part of the preparation for the Immaculate Conception feast was a good confession. He would tell the boys: "Search into the remotest corners of your soul to purify it with a good confession in the sacrament of penance." Then he would make himself available to hear their confessions, spending long hours in the process. With the feast of the Immaculate

Conception behind him, he would then set his eyes on preparation for the celebration of the Birth of Christ.

Don Bosco paid a lot of attention to the external atmosphere or environment connected with the feast. "As a flawless teacher, Don Bosco taught his boys from the very start to serve Mass well. Therefore, the Sacred Ceremony could take place in proper decorum." The Memoirs tell us, "the external preparation for welcoming the king was always colorful." "With the help of his boys, the church was magnificently decorated and illuminated. The people who entered the church never failed to appreciate the creative style of his and his own boys" (BM XI, 488).

Part of his preparation for himself and his boys was to be in touch with his friends and benefactors, as well as other Salesians. He would send wishes and greeting to them, as well as to the Holy Father, benefactors, Cooperators, past pupils and other religious. He promised that "our Salesians and boys will pray and offer many communions for your intentions. We shall offer prayer to the Child Jesus, imploring Him to grant you many consolations here on earth, that the Child Jesus may keep you in good health for many years and guide you safely along the road to paradise" (BM XV, 89-90).

During the days of the Christmas novena, he would join in offering the Eucharist for the intentions of the people he promised he would pray for, even mentioning them by name during the ceremonies. Don Bosco also got involved in the composing and singing of his own carols for a better participation in the whole celebration. As

DECEMBER 2012 CALENDAR

- 05 Wed** First Holy Communion – SPED students
- 07 Fri** First Friday/Vigil Adoration
- 08 Sat** **Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception** – Schedule of Masses: 6:30, 7:30, 8:30AM, 12:15PM
Death Anniversary of Fr. Godfrey Roozen, SDB
- 09 Sun** **2nd Sunday of Advent**
- 12 Wed** Our Lady of Guadalupe
Monthly Adult Catechism & Parish Advent Recollection
- 13 Thu** SLV Kasambahay Advent Recollection
- 14 Fri** St. John of the Cross
Christmas Cantata c/o MOMCA
- 15 Sat** Start of 9-day Simbang Gabi 8PM
- 16 Sun** **3rd Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday)** Start of Misa de Gallo 4:30 AM / SLV 5 AM
Christmas Party of Sunday Catechism children
Youth Advent Recollection c/o YM
- 21 Fri** SJBP Staff Christmas Party / Start of Christmas Break
- 23 Sun** **4th Sunday of Advent**
- 24 Mon** **Panunuluyan & Children's Christmas Eve Mass 8PM / 10PM (Church) / 10PM (SLV)**
- 25 Tue** **SOLEMNITY OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST – Christmas Day**
Sunday schedule of Masses except no 6AM and 8:30PM Mass
- 26 Wed** St. Stephen, Martyr
- 27 Thu** St. John, the Apostle and Evangelist
- 28 Fri** Feast of the Holy Innocents
- 30 Sun** **Feast of the Holy Family**
- 31 Mon** **New Year Vigil Mass 8PM (Church) / 10PM (SLV)**

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 Dec 2012 Calendar
<http://sjbmakati.com/parish-events.html>

we, many moons later, prepare for the birth of Christ, we could take a lesson from Don Bosco's preparation style and commit ourselves to sacramental confession, to participation in the whole novena of masses, and lend ourselves in some way to make the Liturgy and the feast come alive! In this way we can surely have a Blessed Christmas!

SJB PRAYER GROUPS

Philippians 4:6-7 *do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all*

understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Inspired by its Patron, St. John Bosco, "a contemplative in action", a man of continual activity seamlessly combined with constant prayer ("When did he not pray?"), St. John Bosco Parish is always abuzz with both

activity and prayer. Its prayer groups, combine prayer meetings, praise and worship activities with outreach and community services. Simbahay features a sample of SJB's prayer groups for the benefit of those who would like to join a community to enhance their prayer-lives.

APOSTLESHIP OF PRAYER

By Fina Panay

The Apostleship of Prayer (AP) founded by St. Margaret Mary Alacoque is an international organization of Catholics who through daily prayers unite themselves to the redemptive work of souls of Eucharistic Celebrations. The AP promotes the devotion to the Sacred Heart, the devotion of the Nine Fridays, the devotion of Communion and Reparation and the devotion of the Holy Hour.

Currently, SJB's AP, under the leadership of Ms. Linda Miranda, has 100 members, mostly in their 60's and 70's. They pray for the sick, the souls in purgatory, in thanksgiving and for specific intentions. They also do jail visitations.

The AP members meet every first Wednesday of the month from 4:00pm to



5:00pm in the Adoration Chapel for group prayers, beginning with the recitation of the Holy Rosary. They have monthly meetings every 2nd Friday of the month from 3:00pm to 5:00pm. They also serve as church collectors every Wednesday and Friday during the 6pm Mass and on Sundays during the 6am and 7:15am, 12nn and 5pm-

6pm Masses. AP members are easily recognizable in their violet and white uniforms.

If you see an AP member in the church and need a prayer partner, you may request them to pray with you between Masses.

ADORACION NOCTURNA FILIPINA (ANF)

By Caesar Aycocho

"The Lord is here and He calls us. Come let us adore Him."



A community of men and women devoted to adoring Jesus Christ, our Eucharistic Lord and King, in the exposed Blessed Sacrament during the night.

In the Philippines, this particular piety started in 1920. Its members called night adorers or "adorador" belong to "turnos" from parishes all over the country. The night

adoration society in the country, known as Adoracion Nocturna Filipina (ANF), is an affiliated member of the Venerable Archconfraternity of Night Adoration of the Most Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist in Rome. Its members share in the indulgences of the Archconfraternity.

SJB's turno gathers for one to two hour **night vigils** once a month (usually every 2nd Saturday at 9:30 pm) to adore Christ in the exposed Blessed Sacrament in the Blessed Sacrament chapel. (*Please inquire from the Parish Office for vigil schedule for the month*).

During the vigil, members recite prayers from designated prayer manuals based on the **Divine Office** consisting of **psalms, canticles, hymns, scripture readings,**

and writings of the Church Fathers, intercessions, and sacred silence.

The turno is led by a *Jefe*. Membership is open to all male and female adult parishioners. An active member must **sponsor** an aspiring adorer who completes **three consecutive night vigils**. Upon completion of all requirements, qualified aspirants undergo the **rite of imposition** officiated by the parish priest (also the turno chaplain).

The social apostolate of the ANF organization includes *evangelization, promotion of priestly vocations, and livelihood programs.*

The love of Christ urges us on!



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CONTEMPLATIVE OUTREACH PHILIPPINES (COP)

By Marite Dichoso



You are most welcome to join COP. We are a family who believes that Centering Prayer and *Lectio Divina* are important to our spiritual journey. Feel free to speak with us or get to know us further through the following contact details.

Website: <http://cophil.org/>

Phone: +63 2 501 5231

Office hours: 8AM to 5PM; Tues to Sat

Email 1: cop_mdichoso@yahoo.com

Email 2: cop.secretariat@gmail.com

Centering prayer is a method of silent prayer that facilitates movement to Contemplative prayer. Contemplative prayer is a gift from God and only He alone can initiate such beauty. A few great witnesses to Contemplative prayer are St. Teresa of Avila and St. John of the Cross.

Lectio Divina (Latin for divine reading) is a traditional practice of scriptural reading, meditation and prayer intended to promote and increase a personal communion/relationship with God.

In SJB Parish, the COP Support Group, under Ms. Tess Colayco, meets every Monday evening for Centering Prayer, *Lectio Divina*, study and fellowship from 6:15 pm to 8:00 pm at the COP Secretariat Office on the 2nd floor of the Parish Building.

GROWING OLD GRACEFULLY IN MAKATI CITY

By Tita de Ocampo-Elegado

What is life like being a senior citizen? Before I turned 60, I was dreading the day I had to admit how old I was to avail of the OSCA card. But as it turned out seniors from Makati City are the most privileged citizens of the Philippines, with additional perks for those in Brgy. San Lorenzo.

No wonder, contrary to the usual stereotypes of old people, we are aging cheerfully and gracefully. The Barangay Council really takes good care of us with unlimited movie passes in all Makati movie houses, free vitamins, medical benefits, a birthday cake from the Mayor and twice-a-year cash bonuses; the older we get, the bigger our allowances become e.g. 100K

THE DON BOSCO PRAYER GROUP (DBPG)

By Bro. Ray Siguenza



Saint John Bosco Prayer Group
Since 1982

Let it be said that the Don Bosco Prayer Group (DBPG) is the first and original charismatic prayer community in SJB.

Inspired by the late Rev Fr Godfrey Roozen, SDB, and with Rev Fr. Ely Santos, SDB as its first Spiritual Director, DBPG celebrated its 30th anniversary last March 2012 – “*Pinagbuklod na Komunidad Tatlungong Taong Tapat*”

DBPG has produced graduates of the Catholic Life in the Spirit Seminar and Basic Christian Maturity Program, plus other

value formation seminars, serving not only DBPG but also God, the Parish and the community including the Alliance of Parochial Charismatic Communities in the Archdiocese of Manila.

As the evangelization arm of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal Movement, DBPG members hold key positions in the various parish organizations and ministries and Parish Pastoral Council, even animating the Saturday anticipated mass from EMHC, LCG, choir, offerors, ushers, collectors to KOA.

In addition, DBPG has been engaged in various outreach programs (feeding programs, gift-giving to orphanages, homes for the aged, Mt. Pinatubo eruption victims, etc.) and other activities to enhance its members' spiritual growth.

At 30, DBPG is still strong, going and growing. Regular prayer meetings are conducted every Thursday, 7 pm at Room 206. Fr. Ting Miciano is the Spiritual Director.



for those who reach 100 years!

Thanks to the SJB Parish Church “next door”, most SLV seniors lead very prayerful and spiritually-enriched lives. In gratitude, generous senior souls share their blessings to support the needs of the Parish.

Barangay SL also sponsors physical

exercise and therapy sessions, values seminars, outings and other formation activities for its seniors. In fact, for the past two years, the SLV Seniors Chorale has won Third place in the city-wide competition during the annual Elderly Week. Our motto is “Move more to Live more.”



NEWS BRIEFS

SJB HONORS CHRIST THE KING

By Mary Grace Gueriba

The Solemnity of Christ the King was instituted in 1925 by Pope Pius XI to be celebrated on the last Sunday of October to address the growing trend of anti-clericalism and secularism worldwide. In 1970, Pope Paul VI declared that the feast should thenceforth be celebrated on the last Sunday of the liturgical year (25 November, **this year**) which is a week before the 1st Sunday of Advent of the new liturgical Year (2

December, **this year**). The Solemnity of Christ the King declares that Christ will reign at the end of time.

In St. John Bosco Parish, as in most parishes around the world, a traditional procession was held on the eve of the Solemnity on November 24, after the 6:00PM Mass. Fr. Ting Miciano led more than a hundred parishioners in the procession which carried the enthroned image of Christ the King around the streets of Pio del Pilar. Along the procession route, several parishioners brought out their own images of Christ the King for Fr. Ting's blessing.



SJB SEDA MINISTRY HOLDS PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES DAY 2012

By Ikel Rodriguez

Theme: "Faith alone can make us happy in this life and in the next." – Don Bosco

In celebration of World Day of Persons with Disabilities, The SEDA Ministry organized its own special events to mark the Persons with Disabilities Day last December 2, 2012. It started with a Eucharistic Celebration presided by Fr. Larry Tan, SDB, which was followed by talent showcase from PWD participants. The program committee also prepared games, raffles and gift giving.

Participants came from different communities of Brgy. Pio del Pilar, Makati SPED

School, San. Idefonso Parish and Brgy. Bangkal Makati City. Children, young and adults with different disabilities experienced the love, sharing, fun and wonderful meaning of Hope and Faith from Fr. Larry Tan, SDB and the Parish Priest Fr. Ting Miciano, SDB who both gave inspirational messages.

Around 10 percent of the population are Filipinos with disability; they have special needs, requiring attention and understanding from everyone. Our Parish is one with the PWDs, giving them the opportunity to be part of God's the community. A Person with Disability is a gift to Humanity.



SJBP Eucharistic Ministers of the Holy Communion prepare for the Christmas Season with their Annual Advent Recollection



EIGHTEEN COUPLES WED IN MASS WEDDING RITES

While the number of Catholic Church weddings has gone down nationwide, the number of couples who get married in SJB Parish Mass Wedding rites continue to rise, according to Fr. Ting Miciano, SJB Parish Priest. Eighteen couples, most of whom

have been living together for many years without the blessing of a church wedding, tied the knot in Mass wedding rites (the third for the year) celebrated by Fr. Ting last 10 November in the Parish Church.

The SJB Marriage Encounter (ME) Foun-

ation led by Bert and Violy Magsakay coordinated all three mass weddings while the Parish provided all the other requirements from gowns and barong, veils, rings, arrhae, church and reception expenses.



On 1 December 2012, Members of SJBP Lectors and Commentators Guild celebrated with an early Christmas party after their annual commissioning rites in the 6:00PM Mass earlier in the evening.