



SIMBAHAY

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

VOLUME 5 ISSUE 3

MARCH 2013



HABEMUS PAPAM



POPE FRANCIS

POPE FRANCIS' FIRST *URBI ET ORBI*

"To the city [of Rome] and to the World"
(papal address and blessing)

13 March 2013
St. Peter's Basilica
Vatican City

Brothers and sisters, good evening!

You know that it was the duty of the Conclave to give Rome a Bishop. It seems that my brother Cardinals have gone to the ends of the earth to get one... but here we are... I thank you for your welcome. The diocesan community of Rome now has its Bishop. Thank you! And first of all, I would like to offer a prayer for our Bishop Emeritus,

Benedict XVI. Let us pray together for him, that the Lord may bless him and that Our Lady may keep him. (Our Father, Hail Mary & Glory be)

And now, we take up this journey: Bishop and People. This journey of the Church of Rome which presides in charity over all the Churches. A journey of fraternity, of love, of trust among us. Let us always pray for one another. Let us pray for the whole world, that there may be a great spirit of fraternity. It is my hope for you that this journey of the Church, which we start today, and in which my Cardinal Vicar, here present, will assist me, will be fruitful for the evangelization of this most beautiful city.

And now I would like to give the blessing, but first – first I ask a favor of you: before the Bishop blesses his people, I ask you to pray to the Lord that he will bless me: the prayer of the people asking the blessing for their Bishop. Let us make, in silence, this prayer: your prayer over me.

Now I will give the Blessing to you and to the whole world, to all men and women of good will. (Blessing)

Brothers and sisters, I leave you now. Thank you for your welcome. Pray for me and until we meet again. We will see each other soon. Tomorrow I wish to go and pray to Our Lady, that she may watch over all of Rome. Good night and sleep well!



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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

MARCH 2013



HABEMUS PAPAM! A MESSAGE FROM OUR PARISH PRIEST

"We have a Pope" is the traditional announcement, given in Latin, by the senior Cardinal Deacon, upon the election of a new pope. In the early morning hours of 14 March 2013, (3:00 AM, Philippine time), an hour after the white smoke and the pealing of the Basilica's bells, this much awaited proclamation was heard again after eight years^[1], before the Roman Catholic Church's new leader, **POPE FRANCIS**, stepped onto the central balcony of Vatican's St. Peter's Basilica overlooking St. Peter's Square. Taking his papal name from St. Francis of Assisi, Jorge Mario Bergoglio, former Cardinal of Argentina became the 266th successor of St. Peter, Vicar of Christ and Holy Father to 1.2 billion Catholics.

Even as Catholics, all over the world are still in awe and jubilation at how swiftly the Holy Spirit, through the Conclave's cardinal-electors, has chosen the new Pope (Pope Francis was elected by a 2/3 majority after five rounds of voting; his predecessor, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, was elected after four), they have lost no time in getting to know, and in the process, admire the first non-European pope in more than a thousand years.

While he was elected President of the Argentine Episcopal Conference from 2005-2008 and is the present Archbishop of the city of Buenos Aires, he has lived a simple, some say, austere life. From news reports, we learn that he does not use his official residence in the archbishop's palace, but chooses to stay in an ordinary apartment, without servants or a driver: cooking his own meals and commuting to work by the Metro, the city's public transport. He declines being addressed as His Eminence or His Excellency and takes the back seat during meetings. Although, before becoming Archbishop, he was a professor in theology and the former Jesuit provincial for Argentina, he prefers to remain silent unless asked to speak. Instead, like his namesake from Assisi, his greatest passion is to work for the poor; he is often seen visiting the city's slums. Such is the humble but inspiring background of our new Holy Father.

Establishing Salesian tradition by example, Don Bosco desired his sons and daughters to

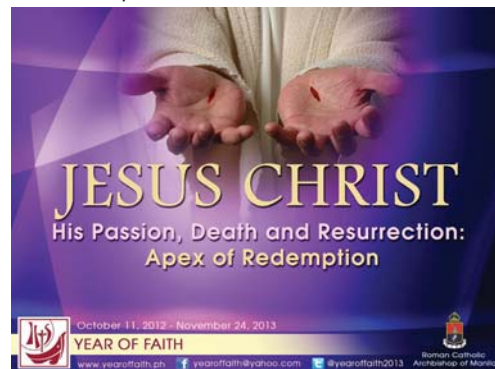
love and serve the Holy Father with utmost devotion as he did. In his own words, "the wish of the Holy Father is a command for us"! Now that Divine Providence has given us a new Pope, we, in St. John Bosco Parish, welcome and accept this blessing with grateful and hopeful hearts. Let us remember that the task of the new Holy Father in leading the whole Catholic Church in these very challenging times is both unique and enormously difficult.

In his very first papal address, Pope Francis asked the ecstatic crowd in St. Peter's Square for silence, then begged them to pray for him and grant him THEIR benediction before he gives them his very first Papal blessing! He is certainly well aware of the enormity of his responsibility before God as head of His Church.

In response, we offer our new Holy Father, first of all, our faith in God and our trust in Him, anchored on our Lord's promise to the first pope, "You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never overpower it. I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven. . . ." (Mt. 16:18-19a) Secondly, we offer him our daily prayers for guidance and strength. And thirdly, we offer him our filial obedience, to remain faithful to the true teachings of the Church, which he must uphold. With one voice, we join the entire Catholic world, in acclaiming, "Habemus Papam!"

— **Fr. Ting Miciano, SDB**

^[1] In April 2005, Cardinal Joseph of Ratzinger became Pope Benedict XVI.



October 11, 2012 - November 24, 2013
YEAR OF FAITH
www.yearoffaith.ph | yearoffaith@yahoo.com | @yearoffaith2013
Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Manila

MUCH HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED: A SALESIAN PARISHIONER'S PERSPECTIVE ON POPE BENEDICT XVI

By Errol Palaci

After overcoming the surprise of Pope Benedict XVI's announcement of his resignation and understanding the process for selecting his successor, the most natural thing to do is to look back at the accomplishments of the Pope during his papacy. To call these "accomplishments", however, may not be appropriate as the term tends to belittle the "little acts" that he did. Furthermore, the papacy does not trumpet accomplishments and achievements.

In truth, it would be easy for any Catholic to know that Pope Benedict XVI had done "great things" for the faith in his almost eight years. On many trips, addresses and homilies, he taught, he directed, he shepherded. As lay parishioners in a Salesian community, we ask ourselves how the Pope had furthered the teachings of St. John Bosco.

We are taught devotion to Jesus Christ. In this light, we recall Pope Benedict XVI's books on the life of Christ. *Jesus of Nazareth* was released in 2007, while his succeeding books were published in 2011 and 2012. In a very conversational, if not casual style, we learn about the importance of the devotion to Christ and how this devotion can help us in our daily lives.

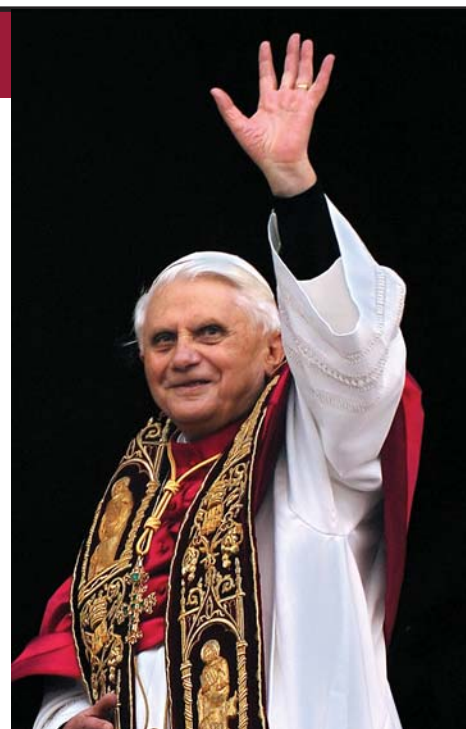
We care deeply for the youth. Pope Benedict XVI had the opportunity to address the youth on many occasions, most especially during World Youth Day. He encouraged young people to build their relationships with Christ, who is all they need, es-

pecially in a world of multiple distractions and materialistic tendencies.

We are taught devotion to the Church and her pastors. During Pope Benedict XVI's watch, the Church was buffeted by strong winds and storms. Yet, the Holy Father always spoke of hope and belief that God will not "let the ship sin". The theme ran throughout his many public addresses, which kept Catholics strong in their faith. Hope was also the theme of his second encyclical, *Spe Salvi Facti Sumus* (In Hope we were Saved.)

We are guided in order to grow in our faith. In October 2012, Pope Benedict XVI established the Year of Faith. During this year, we focus on understanding the documents of Vatican II and the Catechism of the Catholic Church, which would lead us to be more deeply rooted in our faith. In his third encyclical, *Caritas in Veritate* – Charity in Truth, the Pope shows us how our faith guides us as we wade through the practical problems of modern life. Here, he talked about globalization, the environment, technology and religious freedom – issues that confront us and seem to challenge our beliefs. Yet, our faith will sustain us and provide the right answers that will guide our actions.

It is interesting to discover that in 2008, the Pope had encouraged Salesians to promote a better understanding of the life and teachings of St. John Bosco. He reminded



them of their mission of helping young people cultivate their faith and grow closer to Christ. That early, he looked forward to the bicentenary of the birth of St. John Bosco in 2015 and envisioned Salesians exhibiting even more concretely their care and concern for the youth.

With the Holy Father's resignation, many will make their own assessments of how he did, what he did and why he did. As parishioners in a Salesian community, we thank Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI for truly enriching our Faith.

THE GOD WHO SEEKS THE LOST

By Carina L. Corona

Scripture is clear that we are saved, because the Lord took the initiative to find those who were lost. We see God in the shepherd who leaves his 99 other sheep and goes searching for the lost one until he finds it, (*Lk 15: 4-7*) and in the woman who sets aside all her other work to diligently seek for and recover a lost coin (*Lk 15: 8-10*). Our loving Father will keep searching for His lost children. There's no giving up, no tipping point, because to Him there's no such thing as a child of God without worth.

God doesn't mind stooping down to look for us and lift us up from the abyss we have fallen into. He will do everything He can to bring the lost back to the fold, but they have a choice – accept Him or reject Him. A lost sinner has to be willing to repent and return to God's flock. He must WANT to be found by God. This is epitomized in the Parable

of the Prodigal Son (*Lk 15: 11-32*.) "So he got up and went to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him."

As Pope Benedict XVI beautifully said in his final General Audience address, "there were times when the water was rough and the wind against us . . . and the Lord seemed to sleep. But I always knew that the Lord is in the boat, and I always knew that the boat of the Church is not mine, not ours, but it is His. And He will not let her sink . . . This was and is a certainty that nothing can obscure. . . He has never left me or the Church without His consolation, His light, His love."

God is our Father. He is our "God of the Lost and Found." He loves and forgives us and He calls all His prodigal sons to come home!



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.



5TH SUNDAY OF LENT

17 March 2013 Readings

***Is 43:16-21** – Words of hope addressed to the exiles in Babylon

***Phil 3:8-14** – Paul's constant yearning to be united with Christ

***Jn 8:1-11** – Jesus puts to shame the scribes and the Pharisees, and forgives the woman caught in adultery.

Theme: RENEWED AND SAVED BY GOD'S MERCIFUL LOVE

Forgiveness of sins is not like erasing a file in a computer or burning a sheet of paper where our sins had been listed. It is not "forgetting" the wrong received or caused. Nor is it "cover-up" or "pretending" as if no sin had been committed. Just as sin affects us deeply in our life and personality, so does forgiveness, starting from within our hearts.

Forgiveness is a wonderful *transformation* which God's grace produces in us to bring forth *NEW LIFE*, out of the wreckage caused in us by our sins. It is a *NEW EXODUS* from the land of exile into which we plunged ourselves like the Israelites of old. It produces in us a *NEW VISION* of ourselves and of the things we used to treasure, as St. Paul himself experienced. It is seeing ourselves with Jesus who holds us by the hand as we take our first steps into a new "style of existence" after the traumatic experience of the destructiveness of our own sins and of the "justice" of others.



PASSION (PALM) SUNDAY

23 March 2013 Readings

***Lk 19:28-40** – The disciples welcome Jesus triumphantly as he enters Jerusalem riding a donkey

***Is 50:4-7** – Patient attitude of the Suffering Servant who derives his strength from the Lord

***Phil 2:6-11** – A summary of the humiliation and exaltation of the incarnate Son of God

****Lk 22:14-23:56 (Longer Version)** – An account of the institution of the Eucharist and of Jesus' suffering and death

Theme: SAVED BY CHRIST'S HEROIC LOVE

Jesus knew what awaited him in Jerusalem. He knew that the Holy City was to be the place where his earthly destiny would end in the most tragic manner. But he knew also that the salvation of all mankind depended on his acceptance of that tragic end. And in his concern for all his human brothers and sisters he accepted his destiny in all freedom and with LOVE.

He actually marched toward Jerusalem with eagerness, aware but unmindful of what was going to happen shortly after the brief joyful welcome put up by his disciples. He entered Jerusalem surrounded by his friends and eyed with murderous thoughts by all his foes.

As Jesus proceeds with humility, riding the foal of an ass, with the gentle smile that has characterized his life, today we are challenged to choose whether to side with his foes as Judas did, or to join his disciples in waving olive and palm branches at him.



EASTER SUNDAY

31 March 2013 Readings

***Acts 10:34.37-43** – Peter presents the core of the Christian faith to Cornelius.

***Col 3:1-4** – An exhortation to set our hearts on the values enshrined in the Resurrection

***Jn 20:1-9** – Peter and John at the empty tomb begin to believe in the Resurrection

Theme: THE FRUITS OF CHRIST'S RESURRECTION IN OUR LIVES

At the origin of the Christian faith there were a barren cave, a bare cross and a dark tomb. These were all which sinful mankind was able to offer to the Son of God when he decided to come to share our destiny. But he transformed all these with the power of his LOVE. He filled the grotto with the splendor of his presence. He covered the cross with the crimson robe of his blood, thus transforming it from an instrument of death into a source of life. He filled the dark tomb with the radiance of his Resurrection when he left it empty in the early morning of the third day.

And, since then, out of the empty tomb, there has been flowing for all humankind an endless river of JOY and HOPE. It is the joy that gladdens our aching souls; the joy of being reconciled with God and our brethren; the joy that makes us dream again dreams of peace and new life. It is the hope that we may become better people; the hope that our dreams and aspirations may all come true; the hope that, when our time comes, we may join the Risen Christ and be with him forever in the New World that he created on the first Easter Day. Let us celebrate the wonder of the Resurrection!



2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Jesus, King of Divine Mercy

7 April 2013 Readings

***Acts 5:12-16** – Jesus continues his healing mission through Peter and the other apostles.

***Rv 1:9-11a.12-13.17-19** – Vision of the risen Christ as the one who lives forever

***Jn 20:19-31** – The risen Christ gives the Holy Spirit to the apostles and arouses faith in Thomas.

Theme: LOVE, THE GREATEST PROOF OF THE RESURRECTION

It was not easy for Jesus' disciples to accept the reality of his resurrection. Jesus "had a hard time" in convincing them for, as we know, all of them (and not just Thomas) were hard-headed. In the end, however, Jesus did manage to convince them all through his numerous apparitions, by inviting them to touch him and by eating in front of them.

But for those who live some two thousand years after those events, what can be the "proofs" of the reality of the Resurrection? The Church may well proclaim it in its preaching and celebrate it in its liturgy. All that has a meaning for those who already believe in the Resurrection. But for those who have not yet reached that stage, only lives lived according to the Gospel can be convincing proofs that Christ did, indeed, rise from death and is still alive today.

FIVE CHURCHES DECLARED PILGRIM CHURCHES IN YEAR OF FAITH

Reprinted from <http://www.rcam.org/news/961-5-churches-declared-pilgrim-churches-in-year-of-faith>

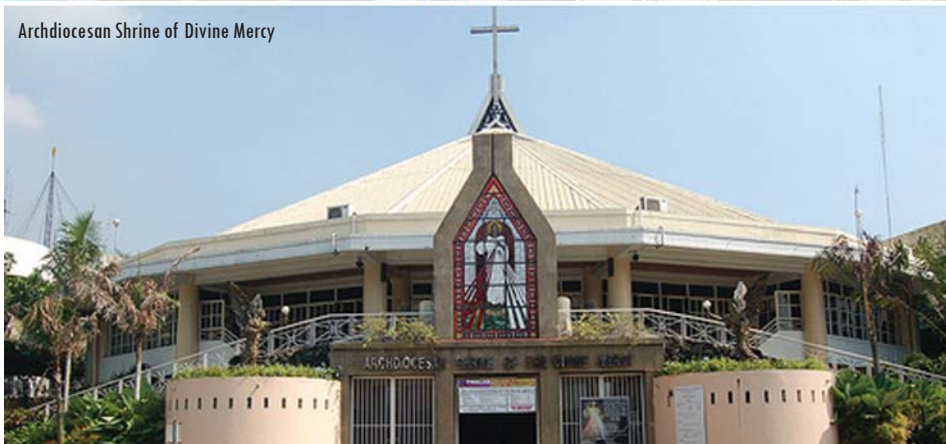
Manila Archbishop Luis Antonio G. Cardinal Tagle has declared five churches in the Archdiocese of Manila as Pilgrim Churches during the Year of Faith (11 Oct. 2012 – 24 Nov 2013). The five are the Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene in Plaza Miranda, Quiapo, Manila, Saint John the Baptist Parish in Pinaglabanan Street, San Juan City, Our Lady of Sorrows Parish in F.B. Harrison

Street, Pasay City, the Archdiocesan Shrine of Divine Mercy in Maysilo Circle, Boni Avenue, Mandaluyong City and the National Shrine of the Sacred Heart in Sacred Heart Street, San Antonio Village, Makati City.

Pilgrims visiting the Pilgrim churches can receive plenary indulgences according to the prescribed norms – going to confession, receiving Holy Communion and praying for the Pope, the Apostles Creed, Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be.



Archdiocesan Shrine of Divine Mercy



Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene



National Shrine of the Sacred Heart

MARCH 2013 CALENDAR

- 19 Tue SOLEMNITY OF ST. JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY/** Kumpisalang Bayan 7 PM
- 23 Sat Memorial of St. Pedro Calungsod**
- 24 Sun PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD/Alay Kapwa Sunday**
Grand Procession of Palms at the Church Garden 8:30 AM
- 26 Tue Senakolo ng Bayan para sa Bayan 7PM Church**
- 27 Wed Lenten Recollection** by Armand Robleza, SDB during the 6 PM Mass – **Theme: Living a Life of No Regrets, Topic: Stay the Cross**
Senakolo ng Bayan para sa Bayan 7PM Church
- 28 Thu HOLY THURSDAY**
7AM – **Chrim Mass** at San Fernando de Dilao Parish in Paco, Manila
6 PM – **Mass of the Lord's Supper** followed by Eucharistic Vigil & Adoration until 12MN
- 29 Fri GOOD FRIDAY**
7:30 AM – **Morning Praise**
12 NN – **Seven Last Words**
3 PM – **Celebration of the Lord's Passion** followed by procession of the Santo Entierro and Mater Dolorosa
Start of Novena to the Divine Mercy
- 30 Sat HOLY SATURDAY**
7:30 AM – **Morning Praise**
10 PM – **Easter Vigil Mass** followed by Salubong
- 31 Sun EASTER SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S RESURRECTION**
Regular Sunday Mass schedule except no 6 AM Mass

APRIL 2013 CALENDAR

- 1-6 Octave of Easter**
- 7 Sun 2nd Sunday of Easter/ Divine Mercy Sunday**
- 8 Mon ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD**
- 14 Sun 3rd Sunday of Easter**

Sick Visitation – Thursdays 9AM
Holy Hour – Thursdays 6:30PM
Medical & Dental – Sundays 2:00PM

Visit our website for the complete Mar 2013 Calendar
<http://sjbmakati.com/parish-events.html>

In the past years, Simbahay featured the major Holy Week and Easter celebrations and events from the blessing of the waving "palaspas" of Palm Sunday, the commemoration of the Last Supper of the Lord with His Apostles on Holy Thursday, the Good Friday Mass of the Lord's Passion recalling His suffering and death and finally, the Easter Vigil celebrations of His triumphant resurrection. This year, we feature other Holy Week rites and practices, which further deepen and enrich our Lenten and Holy Week observance.



THE SACRAMENT OF LETTING GO

By Vanessa Uy

We were taught that the sacrament of Confession a.k.a., sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation is a necessary preparation to cleanse our souls from sins before receiving our Lord in Communion.

While most Catholics, I believe, are aware of why Confession is needed in our spiritual journey, many of them need to be encouraged to practise this sacrament regularly.

Monthly confession, though not obligatory, is reasonably frequent: we can remember recently committed sins better, we become

more conscious of habitual sins and are able to avoid them, we get to receive absolution often. Lastly, regularly availing of sacraments means more time spent building a relationship with the Lord.

If we feel hesitant or awkward when confessing our sins to a priest, we could just think about the last time we divulged our secrets to our best friend or even a lawyer. While bonds of friendship or attorney-client privileges may prevent either from spreading our stories, the seal of confession binding priests to secrecy is inviolable; "he could not break it to save his own life"^[1]. Confessors recognize that as mediators between the penitent and God, theirs is a sacred trust.

Fr. Robert Barron on his *Word on Fire* blog writes, "There's no time in the Catholic calendar where sin is more on our minds than during Lent." As we ponder on our Lord's ultimate sacrifice to save us from our sins, we realize how little are our own sacrifices to overcome shyness and pride in admitting our sins. Confession gives us the peace of letting go. Hearing the Lord, through the priest, tell us . . . "You are forgiven." is indescribable joy!

Priests are available for confession during all Masses, the Kumpisalang Bayan (on 19 March 2013) and from Holy Wednesday until Good Friday afternoon.

^[1] <http://www.catholiceducation.org/articles/religion/re0059.html>

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TAPAT SA KALIDAD, TAPAT SA TIMBANG



HOLY THURSDAY: VISITA IGLESIA

By Vi P. Hernandez

Following centuries-old traditions, which enabled pilgrims who could not afford to travel to the Holy Land, to go on pilgrimage instead to seven designated pilgrim Roman churches, today's Christian faithful visit several (usually from seven to fourteen) churches in the few hours after the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper until the churches close at midnight.

They come to pray and meditate on the Passion of Jesus Christ before the Blessed Sacrament exposed in the Altar of Repose, which are specially adorned for the night's vigil with flowers, hangings and lights. This

altar enshrines the Sacred Host which was earlier brought in solemn procession from the altar where the Mass was celebrated. Year after year, churches seem to be outdoing themselves and each other in designing and setting up their Altars of Repose, the better to enhance the Visita Iglesia experience of the nocturnal pilgrims.

As the Mass of the Lord's Supper commemorates the institution of the Holy Eucharist, the Altar of Repose revisits the Lord's lonely vigil in the Garden of Gethsemane as He agonized over His impending passion and death.

The Mass of the Lord's Supper in SJB Parish is at 6:00 PM on 28 March 2013.



GOOD FRIDAY AND HOLY SATURDAY: MORNING PRAISE

By Janina Celeste

In 1988, the Vatican issued instructions for the preparation and celebration of Easter Feasts. *Paschalis Solemnitatis* recommends "... that there be a communal celebration of the Office of Readings^[2] and Morning Prayer on Good Friday and Holy Saturday. This Office ... held a special place in the devotion of the faithful as they meditated upon the passion, death and burial of the Lord, while awaiting the announcement of the resurrection."

In our SJB Parish, those who come for Morning Praise on Good Friday and Holy Saturday participate in reciting the psalms and meditate on beautiful readings and homilies.

On Good Friday, the first reading comes from the prophet Isaiah's Song of the Suffering Servant (*Is 53*), which prophesied

the coming of Christ, the Redeemer. On Holy Saturday, the second reading is taken from an "ancient homily", a moving description of how after His death, our Lord descended into Hell, the realm of the dead (not the hell of eternal damnation). He came to fetch righteous souls, who have been waiting for the Savior since the "fall" of Adam and Eve to take all of them to the newly reopened heavens.

Morning Praise on 28 and 29 March 2013 is at 07:30 in the morning.

^[2] Office of Readings – one of the "hours" of the Divine Office/Liturgy of the Hours, which are the official daily prayers of the Catholic Church to be recited at certain times of the day or night by the clergy, religious and lay people. The Office includes sets of hymns, psalms, Bible readings and writings of Church fathers, doctors or saints. The other "hours" are: Morning Prayers (Lauds), Prayers during Day (Terce, Sext, None), Evening Prayers (Vespers) and Night Prayers (Compline).



GOOD FRIDAY: SEVEN LAST WORDS

By Caren Rebenito

A dying person's last words are often accepted as true as he has nothing more to lose with the finality of death; parting words could reveal secrets, or unload a burden, express a final request or be an affirmation of someone's love. Regardless of the message, someone's last words will always be remembered by his loved ones. This is precisely why remembering Jesus' Seven Last Words, as recorded in the Gospels, is a most cherished Holy Week devotion for those who love Him.

In his last moments, Jesus said:

- "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do." (*Lk 23:25, 32-34*)
- "Amen I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise." (*Lk 23:39-42*)
- "Woman, behold your son. Son, behold your Mother." (*Jn 19:25-27*)
- "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (*Mt 27:45-49*)
- "I thirst." (*Jn 19:28-29*)
- "It is finished." (*Jn 19:29-30*)
- "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." (*Lk 23:44-46*)

Jesus' seven last words were not mere words of a dying man but God's very message for us. They are terse expressions of His selfless love for us: His understanding and forgiveness, a promise of paradise, a reassurance that we will be cared for and the declaration of a mission accomplished. Jesus was God's great sacrifice. He was sent to us to be human so that we may have a better understanding of the depth of His love for us. Jesus surrendered to God's plan so that through His unconditional, divine love expressed as human suffering and death, we may be saved.

Reflections on the Seven Last Words by a guest priest starts at 12:00 Noon of Good Friday, 29 March 2013, preceding the Celebration of the Lord's Passion at 3:00 PM.

NEWS BRIEFS



9TH MUSIC WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS STAGE RECITAL

By Aya Ga

By now, participants of the Saint John Bosco Music Ministry's Music Workshop Recital would have recovered from the usual stage fright after their successful performances last 27 January at the AVR Room of the Parish building. These talented students performed music to their heart's desire and received applause of appreciation. Thanks to their perseverance and that of music workshop and recital organizer, Mr. Gaylord Villa, the program indeed showcased the students' God-given abilities and their love for music.

The recital started at two in the afternoon with an opening prayer. On hand to provide encouragement and moral support for the performers were the Music Workshop teachers: Vincent Olandesca and Mae Powao for voice, Vincent Olandesca for piano, Rushwell Ras for guitar, and Wesley Agpaua for violin.

The Summer Music Workshop from 6 April to 25 May is now open for registration, please contact Mr. Gaylord Villa at 0915 372 8559 for details.



PARISH CONFIRMATION

by Mon Angeles

His Excellency Most Rev. Bernardino C. Cortez, D.D., Auxillary Bishop of Manila, together with SJB Parish Priest, Rev. Fr. Ting Miciano, administered the sacrament of confirmation to 142 confirmandi last 3 February 2013. The Parish holds its confirmation rites every first quarter of the year.

MARCH 2013



YM HOLDS LIVE PURE - LOVE TRULY LENTEN RECOLLECTION

by Mary Grace Gueriba

One of the most interesting topics for young people is love; they could talk about it for hours. Equally as interesting is the related though "sensitive" topic of sex.

Last 24 February 2013, guest speakers from the Live Pure Movement candidly tackled both topics during SJB Youth Ministry's Lenten Recollection, "Live pure – Love truly", with emphasis on love and chastity.

Live Pure Movement consists of young, pro-life advocates who promote chastity among the young i.e., through purity of mind, eyes, speech and body.

Lively dances and a skit preceded the talks by Fr. Dennis Paez, SDB and Live Pure's EJ Aguila. Small group discussions followed the talks. The recollection ended with the participants writing their commitments to live purely and love truly on a huge tarpaulin created for the event. Snacks were served.



THE 33-DAY TOTAL CONSECRATION PREPARATION TO JESUS THROUGH MARY

By Marilyn A. Mayoralgo

With only three more days to go, the 33-day Total Consecration Preparation to Jesus through Mary has been a challenging but a grace-filled experience, especially during this Lenten Season.

While there were prayers to be followed daily, the recommended offerings and the very inspiring and reflective talks of Fr. Ting Miciano, SDB on "Spirit of the World", Fr. Dennis Paez, SDB on "Knowledge of Self" and Fr. Melvin Castro, founder of Confraternity of Mary Mediatrix of all Grace, on "Knowledge of Mary" made everyone look at one's self and the world from a different perspective. It was a cleansing experience to have a better and a happy life, and be closer to Jesus through Mary.

The last topic will be on "Knowledge of Christ" by Fr. Bong Osial, SDB on 18 March at the Parish church after the 6 PM Mass.

Everyone is invited.

SAN PEDRO CALUNGSOD
LAY CATECHIST & MARTYR

Catechist
Christian Doctrine

Martyr
White Shirt
Palm Frond

Marian Devotee
Rosary

Young Missionary on the go
One foot is forward.

Feast day - April 2

Source : CBCP

MEMORIAL OF SAINT PEDRO CALUNGSOD

For the first time, we shall be celebrating the feast of San Pedro Calungsod, Lay Catechist and Martyr, who was canonized last 21 October 2012. As his feast day on 2 April falls within the Easter Season, which takes precedence over Feasts and Memorials of Saints, we shall instead celebrate morning Masses at 6:30 and 7:30 in his honor on 23 March, the Saturday before Palm Sunday.