VOLUME 3 ISSUE 6 AUGUST 2011

# SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION AND THE MEMORIAL OF THE QUEENSHIP OF MARY



The Assumption of BVM, beautifully depicted in floor-toceiling stained glass at the Assumption College Chapel, San Lorenzo Village, Makati

#### History

One of the oldest Catholic feasts, the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin has been celebrated every year on **August 15** since the sixth century. It commemorates the death of the BVM and her assumption into heaven with uncorrupted body and soul, prefiguring our own bodily resurrection at the end of time. It was originally celebrated in the Eastern Churches as the feast of the Dormition, whereby, instead of dying, the Blessed Mother merely slept and awoke in heaven.

It was only on the feast of all saints in the Jubilee year of 1950 that Pope Pius XII declared the dogma of the Assumption of Blessed Virgin Mary in the encyclical Munificentissimus Deus which states . . . as the supreme culmination of her privileges, that she should be preserved free from the corruption of the tomb and that...having overcome death, she might be taken up body and soul to the glory of heaven where, as Queen, she sits in splendor at the right hand of her Son, the immortal King of the Ages.

Four years later, as a fitting follow-through, the same pope instituted the Memorial of the Queenship of Mary, a title which was first revealed during the Annunciation. As the Assumption comes before the Coronation of the BVM as Queen of Heaven and Earth, in the Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary, so does the Solemnity of the Assumption precede the Memorial of the Queenship of Mary by a week on **August 22.** 

## **Reflections**

#### by Ana Casas

I was fortunate to be born in a generation where devotion to our Blessed Mother was nurtured from childhood. In school, the celebrations of her feast days were always preceded by a lot of preparation: Novena Masses, talks, Vigils, etc. Mary was not only our Mother. She was also our model to emulate and follow.

Mary's unswerving fidelity to God has always inspired me. As a teenager, Mary's ordinary life was complicated by her "Yes" to God which never wavered even during those times when she could not comprehend God's will. With complete trust and confidence, she allowed God's plan to unfold in her life.

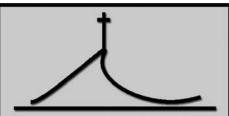
Mary also showed me how to be faithful and courageous in the face of suffering and contradiction. She fearlessly accompanied her Son in His passion and valiantly stood at the foot of the Cross, even when her heart was breaking.

Her assumption into heaven was God's way of honoring her by taking her up to heaven, body and soul, and crowning her with His Glory. What a fitting climax to a life so completely given to God!

Dearest Mother, in your way I strive to live - to be obedient to God even in the smallest details of life, to carry the Cross courageously and in silence, to live my life in joyful thanksgiving - these I promise to abide by with difficulty, but never with regret.

For thirty years, Ms. Ana Casas taught English, Business Math and Christian Living in the High School Department of the Assumption College where she also graduated. Tita Ana, as she is fondly called, is a member of the Lectors and Commentators Guild of the Parish and the Don Bosco Centering Prayer Group. She has 6 children and 12 apos.

From August 6 to 14, Assumption College will hold Novena Masses at 6:30 AM. On August 15, there will be masses at 6:30, 7:30 and 10:00 in the morning and 1:00 in the afternoon. All are invited.



# ST. JOHN BOSCO PARISH CHURCH, MAKATI

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# Living in God's Economy

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PARISH PRIEST

Economics was the least of my favorite subjects both in high school and in college. However it gained my sympathy because it afforded me sometimes to take a nap in the heat of the afternoon schedule!

The U.S. economy is very much in the news nowadays because of a possible financial crisis, "Without signed legislation by August 2, the U.S. Treasury will not have enough funds to pay all the nation's bills. Administration officials have warned of potentially calamitous effects on the economy if that happens \*..."

From the little I understand of the news (remember I used to sleep in economics class!), the key issue here is that the U.S. Congress has set a limit on how much money the government can borrow to manage all its operations. It is running out of money now, so the government wants to borrow some more but needs legislation by the August 2 deadline to raise the debt ceiling of \$14.3 trillion (I didn't even know that amount exists!). One commentator said that the U.S. government functions on money already spent, because much of it is loaned. What stole my interest here is the reason why the U.S. government can borrow so much money from creditors is that the United States enjoys the highest credit rating of AAA. It means that creditors are so confident that no matter how much the government borrows, the latter will have the means to pay it back in full and on time, plus interest.

In our Christian life, we also speak of economics, not the sleepy, bore-you-to-death type, but what we call the economy of salvation. *Oikonomia* (*Greek* for 'economy') means the *management of the household;* where God is concerned, it refers to the grand design of God the Father on how He "manages" us, His children, and

the world where we live in. In simple words, the economy of salvation means God's divine activity in the world. We know by revelation that this divine activity, which started in creation, is centered in Jesus Christ. It is Jesus who has been entrusted to "manage" God's work and manage he did - so very well.

Because of His obedient service to the Father's will, Jesus saved us from sin and eternal damnation by His suffering, death and resurrection. We have sinned against God, and the wages paid by sin, according to St. Paul, is death. (Rom 6:23) But because of the mercy of God, instead of us paying the wage or debt of our sins, it was Jesus who paid for us at the cost of his sacrificial death. Extending the debt analogy further, we can say that we enjoy the highest "credit rating" from God, not because we can confidently and sufficiently repay our debts caused by our sins, but because somebody has already paid it for us! Despite our continuous disobedience to natural and divine law and our penchant for sin, we remain beloved children of our Father, It's all because God's true beloved Son has paid in full whatever debt we may incur because of our sins.

Does it mean we can go on sinning? Of course not! The solution to the present U.S. crisis lies not in increased borrowing but rather in decreased spending! It's the same in our spiritual life. We strive to decrease the presence of sin and sorrow in our lives while allowing God's grace to increase and abound more and more through lives of holiness and charity.

\*Debt-limit vote postponed as GOP seeks support, Yahoo News, July 29, 2011

— Fr. Ting Miciano, SDB

In this issue, we begin a new series featuring the Salesians who minister to the SJB Makati Parish. Please see page 6 for the Salesian in Focus.

Not in photo: Fr. Faroni



## **HOW DO YOU CELEBRATE DON BOSCO'S BIRTHDAY?**

#### by Dominicanis

On August 16, we celebrate the birthday of Giovanni Melchiorre Bosco, or as he is more popularly known, St. John Bosco. So how does one celebrate in a special way the birthday of a saint like him? Some simple ideas:

- Tell your kids as a bedtime story, vignettes on St. John Bosco's life and how he earned the title "Father and Teacher of the Young".
- Convince your children to imitate the kindness of St. John Bosco: encourage them to give part of their allowance to a parish cause. You could also help them gather up outgrown clothes or old toys and give these to the less fortunate kids in the parish through the Social Services

Ministry.

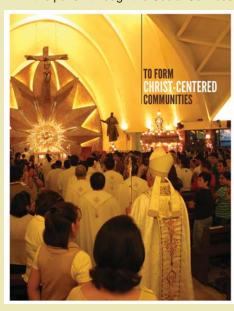
- 3. St. John Bosco instituted a method of education known as the "preventive system", which is based on reason, religion and loving-kindness. When any of your kids do wrong, instead of punishing them outright, take the child aside and calmly explain to him the harmful consequences of his action. The point is to lovingly make the child understand why he needs to avoid committing the same mistake again.
- 4. For the religion part of the preventive system, impress upon your children the importance of a regular prayer life: grace before and after meals, the Rosary before bedtime - encourage them to come up with their own simple prayers. They can

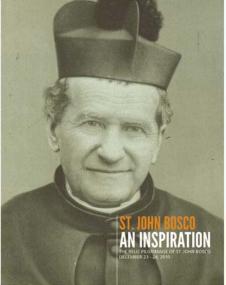
be taught the rudiments of prayer, such as bowing their heads, closing their eyes and speaking to God in simple phrases.

These are simple ways to honor St. John Bosco on his birthday. Others with more specialized talents have more flamboyant methods. Declared by Pope John Paul II as the Patron of Stage Magicians, Don Bosco is venerated by Catholic stage magicians who perform Gospel Magic (standard magic tricks and illusions to spread Christian messages) in free shows for underprivileged children.

Yet magic or not, the birth of any saint, especially a saint like St. John Bosco is a source of wonder for many young people all over the world.

Happy Birthday, St. John Bosco!







In honor of Don Bosco's birthday, on August 16, 2011, SJB Makati Parish shall issue the souvenir magazine *St. John Bosco, an Inspiration to Form Christ-Centered Communities* which commemorates last year's visit to the Parish of the saint's relic in its worldwide pilgrimage. This magazine was edited by Fr. Richard Varela, SDB.



### **HAPPY BIRTHDAY, FR. TING!**

As St. John Bosco Parish Makati celebrates the Solemnity of the Assumption on August 15, it will also mark another special occasion. This year, our dear parish priest, Reverend Father Romeo Agustin Ma. G. Miciano, celebrates his 50th birthday.

Admired for his concise and insightful homilies, Fr. Ting manages to convey the abundance of the Lord's Good News during the Holy Eucharist with an economy of well chosen words and crafted phrases. And by making the Word of the Lord come alive in Its teaching, Fr. Ting renews and inspires his parishioners in Its living.

Renewal may well be the essence of Fr.

Ting's pastorship: from the revival of the community's awareness and concern for the youth ministry to enabling SJB Makati to finally join the ranks of PREX-revitalized Parishes.

For these and other initiatives including the launching of the parish newsletter *Simbahay*, your continuing support for the parish community through projects providing livelihood, medical and emergency relief services and for a leadership marked with patience and gentle assurance, we thank you Fr. Ting and wish you a Happy 50!

The PREX (Parish Renewal Experience) is a formation and evangelization program on key areas of Catholic life developed by Fr. Charles Gallagher, SJ and used in 21 countries.

# 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.

Visit <a href="www.sjbmakati.com">www.sjbmakati.com</a> for more detailed excerpts of the study notes for each week.

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



# 19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A) Parish Priest's Day

#### August 7, 2011 Readings

- \*1Kgs 19:9.11-13a The Lord reveals his presence in a gentle breeze.
- \*Rom 9:1-5 Paul's immense love for the members of the people of Israel.
- \*Mt 14:22-33 Jesus saves Peter from drowning.

# Theme: SECURITY IN GOD'S LOVING CARE

There is a child in each of us which wants to feel the protective presence of its parents at all times, especially in moments of danger. This is an emotional and affective need which human parents are not always able to satisfy. Only God can do that. Only He can offer us the sense of security and peace we need to experience in the unavoidable storms of life.

What Jesus did for his disciples in the Gospel episode of today is also what he is

ready to do for us at any time. But on our part, we must avoid being over-confident and presuming that we can save ourselves. Likewise, we should not lose hope as if no one could help us when faced with great difficulties.

In all storms of life, a believer should always remember that our loving and all-powerful God is at hand, always ready to rescue us as soon as we call out to Him with humble trust. At the same time, however we are expected to do all we can to overcome the difficulties that surround us.



## **20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)**

August 14, 2011 Readings

- \*Is 56:1.6-7 God's plan to include in the temple worship even those who do not belong to the Chosen People
- \*Rom 11:13-15.29-32 God's mercy encompasses both Jews and Gentiles.
- \*Mt 15:21-28 Jesus heals the daughter of a Canaanite woman.

#### Theme: GOD'S LOVE IS UNIVERSAL

Israel had been chosen from among all peoples of old to be God's "special possession," not because it had any special merits, but simply because such was God's plan. That small nation, without a homeland of its own, without political or military clout, often despised and even more often ungrateful, was chosen by God to give to the world its Savior. That would have been a great distinction indeed.

But Israel was not satisfied with it and wrongly concluded that its privileged position would last forever. Worse still, it came to the conclusion that it had a special claim on God, while all other nations were forgotten by Him. Israel often gave in to the temptation to monopolize God.

The truth is that God loves all because He is the creator of all and wants all human beings to be part of the Kingdom of peace, justice, and love where everybody will feel

at home and happy. Such is the message already announced by God through several prophets in the Old Testament, and especially Jonah and Isaiah. Such is the message proclaimed by Jesus, who died for all mankind and sent his disciples to preach the Gospel to all nations.



#### 21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

August 21, 2011 Readings

- \*Is 22:15.19-23 God transfers His authority from an unworthy ruler to a worthy one.
- \*Rom 11:33-36 Paul's hymn of praise to God's wisdom
- \*Mt 16:13-20 The confession of Peter and Jesus' promise to make him head of the Church

# Theme: DESTINED TO BE A STRONG FOUNDATION

Civilizations and empires come and go. They reach apexes of splendour, then they decline and vanish like flowers by the roadside that today bloom joyfully and tomorrow wilt and fade miserably into the ground from which they emerged. The Church came into existence some 2,000 years ago and still flourishes today, everstrong and ever-renewed, in spite of the blows from without and the weaknesses within. These seems to be something unique to it. What makes the Church endure in spite of all difficulties and struggles?

The answer to this often-asked question is: the fact that it has been *founded by Christ* on the firm *rock of Peter's faith*. The founder of the Church is no less than the Incarnate Son of God who wanted the Church to continue his mission till the end of time. And he founded it not on earthly ambitions and plans, not on purely human resources and objectives, but on the simple faith of a poor fisherman and his eleven companions whose hope and trust were

rooted in God alone. Essentially, then, the Church is founded on God Himself - the God who seeks our participation in His plan of salvation, and who will always be at hand to enliven and strengthen with His grace the frail human instruments He has chosen.



## 22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

### August 28, 2011 Readings

- \*Jer 20:7-9 Jeremiah feels the burden of his prophetic mission.
- \*Rom 12:1-2 Paul exhorts the faithful to offer themselves to the Lord as a spiritual sacrifice.
- \*Mt 16:21-27 Every disciple of Christ is expected to carry his cross in imitation of the Master.

# Theme: THE COST OF TRUE DISCIPLESHIP

In ancient times, a "disciple" was an individual who learned well what his/her teacher was teaching, and even memorized it. Like all teachers, Jesus, too, surrounded himself with disciples, but he demanded of them much more than what the other teachers did. He wanted his disciples to follow his way of life to the point of denying their very selves, taking up their own cross, and following in his footsteps.

This is what makes or un-makes a disciple of Jesus. *It is the mark of his genuineness.* Less than that, or even trying to take the "alternative route" of human success, systematic avoidance of suffering or simply following the standards of worldly values will not do. The true disciple is one of a kind: one who is not afraid of even laying down his life for Christ. Once this conviction is in place, and we live by it, our resemblance to our Teacher will grow by the day.

Such is the challenge addressed to us today in a world that numbers one and a half billion Christians, but so few disciples.

# **NEWS BRIEFS**

by Welly Cuna, Chester Hans Tolentino and Beth Chai

# RECOGNITION DAY FOR SENIOR LAY MINISTERS

The Archdiocese of Manila honored senior lay liturgical ministers with a Recognition Day for Liturgical Ministers last June 11 at the Manila Cathedral, Intramuros. The ceremony was presided by the Archbishop of Manila, his Eminence, Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales to express the Archdiocese's gratitude to the lay collaborators in the Liturgical Ministry.

The Archdiocese honored 170 senior lay liturgical ministers from twenty-one parishes. Among the awardees were St. John Bosco, Makati Lectors and Commentators Guild members: Divina Abad-Santos, Lucena Bueser, Ana Maria Casas, and Virginia Judy Dy.









#### MASS WEDDING

Thirteen couples tied the knot during the Parish-sponsored Mass Wedding Ceremony presided by Rev. Fr. Ting Miciano on June 18, 2011. Aside from the complimentary use of the Church facilities,

the Parish gifted each couple with a wedding dress, barong Tagalog, cord, veil, arrhae and a catered lunch reception complete with cake and wine. The Family and Life Ministry, under Bert and Violy Magsakay, organized this memorable mass wedding "with the works".

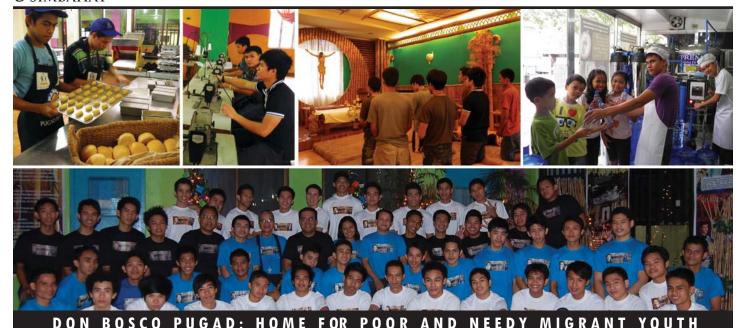


#### **PPC PLANNING**

The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) which is composed of the heads of the Parish's different ministries held its annual planning session on June 25, 2011 at the residence of Ms. Diva Abad-Santos in San Lorenzo Village. Each of the ministry heads gave

status reports and presented their plans for the next 18 months.

The council discussed some major concerns including proposed changes to the youth ministry and the importance of revising the parish mission-vision statement to make it simpler and easier for parishioners to remember and hopefully, live by.



From interviews with PUGAD Center Director, Rev. Fr. Dave Buenaventura, SDB

Don Bosco PUGAD (*Filipino* for nest) is the SJB Makati parish-based training and formation Center for poor and needy migrant youth from all over the country. For fifteen months, young men, fondly called the "PUGAD Boys", live in the PUGAD Center where their physical and individual psychospiritual needs are addressed as they undergo technical skills training at the Don Bosco Manpower Skills training center or attend regular schools and colleges.

Aside from acquiring technical skills, the PUGAD Boys also gain livelihood skills under programs which not only provide products and services to a growing number of satisfied customers, more importantly, it enables the

Center to become self-reliant in providing for the needs of its constituents and the Center's upkeep. At present, productive livelihood programs include Manna from Heaven Breadshop, Bosco Spring Water Refill Station, Coffee and Saints and the DB Pugad Aircon Refrigeration Service Station. Tailoring, printing and farming programs are being developed.

The boys are responding positively to their formation programs. After 15 months of intensive training of body, spirit and skills, most PUGAD Boys leave the Center and find employment here and overseas. A few have opted to remain in Pugad to become part of its working and training staff.

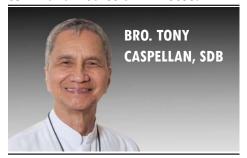
Today, with less than 50 residents, PUGAD is much quieter than it was when it used to

serve as both home and school for hundreds of abandoned and orphaned street children from PUGAD's founding in 1998 until the children (and most benefactors) transferred to the Tuloy sa Don Bosco Street Children Village in Alabang in 2001.

But through the Lord's providence and the driving vision of Don Bosco, the dedicated service of its staff, the generosity of its benefactors and patronage of its customers and, the industry and determination of the PUGAD Boys to succeed, PUGAD continues to be a vibrant, nurturing nest of hope and transformation from underprivileged youth to empowered members of society.

Mula sa PUGAD, hanggang sa paglipad!

# SJB Makati Salesian in Focus:



In this issue, we begin a new series featuring the Salesians who minister to the SJB Makati Parish.

After finishing his AB in Philosophy, *summa cum laude*, from the University of Santo Tomas in 1958, Bro. Antonio Caspellan, SDB, the current resident PUGAD counselor, applied in Don Bosco Technical Institute Makati where for the next 24 ½ years he would serve as teacher, moderator, scout leader and assistant principal.

Inspired by Salesians, Fr. Charles Braga and Bro. Joe Ferrer and attracted to the Salesian

Family spirit and Salesian Brotherhood, he decided to pursue a late vocation at 43 years old. Three years later, in 1985, he made his first religious profession. He was then assigned to teach in Don Bosco College Canlubang and Don Bosco Center of Studies in Paranaque and the Don Bosco Academy in Pampanga where he was school principal.

Finally on March 19, 1990, the feast of St. Joseph, Antonio Caspellan made his perpetual profession as a Salesian Brother.

In 2001, after more than forty years as an educator, Bro Tony experienced what he described as a divinely inspired paradigm shift in his vocation. Having just discerned during an Ignatian retreat that he was "to minister to broken hearts and souls", he decided to accept his "obedience" from then FIN provincial, Fr. Francis Gustilo to serve as the new guidance counselor of PUGAD Center for Street Children and Migrant Youth (please see related article on this page).

Drawing from his M.A. in Pastoral Ministry, Major in Family Ministry and Counseling,

Bro. Tony, as PUGAD counselor in-charge of the psycho-spiritual programs, had to transform from stern, "terror" school principal to a milder, more compassionate listener and adviser. He considers this transformation as a high point of his vocation.

In another high point, last December, Bro. Tony represented the SJB Makati Salesian Community during the arrival honors from Cebu of St. John Bosco's Relic on its worldwide pilgrimage. He wrote about this memorable experience in the forthcoming coffee table book *Viva Don Bosco*.

Bro. Tony celebrated the silver jubilee of his religious profession last year, yet he still vividly recalls an affirming moment early in his Salesian journey. He had just resigned from Don Bosco Makati, half a year short of the 25 year service award, when former Provincial Fr. Luciano Capeli assured him, "Never mind that you do not have Don Bosco's bust, Tony... you already have his heart".



Rev. Fr. Ting Miciano led the Eucharistic Benediction and Adoration in honor of the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi) last June 26, the Sunday before the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus on July 1.

# SJB MAKATI JOINS WORLDWIDE 60-HOUR EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

St. John Bosco Parish Makati joined in the worldwide observance of sixty hours of Eucharistic Adoration from 8:00AM of June 29 to 8:00PM of July 1 at the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. Members of the Parish Organizations and the surrounding community responded to the worldwide call to prayer in commemoration of Pope Benedict XVI's 60th Presbyterial Ordination Anniversary. Rev. Fr. Ting Miciano led in the opening and closing prayers for the 2 ½ day Eucharistic Adoration which aimed to exhort the faithful to pray for the sanctification of priests and an increase in priestly vocations.

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### **AUGUST 2011 CALENDAR**

**01** *Mon* St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori **04** Thu St. John Baptiste Marie Vianney **05** Fri 1st Friday Vigil Adoration/Taize after 6pm Mass **06** Sat Transfiguration of the Lord **07** Sun 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time St. John Vianney or Parish Priest's Sunday **08** Mon St. Dominic de Guzman **10** Wed St. Lawrence, Deacon & Martyr **11** Thu St. Clare **14** Sun 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time Solemnity of Assumption of Mary **15** *Mon* Happy Birthday, Fr. Ting! **16** Tue Happy Birthday, St. John Bosco! St. Rock (Roque) **20** Sat St. Bernard **21** Sun 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time Queenship of Mary **22** Mon St. Rose of Lima **23** Tue 24 Wed St. Bartholomew 27 Sat St. Monica Happy Birthday, Fr. Richard! **28** Sun 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time 29 Mon Martyrdom of St. John the Baptist

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 August 2011 Calendar http://sjbmakati.com/parish-activities.html



### **NEW APPOINTMENT**

Mark Philip M. Ragos, Animator of the SJB Parish Makati Knights of the Altar (KOA), was appointed Secretary of KOA Provincial Council for the Salesian Northern Province last July 2 by the Salesian Commission on Youth Ministries. He has been assisting in parish Eucharistic celebrations as an altar server since 2006.

Mark is a 3rd year student taking up B.S. Education at UST.

#### **Mass Collections for:**

June 2011-Php 982,599.75 July 2011-Php 1,128,141.25

PnP Collections for: June 2011-Php 16,150.00 July 2011-Php 17,745.00

## YOUTH MINISTRY STRATEGIC PLANNING

The Youth Ministry held its first strategic planning session on July 16-17, 2011 at the Tabor House, Pansol, Laguna. The activity was facilitated by the Salesian Commission on Youth Ministry (SYMC). Representatives of the different parish organizations began laying the plans for a twelve-month action plan and calendar of activities for the Youth



Ministry. Through its representatives, each group renewed its commitment to continue working to strengthen the Youth Ministry. The two-day gathering ended with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist presided by Rev. Fr. Ting Miciano.





Youth Ministry Organization in Focus by Welly Cuna

## **RONDALLA**

The Rondalla is one of the organizations under both the Music and Cultural Affairs Ministry (MOMCA) and the Youth Ministry. The group is composed of young women and men who are trained to play the different rondalla instruments like the banduria, laud and octavina. They actively participate in the different activities in the parish such as the Sunday 8:30am Children's Mass, Grand Alay, rosary rallies, etc.



Please contact the Youth Ministry if you wish to share your time, talents and resources with any of its organizations.