



# SIMBAHAY

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

VOLUME 6 ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2014

*Cardinal Tagle entrusts the Parish of St. John Bosco to Fr. Degz, SDB, with the symbolic turn over of the key to the tabernacle.*

## SJB PARISH CELEBRATES WITH A FIESTA MASS & A NEW PARISH PRIEST

*Remember,  
my brother to be a loving father always,  
a gentle shepherd,  
and a wise teacher of your community,  
so that you may lead them to Christ  
who will strengthen you in all that you do.*



**By Pablo S. Miguel**

Hundreds of parishioners including members of the Parish Organizations and ministries packed the St. John Bosco Parish Church on 31 January 2014 to join in the Fiesta Eucharistic Celebration in honor of St. John Bosco and to witness the installation of Rev. Fr. Renato “Degz” De Guzman, SDB as Parish priest.

Fr. Degz was the main Mass celebrant, with seventeen concelebrants, including Provincials, Fr. Eligio Cruz, SDB (FIN) and Fr. George Militante, SDB (FIS), Fr. Victor Apacible, Vicar Forane, Fr. Rufino Sescon Jr., Chancellor and Salesian confreres from the surrounding communities. His Eminence, Luis Antonio Cardinal Tagle, Archbishop of Manila, presided in the installation rites at the beginning of the Mass and gave a most engaging homily on becoming great in the Kingdom of Heaven. He also led in the distribution of gift bags for 150 selected poor families of the Parish after the Mass. **(from the homily of His Eminence Luis Antonio Cardinal Tagle, DD)**

What a fitting way to celebrate the Solemnity of St. John Bosco in this Parish, by installing a new Parish priest. Installations are occasions of grace and an assurance of God’s love as He continues to send emissaries, with whom we may grow as we walk together along the path of Faith towards His Kingdom.

### **Who is of greatest importance in the Kingdom of God?**

In the perspective of the kingdoms of the world, some would consider Fr. Degz’s installation as the new Parish priest of St. John Bosco Parish Makati – as a promotion (*pag-asenso*).

However, in God’s kingdom, Jesus reverses everything. “. . . unless you change and become like little children . . .” Here the greatest are the least, the most exalted are those whose hearts and minds are as humble as a child’s. In the Bible, to be a child, is to be poor, little, humble – one who may not be wanting in abilities and resolve, but is entirely dependent on God for everything.

And this is what we and our new Parish priest need: to be great in the eyes of the Kingdom of Heaven and not of the world’s.

### **How do we become great in the Kingdom of Heaven?**

The first reading from the prophet Sirach tells us how. Be prepared for trials as you serve God and depend on Him during these trials, which then become schools to learn to cling to Him. Trials make us turn to God, shed our rags of pride and don the robes of humility worn by children/citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven.

### **How do we remain as children in the Kingdom of Heaven?**

St. Paul’s letter to the Philippians in the second reading, gives the answer with the exhortation to rejoice!

Like St. John Bosco and the great men and women in our Church, one who holds fast to the Lord, rejoices in Him, is humble, child-like and selflessly serves others as he is never anxious for his sake. With God in control, there is no reason to be troubled about anything and every reason to cheerfully give of one’s time, talents and being.

Fr. Degz, may you advance in the Kingdom of God. May your service in this Parish be fraught with the many trials He will send you, © trials, which you will overcome, not because of your talents, but because you have run to Him for help, each time. And once anchored on Someone greater than yourself, you will be unstoppable in joyfully serving the Father with the heart of a child.

(Addressing the parishioners)

We are one family, one people; let us join Fr. Degz in striving to be humble and childlike along God’s path to joy. As I entrust your Parish to Fr. Degz, so do I entrust your first-time pastor to your care; love him and support him.

Hopefully then, at the end of his term as your Parish priest, Fr. Degz would have become more youthful, happy and generous, owing to all that he had learned while serving the Parish of St. John Bosco.



## ST. JOHN BOSCO PARISH CHURCH MAKATI

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## SCHEDULE OF MASSES

### Monday to Friday:

6:30am • 7:30am • 12:15pm •  
6:00pm

Holy Hour every Thursday after the  
6:00 pm Mass

### Saturday:

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

### Sunday:

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

\*with sign language interpreters

**Confessions** are available during all  
the Masses

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

## PARISH OFFICE & RELIGIOUS STORE HOURS

### Monday to Friday (except Thursday)

8:00am - 11:30am • 12:30pm - 6:00pm

### Thursday:

8:00am - 11:30am • 12:30pm - 4:00pm

### Saturday:

8:00am - 12:00pm • 1:00pm - 5:00pm

FEBRUARY 2014

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PARISH PRIEST



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,  
parishioners of St. John Bosco Parish,  
Peace and Joy to each one of you!

How fast time flies! We are in mid February.  
January is gone with its popular devotions  
(Nazareno and Sto. Niño) and also our own  
parish fiesta in honor of St. John Bosco, last  
31 January.

I would like to say THANK YOU – MARAMING  
SALAMAT to everyone who participated in the  
various activities of the parish fiesta and those  
individuals, members of the parish organiza-  
tions and families in the zones who generously  
offered canned goods, sacks of rice and money  
for the gifts that were given to the needy families  
of our parish during the Grand Fiesta Mass.

I also would like to express my sincerest grati-  
tude to His Eminence Cardinal Chito Tagle who  
came for our fiesta and for the installation of the  
parish priest. I hope that we will recall every now  
and then the beautiful and inspiring homily of  
the Cardinal.

You will find in this issue the nine themes that  
were reflected during the novena Masses prior  
to the Grand Fiesta Mass. They invite us to  
learn from St. John Bosco's "spiritual experi-  
ence as we walk the path of holiness accord-  
ing to our specific vocation." This is our Rector  
Major's (Fr. Pascual Chavez, SDB) spiritual  
program for 2014 in preparation for the 200<sup>th</sup>

birthday of Don Bosco in 2015. Incidentally,  
in declaring 2014 as the Year of the Laity, our  
Bishops have invited all the Filipino Catholic  
lay faithful to . . . St. John Bosco's path to holi-  
ness, which is a roadmap for us in the Parish  
towards this spiritual project.

Two weeks from now, we will start another  
important season in the Church liturgical cal-  
endar – LENT. We will announce the activities  
later, during the Sunday Masses. Let us be  
ready to enter into the holy season guided by  
the challenge of our Bishops and the program  
that we, as a Salesian parish, have to follow  
in honor of St. John Bosco, and that is, to walk  
the path of holiness according to our specific  
calling as laity: at home and in the workplace,  
in the parish community and in society.

This Lent, the Parish will undergo a major  
change in its celebration of the sacrament of  
Baptism. You will be duly informed so that you  
can tell your friends who intend to have their  
children baptized here regarding the changes  
and the reasons behind them.

Finally, let me share with you catchwords that  
remind us of the lessons Jesus wants us to  
learn throughout this Ordinary Time. These are:  
BE GOOD INFLUENCE (salt) and DO GOOD  
TO OTHERS (light).

Fraternally yours in Jesus,

**Fr. DEGZ, sdb**



### Called to be saints. Sent forth as heroes!

In preparation for the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2021  
of the first Mass and first Baptism in the Philip-  
pines, the CBCP called for a nine-year Era of  
New Evangelization. 2013, was the Year of  
Integral Faith Formation. 2014 is the Year of  
the Laity. "Called to be saints . . . sent forth as  
heroes", the Filipino Catholic Laity are chal-  
lenged to "Choose to be Brave"!'

"Laity," means "people". The Laity are baptized,  
confirmed Christians who belong to God's

people. They are neither priests nor nuns. God  
sends the laity so that they might share God's  
love with others by their family and occupation  
in the midst of the world.

### THE LOGO:

- The heart in the "Choose to be Brave" logo symbolizes LOVE.
- The rays behind the hand – where the laity can be found: in the world, from all walks of life and that we are called to go out, and bring the light of Christ and make disciples
- The open hand – the decision of the laity to respond to the call of mission. It also represents "generosity."
- The flame over the heart – the ardor that the Spirit of Jesus ignites in our hearts so that we may "choose to be brave!"

<sup>1</sup>Reference : <http://www.choosetobebrave.org/>

The SJB Parish Fiesta Novena Masses (this year from January 22 to 30) are annual venues for the parishioners to have an up-close encounter with St. John Bosco, our Patron Saint, through the reflections of guest Salesian priests who include some of the best homilists. This year, SJB Parish Priest, Fr. Degz de Guzman, SDB, single-handedly yet ably highlighted the different facets of Don Bosco's spirituality during the evening Masses of the nine days leading to Don Bosco's feast day on 31 January.

Briefly, following are the nine daily themes under the general theme, "Let us draw upon the spiritual experience of Don Bosco, in order to walk in holiness according to our specific vocation":

1. As Christian lay faithful and like St. John Bosco (SJB), to walk in holiness, we must let God control our life.
2. With God in control of his life, SJB looked after the salvation of his soul and those of the young, all for the glory of God, hence his motto, "Give me souls, take away the rest."
3. SJB lived his motto by following St. Francis of Sales, "always living in God's presence through active faith, hope and charity."
4. SJB also let God control his life, by praying perseveringly and offering his work all day to God.
5. Thus, SJB's path to holiness is an active and practical spirituality seen in his life of work and temperance (moderation in action, thought and feeling).
6. SJB teaches us that when we let God control our life, we do the work God gives us in life and He becomes the center of our work.
7. So it was God who infused in SJB the gift to love Him and the young. This charity – "loving kindness" is the 3<sup>rd</sup> essential ingredient (after reason and religion) in SJB's Preventive System of Education of the young.
8. SJB left the young a concrete path to holiness: the Salesian Youth Spirituality whose elements include: i. Ordinarity of life, ii. Joy and optimism, iii. Friendship with Jesus, iv. Fidelity to the Church v. Love for Mary vi. Responsible service for others.
9. **Salesian Spirituality** is Christian Spirituality inspired by the life of SJB. It is **practical** (our work, profession and ministry where we meet God daily), **apostolic** (work for God with charity) and **pastoral** (show God to others through our work).



## 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.

### 7<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

#### 23 February 2014 Readings

\*Lv 19:1-2.17-18 – The demands of the love of neighbor in the Old Testament

\*1 Cor 3:16-23 – We are God's most precious temple.

\*Mt 5:38-48 – God's love for all men is our model in our love of neighbor.

#### Theme: THE CALL TO LOVE WITHOUT BORDERS

All human beings have the fundamental call to love. The way we respond to this call determines the kind of life we live here on earth and the type of person we become. Ultimately, it determines the type of life we will have for all eternity – either perfect happiness in heaven, if our existence on earth has been characterized by a constant effort to love all in a concrete manner and to the best of our ability, or everlasting unhappiness in hell if we have failed to do so.

Jesus came to remind mankind about the fundamental importance of love for every human being, and to teach all how to respond to this sublime call. His entire life, and especially his death on the cross, was marked by a "love without borders." He lived and died for all human beings, including those who were putting him to death. He thus lived up to the challenge of what he had been teaching – the challenge to love and do good even to one's enemies.

A disciple of Jesus is expected to do the same. We all know that this is not easy. But the one who makes such a demand gives also the strength to respond to it positively.

### 8<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

#### 2 March 2014 Readings

\*Is 49:14-15 – God's love for us is greater than the love of a mother.

\*1 Cor 4:1-5 – What matters is what we are in God's sight.

\*Mt 6:24-34 – Jesus invites us to set our priorities right

#### Theme: THE CALL TO PUT OUR TRUST IN THE LORD

Nature, in all its splendor and variety,



is an endless hymn to God's wisdom and care for all creatures. It is also a constant invitation to us to put our trust in Him for all our basic needs. This is a way to profess our faith in the Lord's providential and preferential care for us, for He Who shows His love for all creatures by generously providing for all their needs, loves people even more. Indeed, He loves each of us even more than a mother loves her child. Such is the assurance offered by God Himself in the exiles in Babylon (see *today's First Reading*), and by Jesus in the Gospel for today.

Jesus' exhortation to trust in the Father's providence, however, should not be misinterpreted as a condoning of laziness. Rather, it is an invitation to remember that a loving God watches over us with fatherly/motherly concern. Such consoling thought, after we have done our best in fulfilling our duties as responsible grown-up persons, should shield us from excessive worries and preoccupations over our material needs.

Moreover, Jesus' invitation to "seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness" is a reminder that the main purpose of our life on earth is not the satisfaction of our material/physical needs, but to work as God's partners in building His Kingdom of justice and peace.



### 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT (A)

#### 9 March 2014 Readings

##### *Migrants' Sunday*

\*Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7 – The creation of man and the first sin

\*Rom 5:12-19 – The power of Christ's redemption is stronger than the destructive power of all sins.

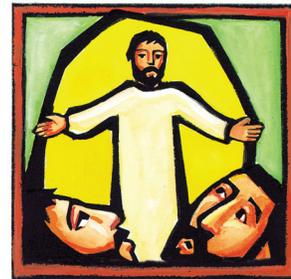
\*Mt 4:1-11 – Jesus overcomes all temptations.

#### Theme: THE CALL TO REJECT THE DEVIL'S EMPTY PROMISES

On this First Sunday of Lent, we are given in the behavior of Jesus an encouraging example of how to overcome the devil's temptations. **Trusting the truthfulness of God's Word and rejecting all that goes against His plan for us are the keys to sure victory.** This is the clear difference between Jesus and the first human beings when they were tempted by the devil.

This can also spell the difference in our lives. Jesus' good news is that **temptation can be overcome if we follow his example.** It all depends on us, for God always does His part.

Today is "**Migrants' Sunday.**" This yearly observance offers us the opportunity to show a particular interest in the plight of millions of our brothers and sisters who have been forced by adverse economic circumstances to leave their province or country of origin and seek elsewhere a better life for themselves and their families. Let us include all migrants in our prayers.



### 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT (A)

#### 16 March 2014 Readings

\*Gn 12:1-4a – The call of Abraham, the father of God's people

\*2 Tim 1:8b-10 – God saves us in Christ, out of sheer love.

\*Mt 17:1-9 – Jesus is transfigured in the presence of his disciples

#### Theme: THE CALL TO LET THE BEST IN US SHINE FORTH

Jesus' transfiguration was meant to be not only an encouragement to his three "special disciples" Peter, James, and John, but also an **inspiration** and an **aspiration** for all those who would believe in him in the subsequent generations. And such it has been, over the centuries, for the great saints and even small people like us.

As our "**inspiration,**" the transfiguration of Jesus should be for us an **ideal** that lifts us out of our defects, lower inclinations, and past faults. As an "**aspiration.**" it should be the **goal** we strive to reach, at least in part, already in this life through our constant effort to improve our moral behavior. Our moral/spiritual "transfiguration" is also the **goal** we hope to attain in full in the life to come, for we are called to be part of the new heavens and the new earth, of which the transfigured Jesus is the prototype.

## OPENING OF THE CAUSE OF BEATIFICATION OF FR. CARLO BRAGA, SDB

(reprinted, in part, from the *Agenzia Info Salesiana* news report on 30 January 2014)

On 30 January, the diocesan investigation for the beatification and canonization of the Servant of God Father Carlo Braga opened in a solemn ceremony in the Cathedral of San Fernando (Pampanga - Philippines). Fr. Braga was a Salesian missionary to China and founder of the Salesian presence in the Philippines.

Archbishop Paciano Aniceto of San Fernando presided at a solemn Eucharistic celebration in honor of Don Bosco with three other bishops and more than 100 Salesian and diocesan priests concelebrating. In his homily, Cardinal Joseph Zen, Archbishop Emeritus of Hong Kong, spoke of how Fr. Braga was the father of his Salesian vocation.

### BRIEF CHRONOLOGY OF FR. BRAGA'S LIFE

- 1889 Birth of Fr. Braga (23 May, Tirano, Sondrio, Diocese of Como, Italy)
- 1904 Novitiate in Foglizzo (August)
- 1906 First profession (30 July)
- 1914 Ordination to the priesthood (11 April)
- 1915 Conscripted by the Italian Army (May)
- 1918 Invited to join the missionary expedition (November)
- 1919 Left Italy for China (23 August) and arrived in China (29 September)
- 1919-1924 Superior of Orphanage of St. Joseph Ho Sai
- 1925-1929 Superior of Don Bosco College Shiu Chow
- 1930-1952 Provincial of China
- 1949 Expulsion from China with communist takeover
- 1953 Arrival in the Philippines (Rector of Don Bosco Victorias)
- 1955 Delegate of the Provincial of China in the Philippines

1958-1963 Vice Provincial of the Philippine Province

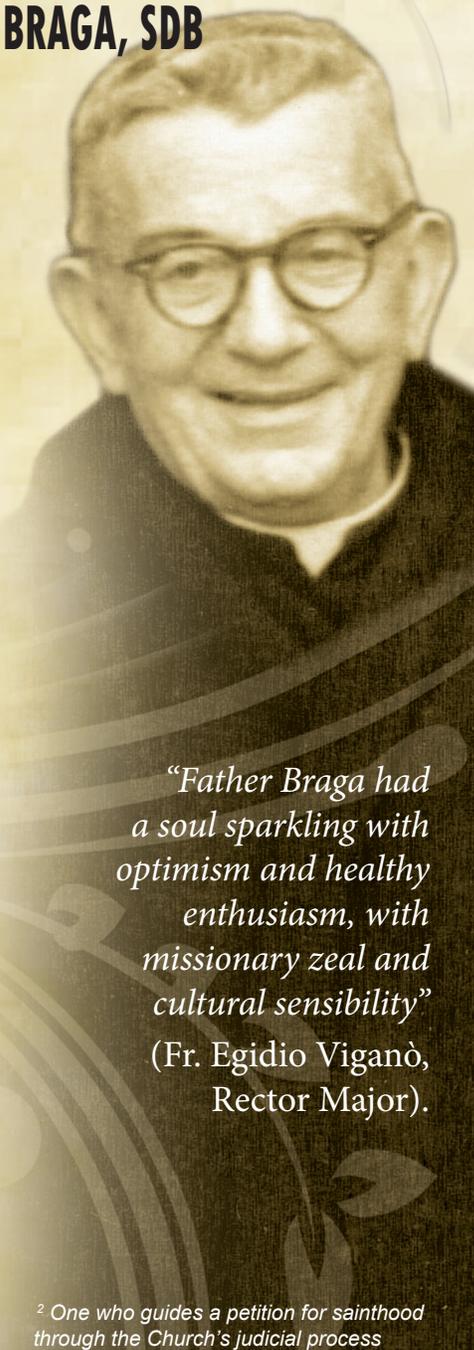
1971 Death of Fr. Braga (3 January, Bacolor, Pampanga, Archdiocese of San Fernando, Philippines)

In a brief biography of Fr. Carlo Braga, Fr. Nestor Impelido, SDB, Vice-Postulator<sup>2</sup> for Braga's cause for canonization, wrote of a providential event which started Fr. Braga on his Salesian journey.

"... it was during Fr. Braga's stay with the Salesians in Sondrio that Providence extraordinarily gave him the opportunity to encounter St. John Bosco's successor, the Blessed Michael Rua, who opened to him the way to one day emulate St. John Bosco by becoming a Salesian himself. He, "a student who emerged for his piety, his innocence of life, his tact", was then chosen to be the little secretary of the Rector Major while the latter was visiting the house of Sondrio. And in this unforgettable experience, Blessed Michele Rua expressed to him those benevolent words: - "We shall always be friends" (27 June 1904). What better expression of "amorevolezza - loving kindness" could the young Carlo expect from the "Don Bosco" in Blessed Michele Rua?" Fr. Nesty concludes Fr. Braga's biography:

During the 65 years of his religious profession as Salesian and 57 years as priest, Fr. Braga was rector for 14 years, provincial for 23 years and Vice provincial for 5 years. He passed away in the early morning of 3 January 1971, Solemnity of the Epiphany, in Don Bosco Juniorate of Bacolor, Pampanga, while preparing to say the usual early mass in the Parish.

The death of Fr. Braga was a first in the history of the Salesians in the Philippines. But it would remain a first of those who would wish to reminisce the taste of a true and authentic Salesian.



*"Father Braga had a soul sparkling with optimism and healthy enthusiasm, with missionary zeal and cultural sensibility"*  
(Fr. Egidio Viganò, Rector Major).

<sup>2</sup> One who guides a petition for sainthood through the Church's judicial process

"Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

*Ash*  
Wednesday

5 MARCH 2014

schedule of Masses  
to be announced



The last Sunday of the month is Pondo ng Pinoy Sunday. Bring your coin-filled bottles and offer them during the Mass.

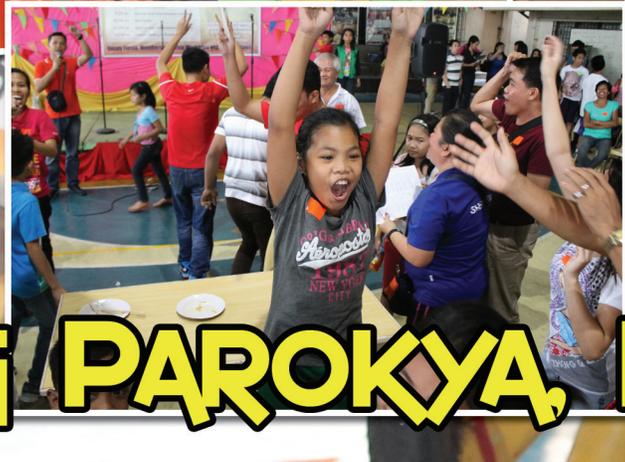
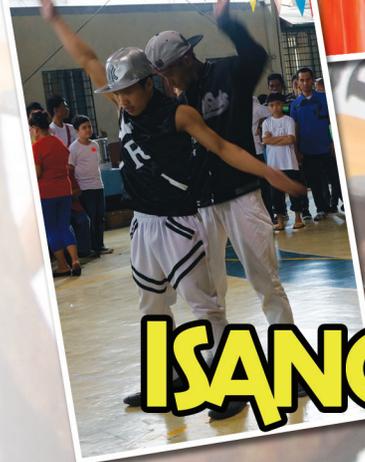
Noong ika-31 ng Enero, maaga pa lamang, kapansin-pansing maraming nagsimba sa Misang pang-7:30 kahit hindi naman Linggo. *Chinese New Year* noon, walang pasok, at mismong araw ng Piyesta ni San Juan Bosco, ang patron ng Parokyang binansagang mula SanLo hanggang Dulo. Ang Misa ang simula ng pagdiriwang ng mga miyembro ng mga organisasyon ng Parokya ng kanilang *Family Day*.

Matapos ang Misa, sabik na nagtungo ang lahat sa gym na nakagayak na ng makukulay na banderitas, salamat sa Youth Ministry. Ang daming tao: bata, matanda, kabataan at pami-pamilya! Habang ang iba ay nag-rerehistro, karamihan ay nasa loob na ng gym, nagtitipon-tipon ayon sa kanilang *team-color* (pula, berde, dilaw o asul), nagkukuwentuhan at naghihintay sa simula ng kasayahan. Di nagtagal, ipinakilala na ni Ikel Rodriguez, ang emcee, si Fr. Ernie Cruz para sa pambungad na pagbati na tumuloy na sa panalangin bago kumain.

Ito'y naging hudyat upang masayang magkainan ang lahat mula sa masaganang handaang handog ng iba't-ibang organisasyon: *hot-dog* at kanin ng LCG, *corned beef* at danggit ng Legion of Mary, kakanin at *juice* ng DBMEF, itlog mula sa DBPG, pansit ng MOMCA, saging mula sa KOA, pandesal at tubig ng PUGAD, kape at Milo ng BEC *ice cream* sa cariton at prutas mula sa mga pari, at taho ng Info.

Nguni't di lamang agahan at merienda ang inihanda nina Bro. Bert Magsakay at Jason Cabellon, na mga punong-abala sa *Family Day*, kungdi isang palatuntunang punong-puno ng kantahan, sayawan, pagpakitang-gilas at mga palarong kinagiliwan, di lamang ng mga kalahok na nanalo (ng mga premyo mula kay Sis. Diva Abad Santos), pati na rin ng mga natalo, mga nagkantiyawan at nagpalakpakan.

Hapon nang nagsiuwian ang mga 500 nakapamiyesta: busog, pagod, masigla, natutuwa, isang malaking pamilyang masunuring tumalima sa kanilang Patron ng nagwikang, "Tumakbo, Tumalon, Mag-ingay. Huwag lang Magkasala!"



# ISANG PAROKYA, ISANG



# ANG PAMILYANG NAGPIYESTA

## NEWS BRIEFS

### 150 PPP RECEIVE FIESTA GIFT BAGS FROM SJB PARISHIONERS



KOAs help carry the 150 bags into the church for distribution

Christmas came back or Holy Thursday came early for 150 family-beneficiaries of the Fiesta gift-giving project last January 31, after the Fiesta Mass. Originally set at 100 families, the number of beneficiaries was increased to 150 after the overwhelming response of SJB parishioners to the Parish's appeal for offerings (during the Fiesta Novena Masses) of rice and canned goods as a gift for the Parish's poorest of the poor (PPP). Each gift bag contained six kilos of rice, seven sachets of instant coffee and chocolate, six packs of noodles and 17 pieces of assorted canned meat and fish products. The Social Services Ministry under Ms. Aura Lachica organized the gift-giving as well as the home visits of Fr. Degz to some of the PPP beneficiaries.



Devotees venerate relics of Blessed Laura Vicuña of Chile, Blessed Ceferino Namuncurá of Argentina and Blessed Alberto Marvelli of Italy during the visit of the relics to SJB Parish from January 22 to 26.

# SJB YOUTH

## CHOIR

"HE WHO SINGS WELL, PRAYS TWICE"

-St. Augustine

Can you sing?

Do you want to use your talent in serving the Mass?

We are looking for members:

\*13-25 years old

\*Catholic in Good Faith

\*Willing and Able to serve in the Mass

\***COMMITTED** in the group's activities

Those who are interested may approach the choir before or after the 10am mass or text Kuya Jeduard 0926-887-3685



Jan 25 Procession San Lorenzo Village



Feb 1 Procession Dulo



Winners of the Post Fiesta Procession Bingo