

SIMBAHAY

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

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 7

SEPTEMBER 2011



Hanging ornament with the image of Our Lady of the Philippines available at the Icon Workshop, 2nd Floor, St. John Bosco Parish Bldg.

On September 8, exactly nine months after the Solemnity of her Immaculate Conception on the 8th of December, we shall once again honor one of the most special women ever born – God’s Mother and our Blessed Mother. While this date has been designated and celebrated as the Feast of the Nativity of the BVM since the 8th century, on the day she was actually born, the heavens and earth must have joined all of creation in a universal dance of jubilation for it was **“the day on which the Creator of the world constructed His temple... the day on which by a stupendous project a creature became the preferred dwelling of the Creator”** (Saint Andrew of Crete).

Mama Mary’s Present: A Million Roses for the World

by Loudette Zaragoza-Banson

When it’s the birthday of a person we love, one of the most challenging tasks is to find the appropriate gift. For someone special, we only want the very best.

Revered by Catholics all over the world and with such deep affection by Filipinos, the Blessed Virgin Mary intercedes, protects and guides us in ways we do not care to explain. We just believe. So, what do we give this wonderful woman, our Mama Mary, for her birthday?

Through the centuries, she has visited us on Earth and has spoken directly to us through many simple people. We have for example, Juan Diego in Guadalupe, Mexico; St. Bernadette Soubirous in Lourdes, France and the three peasant children, Francisco, Jacinta and Lucia in Fatima, Portugal. Each time our Lady appeared to these faithful children, she requested them to PRAY. She asked them to pray the Holy Rosary for various intentions. So, we know this is our Mother’s request, this is what she likes and what will make her happy. If we love her, then there is every good reason for us to do as she asks. Let us pray. Let us together pray the rosary, which she herself prayed with the visionaries, wherever she appeared.

A month from her birthday, on October 8, the day after the Feast of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary, the Family Rosary Crusade is holding a Rosary rally in the open field of the University of Sto. Tomas. A campaign called, “A Million Roses For the World; Filipinos at Prayer: Peace for all Nations” will be launched that day. We are calling on all Filipinos here and abroad to pray a rosary daily for each of the 200 nations of the world. We are doing this because our Mama Mary asked us to pray. We are doing this because she wants us to be drawn to her Son, Jesus that we may be like Him, one with the Father.

How would you like to give our Blessed Mother a gift she truly wants and one that will surely make her happy? Starting October 10, 2011 until May 30, 2012, please join us in praying one rosary a day for one nation of the world – a simple but significant gesture to spread the fragrance of goodwill and peace. We will shower the world with our prayers. We will shower the world with our string of roses in the form of Hail Mary’s. We will shower the world with a million roses for peace and justice to reign in our world.

For details please log on to www.millionrosesfortheworld.org.

Loudette Z. Banson is a mother of 5, who describes herself as deeply in love with God and Mother Mary.

SJB Parish Mass Schedules on September 8, Thursday: 6:30am, 7:30am, 12:15pm, 6:00pm, 7:30pm



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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

Confessions are held 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

A MOTHER, TEACHER, CHRISTIAN

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PARISH PRIEST

Inspired by the celebration of Our Blessed Mother's Nativity on September 8, we have devoted our *Simbahay's* September issue to honor our mothers. So now, let me talk about my own mother.

They fondly called my 'nanay', *Ellen*, an inexplicable contraction of her real name, **Evangeline**. My mother was that *bright ray of light* that ultimately led me to Jesus, the good news. Teaching was her passion and my legacy, her indefatigable work ethic, my inheritance.

From the day I was born until she died on October 18, 2001, she was the light of love that I basked in, the light who guided me through the exciting world of knowledge and learning, the light who corrected my faults and brought me comfort. She chose teaching as a profession and as a way of life; she took every opportunity to teach and enlighten us, her three boys. She read bible stories and encyclopedia entries to us on weekends, drilled us in our lessons and coached us with our assignments. In terms of school discipline and deportment she was as strict with us, as she was with the teachers she supervised. She led by example and pushed us to excel in effort, diligence and achievement; her goal was to teach us to learn for life and to love what we learn. Because she was our best teacher, nanay would really be proud of what my brother and I have become.

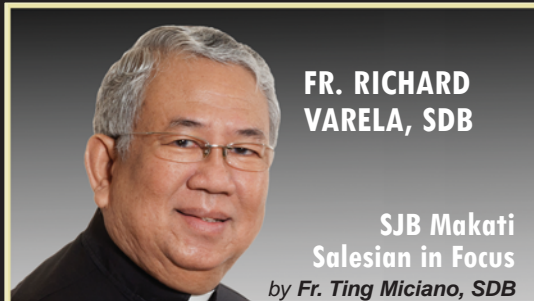
As her passion for teaching and learning developed my mind, so did her determination and great faith mold my persevering character

and spiritual life. Nanay was not only a teacher, she was an educator, an H.E. division supervisor, an author, a dress-maker and chef, a catechist, a civic and Church leader, a dutiful daughter, a loving wife and mother. "Multitasking" has not yet been coined back then, but she was already its personification. Her typical day started early and ended late; it included preparing us for school, working in the office and visiting schools for the rest of day, managing her dress shop when she comes home in the afternoon, helping us with our homework, praying the rosary with *lola* before dinner, and retiring only when we were in bed. She seemed always driven and I wondered how she could work so hard. Later on, I realized that she drew her strength and energy from two boundless sources, love for her family and great faith in God.

She once confided to me how she desired to enter the convent when she was younger. But when she decided to marry my *tatay*, she prayed fervently and vowed, instead, to offer her second son to the Lord, who eventually honored her by accepting her offering.

Though truly blessed, the fruitful and energetic life of an educator, mother and Christian was crowned with great suffering with the early death of *tatay* and at the end, her own gradual death from Alzheimer's disease. I believe that when nanay reached heaven's gates, Jesus welcomed her saying, "Well done, good and trustworthy servant...join in your master's happiness." (Mt. 25:23)

— Fr. Ting Miciano, SDB



FR. RICHARD
VARELA, SDB

SJB Makati
Salesian in Focus
by Fr. Ting Miciano, SDB

In the mind of Don Bosco, every Salesian community is a family of brothers. Though not related by blood, these priests and brothers share a unique bond based on charity and common life and mission. Another crucial element that cements this family is the person of the superior of the community, what we normally call 'Fr. Rector'. The Rector of the Salesian community of St. John Bosco Parish Makati is Fr. Richard Varela. He is the 'father' of the priests and brother who takes care of the parish and by extension, the Father of us all.

We greeted Fr. Richard a most happy 62nd birthday, last August 27. The familial but sumptuous lunch gathering that Saturday was but a small tribute to a most active life and a personality gifted with much charm and talent. Fr. Richard hails from Bago City, Negros Occidental and finished high school from Don

Bosco Victorias. While he originally wanted to enter the minor seminary, his dream to study for the priesthood finally came true in 1965 when he was accepted as a freshman in Don Bosco College Seminary in Canlubang. He became a Salesian with the First Profession of the religious vows in 1967 and finished with a Bachelor in Industrial Education major in Machine Shop in 1970. He was finally ordained a priest on Dec. 8, 1975, a record of sorts being one of the youngest Salesian to be ordained at 26 years old.

From there began a series of assignments as teacher, school principal, administrator, rector, Salesiana operations manager, Alumni in-charge and assistant Parish Priest, which distinguishes his vocation. And now, after 36 years of priesthood and 44 years of religious life, Fr. Richard continues in the Lord's service. Asked how he would characterize his life all this time, unhesitatingly, he confessed that his love for teaching and the administration of community resources rank as his greatest contributions.

Nevertheless, people who know him will not fail to see that he also bears a very gentle spirit, a patient attitude to everyone and eloquent communication and relational skills. Indeed, through grace and virtue, Fr. Richard remains for all of us, the Father we need and hope for.

May 2011 was one of the busiest months for the Simbahay staff so that we were not able to put together a Mother's Day special. Instead, we decided to come up with a Mothers' special this September as we honor Mama Mary, the mother of all mothers on her birthday. Along with heartfelt tributes of children for their nanay, mama, mom, inang, mommy, ma and inay, we are featuring the Livelihood Ministry's Mothers-Helping-Mothers project and the largely "mother-powered" organization, Catholic Women's League.



CHARLIE & MOM



JILLIAN & MOM



FRANCO



TITA & FAMILY

MY LOVING & LOVABLE MOTHER

by **Charlie Segovia**, 9 years
Youth Choir, Gr 4, DBTI Makati

Marinette Segovia is my loving and lovable mother.

She always takes care of me when I'm sick. She buys me stuff that I need and sometimes even stuff I really don't need in school. I remember when I was a kid, I wanted a teddy bear. When I woke up, she surprised me with that gift.

She supports me in my studies and reminds me to become a responsible student. If someone fights with me in school, I tell her and she gives me advice on how to deal with it.

She also inspires me to become prayerful so I will have a good relationship with God.

And even if she sometimes reprimands me, I know that it's a sign of her LOVE. I will always love her.

OUR MOTHER, OUR LADY

by **Juan Francisco Gonzalez**, 10 years
Knights of the Altar, Gr 4, Xavier School

All of us have a mother at home, who gave birth to us. However, some of us belong to a special kind of family, where we have a special mother different from our birth mother.

I belong to such a family; I am ten years old and am now with my Mama whom I consider my "Real Mother" since I was two days old. Mama legally adopted my Ate and me. We make up our family. She is a very responsible, hardworking mother. Mama always does what is best for our family. She wants us to be good in everything we do. One reason she can be strict is that she likes us to use time well and not waste it on watching television and playing computer

games. She says that what we do with our time can be our prayer. This is why I joined the Knights of the Altar at SJB and the Eucharistic Youth Club at Xavier School where I am a fourth grader.

Mama asks us to pray for her so she can be a good mother and a good grandmother to Raphaela, my niece. So we do! She is kind, loving and caring; our Blessed Mother must be interceding for her and many other mothers who ask for her intercession.

We love my Mama, she has taught us to love Mama Mary who loves us and showers us with her prayers. These help us grow in love in our family and with her Son, Jesus Christ, our Lady leads us to Jesus, her love cannot be measured. How blessed we are to have a Mama and our Blessed Mother
(edited by PJSgonzalez)

A MOM JUST FOR ME

by **Jillian Dwayne C. Pascua**, 10 years
Gr. 5, St. Mary's Academy

I know that not all people are perfect, so that is why we need someone to guide us like our moms. I could not say that my mom is the number one, best or the greatest mom that ever lived but she is just right for me. She is a mom who is balanced, I mean she can be angry or very happy, strict or easy, generous or not generous. She is just the right mom for a kid like me. I love her, no matter what, even though I get mad at her sometimes, nothing will change my love for her.

She is a nice mom and pretty too. I love her so much and I will do anything to keep her beside me all the time. Even though I tease her sometimes, I LOVE HER SO MUCH from the bottom of my



MY MOTHER, TITA

by **Marifel Salvador-Santos**
South Canterbury, New Zealand

Who would ever think that this petite and fragile-looking Cebuana septuagenarian, who smells of fresh roses all the time and who always struts out of her room, all dolled up and ready to conquer the world, could be an earth-mover to her five children, four of whom are even boys! Yes, that's our mother, Teresita to many, Tita to most, but ma or mommy forever to us, her children.

Mommy is a teacher of life. She is a subtle, lingering force, unimposing yet impossible to ignore. She allows us the freedom to make our own decisions and even our own mistakes, for which she will never, ever blame us. Instead, in a gentle swoop, she would save us from trouble and prop us back on the right track – no questions asked, not even a hint of, "I told you so!"

There is this Jewish proverb that goes, **God could not be everywhere and therefore, He made mothers.**

For us, Mommy is truly God's presence made manifest. In turn, her life and her prayers draw us ever closer to Him. She is our ultimate provider of security, strength and a fathomless love which is not mushy but very endearing. Her love is **like a song in my heart whose words I may sometimes forget, but whose tune I will always remember.**

More articles on page 8

The articles were shortened due to space restrictions, please visit www.sjbmakati.com for the original versions.

Simbahay reserves the right to edit and not to publish certain articles. Thank you.

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 www.sjbmakati.com 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.



23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

September 4, 2011 Readings

*Ez 33:7-9 – The prophet is an instrument of God's call to conversion.

*Rom 13:8-10 – Love of neighbor is the essence of Christian morality.

*Mt 18:15-20 – Jesus exhorts his disciples to dialogue, forgiveness, and reconciliation.

Theme: GIVING AND ACCEPTING CORRECTIONS GRACIOUSLY

Contemporary society is torn between two extremes: that of not caring about what others do, and that of intruding into the private lives of individuals in order to discover and expose hidden misdeeds or weaknesses.

A real disciple of Jesus cannot approve of either, nor is he/she allowed to imitate such negative attitudes. We must care for our brethren. We should feel responsible for the spiritual as well as the physical welfare of our neighbor, for we are expected to be "our brothers' keepers." We are "prophets of God" to one another.

Such an attitude of brotherly/sisterly

concern may put on us the burden of giving fraternal correction, that is: the humble and discreet pointing out of a moral defect to the person concerned. This may prove to be quite a challenge for very few people know how to give corrections in a real Christian manner. Equally few are those who know how to accept corrections graciously and gratefully. Today the challenge for us is to learn to do both or simply to improve our performance in these two very important areas of our Christian lives.



24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

Grandparents' Day

September 11, 2011 Readings

*Sir 27:30-28:7 – A wise man's exhortation to forgive in order to be forgiven by God.

*Rom 14:7-9 – We belong totally to the Lord.

*Mt 18:21-35 – Jesus teaches us to forgive always and unreservedly.

Theme: LEARNING FROM GOD TO BE MERCIFUL

All of us carry the heavy burden of our defects and the perennial need to be forgiven. We also carry with us the difficulty we experience in varying degrees to forgive those who offend us. The inability and unwillingness to forgive have been at the root of so much suffering and destruction to this very day in all parts of the world and all sectors of society.

Even though we have entered another millennium, our society and the world at large are still characterized by wars, hatred, and violent forms of retaliation. We are still challenged to lay the foundation for a better world – a world at peace, a world more in keeping with God's plan. This can be achieved by extending forgiveness to, and seeking reconciliation with all. Only such an attitude will break that spiral of death that pits nations, social classes, groups,

and individuals one against another, and will enable us to rediscover the beauty of genuine brotherly love.

We are guided in this by the teaching of Jesus who asks us to forgive every offense, every time, as a sign of the sincerity of our love, and as a condition for us to be forgiven by God. Less than that makes us less perfect disciples of the Lord of forgiveness.



25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

September 18, 2011 Readings

*Is 55:6-9 – A call to conversion and trust in God's mercy

*Phil 1:20b-24.27a – Paul is torn between two aspirations: to die and be with Christ, or to continue his work for the salvation of souls.

*Mt 20:1-16 – God is more generous than we can imagine.

Theme: LEARNING FROM GOD TO BE MAGNANIMOUS

We readily proclaim that GOD is supremely JUST, GENEROUS, and FREE. Often, however, we forget that He is all these in a way that infinitely transcends our models and expectations. Consequently, some of us tend to imagine that God is just a "superman." And so, when His behaviour does not "follow" our expectations and modules, we conclude that God is not fair or generous. This is the sad consequence of creating for ourselves a "God made in our image and likeness."

When God's behaviour and priorities appear to be different from ours, the most logical conclusion is not that He is wrong, but that we should do our best to follow His example and make His priorities our own. Only by following this principle will we ever more become what we are meant to be: people fashioned in the image and likeness of God, i.e., persons who constantly endeavor to be just, generous, and free the way God is.



26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

National Seafarers' Day

September 25, 2011 Readings

***Ez 18:25-28** – The Lord is merciful toward the sinners who repent.

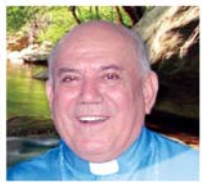
***Phil 2:1-11**– The attitude of Christ's disciples must be like their Master's.

***Mt 21:28-32** – The parable of the two sons

Theme: WANTED: CONSISTENCY OF WORDS AND DEEDS

In the era of social communications, we have an extraordinary flowering of reporters, speakers, storytellers, and teachers – people who are able to mesmerize their audiences and keep them glued to their seats for as long as their "idols" are on the screen. But in spite of all their popularity, even today we still give greater credence to "DOERS." As Pope Paul VI forcefully stated, "Modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if he does listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses" (*Evangelii Nuntiandi*, 41). The old saying that "Actions speak louder than words" is still often quoted, especially in cases of clear inconsistency between what one says and what one does.

Consistency between words and actions is one of the "constants" in Jesus' example and teaching, with an obvious preference for what one does over what one says. (See, for example, Mt. 7:21.) What is actually needed is an **integration of words and actions, of promises and fulfillments, of faith and life.** This is what characterized the entire life of Jesus. A real disciple will constantly aim to do just that, with the help of God's grace.



Fr. Sal Putzu, SDB

NEWS BRIEFS

LCG ONGOING FORMATION AND COMMISSIONING

by *Janus Villalva*

The members of the Lectors and Commentators Guild (LCG) of the St. John Bosco Parish Makati joined their peers from other parishes of the Archdiocese of Manila in the annual Ongoing Formation Program sponsored by the Archdiocesan Liturgical Commission at the Lay Force Chapel of the San Carlos Seminary in Mandaluyong last August 6, 2011.

Rev. Fr. Carmelo P. Arada, Jr. presided over the seminar which centered on Pope Benedict's latest apostolic exhortation entitled *Verbum Domini* (Word of the Lord), his Holiness' response to the 2008 Synod of Bishops on the Word of God.

Verbum Domini not only addresses theological but also practical applications of the issues mentioned in the synod. It specially appeals to the proclaimers of the Word by addressing details and concerns on how Scripture should be read and interpreted properly.

A week later, on August 14, the Commissioning of Lectors was held during the 12:30pm Mass presided by our parish priest, Rev. Fr. Ting Miciano. In simple rites, LCG members renewed their vows to serve and proclaim the Lord's Word and were then presented to the parish community.

53 COUPLES ATTEND MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER SEMINAR

A total of fifty three couples attended the two-day Live Out Marriage Encounter Seminar held at the Parish Center AVR

from August 20 to 21. These seminars are designed to prepare currently living-in-couples for the mass wedding ceremony to be held in the SJB Parish Church on November 5 under the sponsorship of the Rotary Club of Makati West.

Fr. Bart Sagadal, the Ecclesial Team Priest, led the seminar which tackled various aspects of married life including dialogue and communication, healing and reconciliation.

SJB Parish Marriage Encounter Seminars and mass weddings are organized by the Family Life Ministry headed by Bro. Bert and Sis. Violy Magsakay.

RIDM JOINS ACSC SEMINAR WORKSHOP

by *Welly Cuna*

Members of the SJB Research Information and Development Ministry (RIDM) attended a two-day seminar workshop on the parish newsletter organized by the Archdiocesan Commission on Social Communications (ACSC) on August 13 and 20. The workshop, which was held at the Bahay Pari of the San Carlos Seminary, covered the essential elements of Parish Newsletter production. Guest Speakers included respected editors, layout artists, columnists, writers and a photographer who shared their expertise on news and column writing, photography and lay-outting. Participants from the different parishes were asked to bring samples of their parish newsletters which were reviewed and critiqued by the distinguished guest speakers.

The ACSC is the media arm of the Archdiocese of Manila which is composed of the Archdiocesan Office of Communications (AOC), TV Maria and Radio Veritas.



Maria Bambinella

The simalcrum (image) of Maria, also known as Maria Bambinella or Infant Mary, was modeled in wax in 1735 by Sister Isabella Chiara Fomari, superior of the Poor Clare Sisters in Todi, Italy.

For more than 130 years after, the image changed owners several times until on April 24, 1876, it was brought to its current location in the Motherhouse of the Sisters of Charity in Milan. At that time, the devotion to Maria Bambinella was limited to the sisters and novices of the community. Once a year, during the octave of the Feast of the Nativity of BVM, they would take out the already discolored

image from its chest of drawers and bring it to their chapel.

And then on September 9, 1884, the healing miracles began. Several sisters miraculously recovered from serious illnesses within a few months after the image was brought to their infirmary.

More graces and miracles were granted through the intercession of the Infant Mary. On January 16, 1885, the sisters noticed an amazing transformation in the image of Maria Bambina: not only did its color change from dull gray and yellow to warm flesh hues, its face had become as lovely as a living baby's.

Since then, crowds of devotees have flocked to the Chapel of the Sisters of Charity a.k.a. the Sisters of Maria Bambina to "venerate the childhood of the Blessed Mother and obtain extraordinary graces" through the Saint Madonina, an affectionate diminutive for Little Madonna.

Beginning this issue, get to know more about SJBP Ministries and Organizations



DIVINE LIVELIHOOD

(Mothers Helping Mothers)

by **Rescy Bhagwani**

Launched in November 2008, the Divine Livelihood (DL) is envisioned as a poverty-alleviation program for the many needy parishioners.

It began as packaging services for Ace Foods' corporate gifts of RAM products, developed into Christmas gift packages of traditional Filipino products and later evolved into a modest trading outlet – buying and selling mainly traditional Filipino food products, healthy, eco-friendly, produced by community-based groups, or those that promote Christian values.

Fr. Ting Miciano has given top priority to promoting the livelihood programs so that there will be more beneficiaries. He considers this as a most effective way of drawing people

to God. This has been the inspiration for DL's latest livelihood project.

It has been observed that many of our church-goers are working women. Some are mothers who take their children to Don Bosco or Assumption schools. Given their needs and the need of many mothers in the parish for extra income, the livelihood thrust has been refocused on "Mothers Helping Mothers".

With food, still remaining as its most saleable product, DL has ventured into food production, beginning with polvoron, fried peanuts and traditional merienda foods like turon.

Since last year, DL has produced bottled gourmet tuyo and tinapa. These have become popular gifts to Balikbayans and those "who have everything". While the DL kitchen is still being upgraded, production of bottled foods are done in the kitchen of a parishioner who passed on the recipe and technique, another parishioner who worked in quality control for CDO Food Corp, strictly supervises the process. Once the new kitchen is fully operational, DL hopes to offer a wide range of ready-to-cook or reheat food products, without chemical preservatives and taste enhancers.

Easy to prepare, truly tasty and reasonably priced food to serve our loved ones – this is good news indeed for anyone, for mothers especially! Even greater news is that each time we buy DL products, we help a mother nurture a child.

SEPTEMBER 2011 CALENDAR

01 Thu	Youth Spirituality Symposium, 8am-5pm, SJB Church
02 Fri	1 st Friday Vigil Adoration/Taize after 6pm Mass
03 Sat	St. Gregory the Great
04 Sat	23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
08 Thu	Birthdays of the Blessed Virgin Mary – Masses 6:30am, 7:30am, 12:15pm, 6:00pm and 7:30pm <i>Start of Triduum Masses, Our Lady of Peñafrancia "INA" (4:30pm)</i>
11 Sun	24th Sunday in Ordinary Time <i>Farewell Mass for "INA" (11:15am)</i>
12 Mon	Holy Name of Mary
13 Tues	St. John Chrysostom
14 Wed	Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross
15 Thu	Our Lady of Sorrows
16 Fri	St. Cornelius & St. Cyprian
17 Sat	St. Robert Bellarmine
18 Sun	25th Sunday in Ordinary Time
19 Mon	St. Januarius
20 Tue	St. Andrew Kim Taegon
21 Wed	St. Matthew
23 Fri	St. Pio of Pietrelcina
25 Sun	26th Sunday in Ordinary Time National Seafarer's Day
26 Mon	St. Cosmas and St. Damian
27 Tue	St. Vincent de Paul
28 Wed	St. Lorenzo Ruiz and Companions
29 Thu	Sts. Michael, Gabriel & Raphael, Archangels
30 Fri	St. Jerome
	Sick Visitation – Thursdays 9am
	Holy Hour – Thursdays 6:30pm
	Medical & Dental – Sundays 2:00pm
	Street Mass – Saturdays 7:30pm
	<i>Visit our website for the complete Sept 2011 Calendar</i> http://sjbmakati.com/parish-activities.html

include among others: monthly feeding programs and visits to the female inmates of Makati City Jail, weekly catechism at the Botanical Garden, joint projects with Caritas Salve Cooperative, participating in hearings and forums on the RH Bill and serving as Greeters and Collectors in the 10:00am and 11:15am Sunday Masses.

The interview ended with Tita Ebeng inviting all women in the Parish, ages 12-20 (Junior CWL) or 21 and over (Senior CWL) to come and serve the Lord in the special, CWL way. You may call her at home (7592445) or her mobile (09215601119) or simply approach any of the ladies in their distinctive blue and white uniforms on Sundays.



CATHOLIC WOMENS LEAGUE

The Catholic Women's League (CWL) is a Church-based, religious, civic, charitable, socio-economic, lay organization of Catholic women who aim for sanctification of self and others in their involvement in pastoral programs from childhood education to livelihood projects, from environmental stewardship to other faith-based community activities.

The League is specially dedicated and consecrated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus through the maternal patronage of Mary, Mother of God and Mother of the Church.

Established in 1976 in the same year as the Parish itself, SJB Makati's CWL which currently has 20 active members, aligns its projects and advocacies with the international organization's goals of H.O.P.E., namely: **H** – Call to Holiness **O** – Outreach Programs **P** – Pastoral Involvement and **E** – Effective Servant Stewardship and Discipleship.

Current CWL president, Ms. Eusebia "Ebeng" Lamang together with two former CWL presidents, Ms. Severina Canapi (2000-2004) and Ms. Rosemarie Lisa (2008-2010) took time out to talk with *Simbahay* about the projects of SJBP CWL which

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



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WHAT'S YOUR MOTHER LIKE?

by **Gold Lester Sy Navea**, *Lectors and Commentators Guild*

When you were a kid, she scolded you, reprimanded you, spanked you, grounded you, and gave you time-outs, for answering back, for neglecting your chores, for “crimes” real or imagined. You hated her.

Then you grew up into a teenager. She gave you curfew, nixed sleepovers, gimmick nights, and road trips, called your cool friends “bad company”. She chose for you, decided for you, told you, “it’s for your own good”. You still hated her.

Then you graduate, you get a job. You probably think it’s because you’re smart, or appealing, or just straight up job-worthy. Or is it?

You recall the many times she sacrificed and did things even if you would hate her for it, because she knew, it was going to be worth it in the long run. You remember the lessons she taught you, like being polite, and respectful and respectable. She was wise and strong, she had faith, she had much love – all for you. Then you realize, what you have become isn’t because of you, it’s because of her.

Tell me, “What’s your mother like?” Because that’s exactly how my mother is.

PILAR OF THE OPERA

by **Jose R. Zaragoza, Jr.**, *Sydney, Australia*

Our mother, Pilar, loves the Opera hence we gave her the title, “Pilar of the Opera”, for the grand Opera-themed party on her 88th birthday last August 8, 2011.

Pilar loves her employees, her children and her friends very much. She is full of love and is indeed a very generous (giving) person to the extreme. If I were to describe my mother in one word, it would be **KINDNESS**. Her tenderness and kindness enveloped with love is something that I cherish most about Pilar of the Opera. My brothers, sisters and I love her as the most wonderful mother in the world.

How do I describe my mother through my own eyes? She was my protector from my

father’s wrath when I was a young rebel, my generous financier when I was dating the most beautiful girls in Manila, my faithful sponsor as I earned my MS Engineering degree from Stanford University, my long-distance events coordinator who arranged a birthday party for me while I was studying abroad and my personal head hunter who helped me get a job at AG&P through one of her contacts. She is quite an operator!

But most of all, she has always been my close confidant, so close that when I used to break off with one of my many girl friends, she was more broken-hearted than I was. As you can see, my mother is everything to me through all the various stages in my life. I love her dearly! I am the luckiest person in the world to have such a mother as Pilar!!!

GROUNDED ON THE SOLID ROCK OF FAITH

by **Rescy S. Bhagwani**, *Divine Livelihood and Vigil Adorers*

Lucy Sarmenta was 33 years old when on New Year’s Eve of 1969, her 39 year old husband, Resty, unexpectedly succumbed to a heart attack. She was pregnant with their 11th child; their eldest child was barely 14.

Left with so many children to care for, the full-time housewife had little time to grieve, such that even while her husband was lying in state, she had already decided on a plan – to cook and sell food to his officemates.

On the feast day of St. John Bosco in 1970, Lucy and her children moved to a small place in Santillan St. near the corner of De la Rosa St., with space for a small restaurant on the ground floor and 2 small rooms upstairs for her family and workers. Soon her kitchenette – LSS Fastfood became popular among the nearby office-goers. It wasn’t easy, and often she had to resort to borrowing from Indian money-lenders. In the late 1980’s, she developed the “Pancit Puti” (a *yummy concoction of sotanghon, bihon noodles, sautéed vegetables and slivers of chicken, generously sprinkled with crunchy bits of toasted garlic-editor*) which has since become popular throughout Makati.

Lucy regards her business as a big sign of God’s unfailing providence. Just last year, when her 25-year lease was not renewed, she didn’t doubt that the Lord will find her a good place to move into. Months later, LSS Fastfood opened in a much smaller but much busier location along de la Rosa where it has gained many new loyal clients.

More than Lucy’s business success, her deep faith has been both infectious and enviable. She always believed that the Lord will not desert her and her children and He never did. Indeed, her life is a strong testimony that the Lord provides for ALL our needs, in truly awesome ways!

THE GREATEST GIFT

by **Joelle-Marie Ongpin Cuna**, *Youth Ministry, Lectors and Commentators Guild, Divine Livelihood*

It has been said that through Mary, all grace is given to men and that by the will of the Holy Trinity, she was born to be the mother of our Saviour and the spiritual mother of all men. I am sure that it is through this same holy will that my mother was born.

So much can be written about my mom: her excellence in the field of photography as one of the very first women photographers in the country, her passion for travel and diving, her love for life and many other talents and achievements. But none of these things can ever measure up to how she has fulfilled her role as a mother.

All throughout my life, my mom has provided me with so much love, patience, support discipline, laughter and care. She has sacrificed so much of herself raising my brother and me. She has passed on so many lessons and memories that I will always treasure. Most of all, she has imparted to us the greatest gift, which we, in truth, received from Mary – **the gift of faith.**

Mom, I am infinitely blessed that the example of your life has kindled my passion to grow in my faith and the desire to strive to be a living example of faith for others. Thank you mommy, I love you so much!

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