

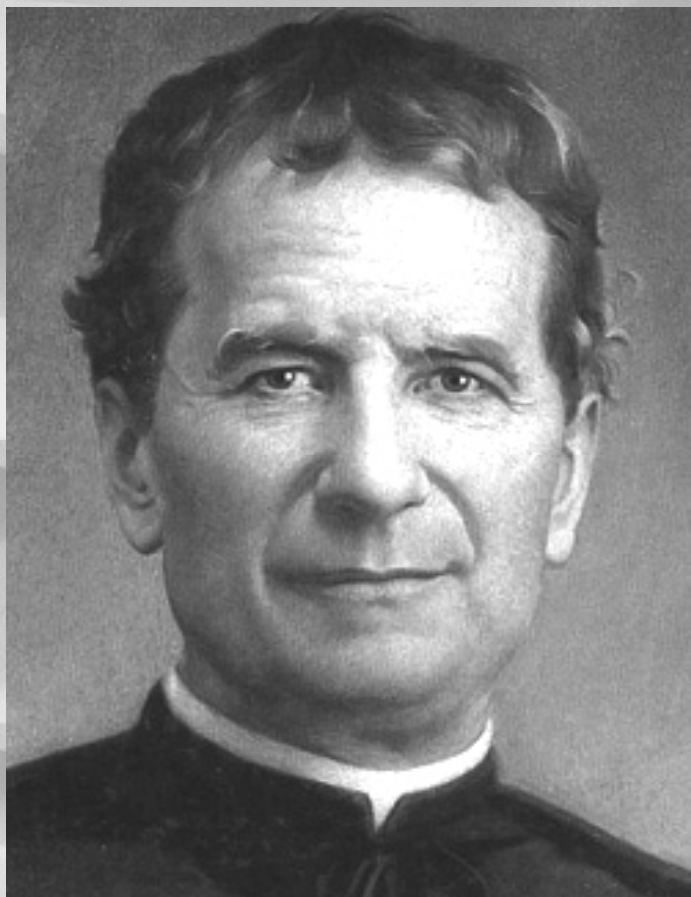
SIMBAHAY

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

Volume 2 Issue No. 1

www.stjohnboscomakati.org

JANUARY 2010



Saint John Bosco

Father and Teacher of the Youth
Patron Saint of Editors, Publishers, and Printers

Feast Day: **January 31**

Prayer to Saint John Bosco

O Saint John Bosco, father and teacher of the youth,
who labored so much for the salvation of souls,
be our guide in seeking the good of our souls
and the salvation of our neighbor;
help us to conquer our passions
and to practice daily our faith;
teach us to love Jesus in the blessed Sacrament,
Mary Help of Christians and
our Holy Father the Pope,
and obtain for us the grace of dying
as friends of God. So that we may all
be gathered together with you in heaven. Amen.

Saint John Bosco (1815-1888)

Saint John Bosco was born on August 16, 1815 in a poor hamlet called Becchi near the city of Turin, Italy. He was not yet two years old when his father, then only 33 years old, died of pneumonia. His saintly mother, illiterate but of sterling character, began to support a brood of three boys and an ailing mother-in-law. Saint John was the youngest.

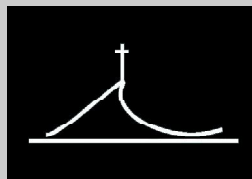
At nine years old, Saint John had a vision in which he saw his future. From then on, the desire to become a priest to take care of young people took hold of his young and impressionable heart. In this quest to become a priest, he had to endure the violent opposition of his stepbrother as well as extreme poverty but with much determination and the prayers and support of friends and especially his mother, he was able to study and enter the seminary at 20 years old. He was ordained a priest at the chapel of the Archbishop's Palace in Turin on June 5, 1841. From then on, he began to be called Don Bosco. "**Don**" is a contraction from the Latin word *Dominus* (a title given to priests).

The city of Turin then was a growing industrial and political center and had hundreds of poor abandoned boys and girls – the kind we call nowadays as *street children*. Gradually his entire priestly ministry focused on their care. A born educator and an effective organizer, he had a knack for gaining their trust. Thanks to his fatherly love, they did almost anything he asked of them. In time, he founded two religious congregations (one of men, the other of women) who became known as the *Salesians*. Their main objective was the care of the young. Their motto was: "**Give me only souls and keep the rest.**"

Throughout his life, Don Bosco advocated for the education of the whole person, body and soul united. He developed a spirituality of life called "*The Preventive System*." He believed that Christ's love and our faith in that love should pervade everything we do – work, study, play. For Don Bosco, being a Christian was a full-time effort, not a once-a-week, Mass-on-Sunday experience. It is searching and finding God and Jesus in everything we do, letting their love lead us. Don Bosco realized the importance of job-training and the self-worth and pride that comes with talent and ability. Thus, he trained his students in the trade crafts, too.

After a life of complete dedication to the street children of Turin and many other cities (and eventually many other countries), this apostle of the youth died on January 31, 1888. He was canonized a saint by Pope Pius XI on April 1, 1934. He is the patron saint of young people, young workers, editors, publishers and printers.

Do you want our Lord to give you many graces? Visit him often...Visits to the Blessed Sacrament are powerful and indispensable means of overcoming the attacks of the devil. Make frequent visits to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament and the devil will be powerless against you. (St. John Bosco)



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Thank you very much for your prayers and support. May God bless you all!



Message from our Parish Priest

"Lord, give me souls, take away the rest."

-- Saint John Bosco

"Da mihi animas, coetera tolle". It is the *latin* expression used by Don Bosco and the Salesians as their motto. Translated as *"Lord, give me souls, and take away the rest"*, it expresses in a few words the fundamental motivation that drives the salesian apostolate: the care and salvation of souls, especially the youth's.

When the Salesians first arrived in Papua New Guinea in 1980 and took over a school in Aramiri, Gulf Province, the first thing they did was write the name "Don Bosco" on a board and included the motto underneath it.

The natives quickly understood what it meant. The first part was easy: the salesians' main preoccupation was to take care of the souls of the people. The second part of the motto was even easier and more practical: the salesians were not interested in any other things, especially material things, so some natives started to literally *take away* (steal!) some equipment and tools brought by the founding missionaries!

Ah, the give and take in the world of the salesian apostolate! At the heart of the spirituality proposed by Don Bosco to his Salesians and to the whole world is a mix of giving and taking in the realm of the spiritual life.

Giving means generosity, hard work, creativity, sacrifice, dedication and perseverance. Giving refers to the *'active'* component of a life dedicated to the service of others.

Giving is also a program of life, not a spur-of-the-moment inspiration but a decisive and life-long commitment to love. Giving will have to include also "giving up", a life of sacrifice and asceticism for one's personal holiness and the promotion of human dignity. Giving above all is Don Bosco's and the Salesian's way of following Christ. Giving is being a "gift" to another.

The **"taking"** aspect in the Salesian lifestyle and apostolate is not "payback" time for a life of dedication and service. It is not an accumulation of compensatory benefits or privileges, no matter how deserving, for having "given up" something for 'God and neighbor'.

I would rather see here the *'contemplative'* aspect of the Salesian spirituality and apostolate. The Salesian lifestyle is not all 'go-go' and a 'work till you drop' mentality.

The other half of the Salesian lifestyle is a life of prayer and contemplation. So the "taking" entails a life of prayer, conversion, personal examination of one's spiritual progress, sacramental life, retreats and recollection, devotion to our Lady and the saints and a great deal of renunciation to the comforts and enjoyment of this world. In short, it is "taking" time and effort for God and anything that will make us closer to Him.

As we look forward in this issue to celebrate the feast of our father Don Bosco, I invite all of you dear readers and parishioners to join us Salesians to understand and experience this wonderful and exciting salesian motto of *"give and take"*. In particular, let me propose to you areas of *"giving"* and *"taking"* where you can be one with us in fulfilling the vision of Don Bosco for the world.

Our parish has a number of concerns and projects both material and spiritual. I propose the following as some of the areas where you can *"give"* something.

The Salesian community of SJB is supporting two college seminarians (first year and third year) in Don Bosco Canlubang. Will it be too much to ask some of you to pledge even a little amount every month for the upkeep and school needs of these two promising young seminarians?

The maintenance work of our church building and compound is a constant concern, like improving and maintaining the cooling and air conditioning units, or the annual cleaning of the ceiling and outside roof or the fumigation and elimination of mosquitoes in the church for evening mass. A generous benefactor or a group of donations can accomplish these bigger projects.

The teaching of catechism to children on Sundays and in the depressed areas, the free medical and dental treatment of indigents, the feeding and sheltering of homeless and walk-ins are other areas where your initiative and resources can be "gifts" to the needy.

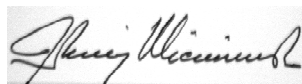
I also propose to regularize and schedule every month the donating of unused but still usable clothes or items for the poor and needy.

I will also be earnest in inviting you to join us in "*taking*" time-out and "*taking*" time for the Lord. We are improving our daily and Sunday Eucharistic services and confessions which an increasing number of parishioners and non-parishioners take advantage of. Let us show concrete devotion to the Sacred Heart by attending the weekly adoration every Thursday and the monthly vigil of the Blessed Sacrament every first Friday.

The Adoration Chapel is a tremendous source of grace and healing for those who spend time in front of the Blessed Sacrament. The seasons of Advent and Lent give opportunities for renewal and reconciliation with our recollections, the sacrament of reconciliation and special talks.

I am proposing this modern reading of Don Bosco's timeless motto to all of you. Let the sentiments and great desire of our great father Don Bosco, on the occasion of his feast on January 31 continue to resonate in our lives today. As parishioners and friends of St. John Bosco Parish, join us in this "*give and take*" for God's greater glory and the salvation of souls. A most blest and heartfelt greeting to all of you on the Feast of Don Bosco!

Your humble servant,



Fr. Ting Miciano, SDB
Pastor

The "Preventive System" of Don Bosco

■ Fr. Ting Miciano, SDB



Don Bosco's educational method is known the world over as the "Preventive System." Don Bosco's system is characterized by (1) an original synthesis of humanism and Christianity which Don Bosco achieved and expressed with the words: reason, religion and loving-kindness; (2) a style of educational re-enforcement characterized by familiarity, spontaneity, trust, joy; (3) the skillful educational use of formative instruments—work and study, religious practice, moral rigor, and play activities such as games, sports, theater, music, celebrations; (4) a sustained presence of the educator to the youngster, called "assistance"—which includes prevention.

Don Bosco gave a motto to describe the "Preventive System" and it is: REASON, RELIGION AND LOVING-KINDNESS. Within these three terms are hidden or compressed a wealth of meaning and nuance that takes volumes and years to discover and unravel. In succeeding issues of Simbahay, the editorial staff will try to present to you the meaning of the essential elements of the Preventive System, which are Reason, Religion and Loving-Kindness.

Mamma Margaret

Magherita Occhiena was born on the 1st April 1788 at Capriglio, in the province of Asti, Italy. From childhood Margaret was a great worker. She had no opportunity for schooling, but her love for prayer gave her a wisdom which could not be gained from books. In 1812 she married Francis Bosco. Francis was 27 years old, a widower, with a three year old son, Anthony, and a sick mother to look after. The following year Joseph was born and in 1815 **John** (the future Don Bosco). They both moved to Becchi. In 1817 Francis died of acute pneumonia. The twenty nine year old Margaret found herself alone faced with being head of a

family of five during a period of terrible famine. Margaret was a woman of great faith. God was always foremost in her thoughts and always on her lips.

The love of the Lord was so strong in her that it gave her a mother's heart. A wise teacher, she knew how to combine fatherliness and motherhood, kindness and firmness, vigilance and trust, familiarity and dialogue, bringing up her children with disinterested love, both patient and demanding. Attentive to their own experience, she trusted both in human means and divine assistance. She brought up three children with very different temperaments, using the same criteria with different methods. She taught them the catechism and prepared them for their First Communion.

When she heard about John's dream at the age of nine, she alone could interpret it in the light of the Lord: "Who knows, but maybe you should become a priest". She



accompanied him all the way to priesthood. That day she said something that would remain in Don Bosco's heart for the rest of his life. In 1846 when Don Bosco was seriously ill, Margaret went to be with him and discovered there the good that he had been doing for poor and abandoned youngsters.

When asked to go with him in this work she said: "If you believe this to be the will of the Lord, I am ready to go". Mamma Margaret's presence turned the Oratory into a family. For ten years her life became entwined with that of her son and with the beginnings of Salesian work: She was the first and principal Cooperator of Don Bosco's; she became the maternal elements in the Preventive System; without realising it, she was the "co-foundress" of the Salesian Family.

She died in Turin, struck down by pneumonia on the 25th November 1856, at 68 years of age. Many youngsters went to the cemetery crying as they would for their own mother. Generations of Salesians called her and will continue to call her Mamma Margaret.

Points to Ponder On

The close relationship of God and His people is always spoken of in marriage terms. The Holy Bible speaks of God's people as the "bride" of the Lord Jesus Christ. This emphasizes the dignity of marriage. The union between husband and wife is a symbol of God's love.

In the Gospel, the Lord Jesus performed his very first miracle at a wedding, a happy occasion. This is a reminder that Christian life should be joyful, not dour or grim. God truly desires that we live with much love, joy, and peace in our hearts.

Prayer

LORD GOD, thank You for Your love and faithfulness to us. Please help us to love You back with all our hearts. Please help us to remain faithful to You forever. These we ask in Your Name Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Sunday Mass Readings

JANUARY 17, 2010

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: Isaiah 62: 1-5

Responsorial Psalm : Psalm 96: 1-2, 2-3, 7-8, 9-10

Proclaim his marvelous deeds to all the nations.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12: 4-11

Gospel : John 2: 1-11

There was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the wedding. When the wine ran short, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, how does your concern affect me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servers, "Do whatever he tells you." Now there were six stone water jars there for Jewish ceremonial washings, each holding twenty to thirty gallons. Jesus told them, Fill the jars with water." So they filled them to the

brim. Then he told them, "Draw some out now and take it to the headwaiter." So they took it. And when the headwaiter tasted the water that had become wine, without knowing where it came from — although the servers who had drawn the water knew — the headwaiter called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves good wine first, and then when people have drunk freely, an inferior one; but you have kept the good wine until now." Jesus did this as the beginning of his signs at Cana in Galilee and so revealed his glory, and his disciples began to believe in him.



Points to Ponder On

God has blessed people with a variety of gifts. Some people are born with the gift of speaking, others with the gift of writing, and so on. Are we thankful to God for the gifts He has given us or are we jealous of the gifts He has given to other people?

In the Gospel, the Lord Jesus revealed His identity and His mission. For this, many people started to become jealous of Him.

We are reminded to respect the gifts God has given to us and never to be jealous of what He has given to others.

Prayer

LORD GOD, we thank You for everything that You have given us. Please help us to appreciate all Your gifts and help us to use them for Your greater glory. These we ask in Your Name Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

JANUARY 24, 2010

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: Nehemiah 8: 2-4a, 5-6, 8-10

Responsorial Psalm : Psalm 19: 8, 9, 10, 15

Your words, Lord, are Spirit and life.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12: 12-30 or 12: 12-14, 27

Gospel : Luke 1: 1-4; 4: 14-21

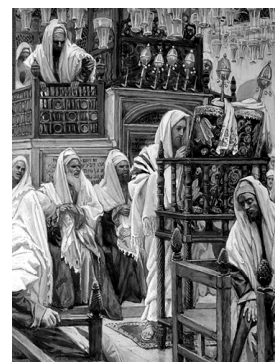
Since many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the events that have been fulfilled among us, just as those who were eyewitnesses from the beginning and ministers of the word have handed them down to us, I too have decided, after investigating everything accurately anew, to write it down in an orderly sequence for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may realize the certainty of the teachings you have received.

Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news of him spread throughout the whole region. He taught in their synagogues and was praised by all. He came to Nazareth, where he had

grown up, and went according to his custom into the synagogue on the sabbath day. He stood up to read and was handed a scroll of the prophet Isaiah.

He unrolled the scroll and found the passage where it was written: *The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord.*

Rolling up the scroll, he handed it back to the attendant and sat down, and the eyes of all in the synagogue looked intently at him. He said to them, "Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing."



Points to Ponder On

All of us are called to speak the truth with love. Surely, when the Lord Jesus spoke against the evil people in His time, His heart was burning with much love for them.

Still, they hated Him and tried to harm Him. Even today, God's true followers are often hated, rejected and criticized.

Let us stand firm in our faith in God and let us continue to proclaim His word. When others oppress us, let us remember that God will save us and even reward us someday.

Prayer

LORD JESUS, please guide us that we may speak the truth out of deep love for You and neighbor. Please help us to stand firm in our faith in You even when others oppress us. These we ask in Your Name Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

JANUARY 31, 2010

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: Jeremiah 1: 4-5, 17-19

Responsorial Psalm : Psalm 71: 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 15-17

I will sing of your salvation.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12: 31-13: 13 or 13: 4-13

Gospel : Luke 4: 21-30

Jesus began speaking in the synagogue, saying: "Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing."

And all spoke highly of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They also asked, "Isn't this the son of Joseph?"

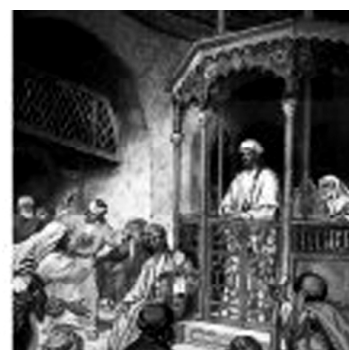
He said to them, "Surely you will quote me this proverb, 'Physician, cure yourself,' and say, 'Do here in your native place the things that we heard were done in Capernaum.'"

And he said, "Amen, I say to you, no prophet is accepted in his own native place. Indeed, I tell you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah

when the sky was closed for three and a half years and a severe famine spread over the entire land.

It was to none of these that Elijah was sent, but only to a widow in Zarephath in the land of Sidon. Again, there were many lepers in Israel during the time of Elisha the prophet; yet not one of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian."

When the people in the synagogue heard this, they were all filled with fury. They rose up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town had been built, to hurl him down headlong. But Jesus passed through the midst of them and went away.



Points to Ponder On

In his lifetime, Saint John Bosco suffered many trials and persecutions.

His faith in God, however, was not shaken. He remained firm in his love for God and in his faith despite all the trials and challenges he underwent.

Like Saint John Bosco, may we always abide by God even when life becomes difficult for us.

Prayer

LORD GOD, we are truly sorry for all the times that we have been weak in our faith in You. We are sorry for all the times that we have doubted You or disobeyed You.

Please help us to grow in our love and faith in You more and more each day. These we ask in Your Name Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

JANUARY 31, 2010

Memorial of Saint John Bosco, priest

First Reading: Hebrews 11: 1-2, 8-19

Responsorial Psalm : Luke 1: 69-70, 71-72

Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel; he has come to his people.

Gospel : Mark 4: 35-41

On that day, as evening drew on, Jesus said to his disciples: "Let us cross to the other side."

Leaving the crowd, they took Jesus with them in the boat just as he was. And other boats were with him.

A violent squall came up and waves were breaking over the boat, so that it was already filling up.

Jesus was in the stern, asleep on a cushion. They woke him and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?"

He woke up, rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Quiet! Be still!"

The wind ceased and there was great calm. Then he asked them, "Why are you terrified? Do you not yet have faith?" They were filled with great awe and said to one another, "Who then is this whom even wind and sea obey?"



**Why are you terrified?
Do you not yet have
faith?**

St. John Bosco Parish

Makati City, Philippines

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

Monday to Friday

6:30 and 7:30 a.m.;
12:15 and 6:00 p.m.

Holy Hour and benediction every
Thursday after the 6:00 p.m. Mass.
On First Fridays, the Holy Hour and Vigil
are held after the 6:00 p.m. Mass.

Saturday

6:30 and 7:30 a.m.;
6:00 p.m. (Anticipated Mass)

Sunday

6:00, 7:15, 8:30, 10:00
and 11:15 a.m.

12:30, 4:00, 5:30, 7:00
and 8:30 p.m.

Confessions are held during
all the Masses.

ADORATION CHAPEL

Open daily from 7:00 a.m.
to 8:00 p.m.

PARISH RELIGIOUS STORE

Monday to Friday
(except Thursday)

8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
12:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Thursday

8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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The Principle of Loving Kindness of Don Bosco

■ Ronaldo Lora



What strikes me very much in appreciating the influence of Don Bosco in my life is understanding how he practised the virtue of loving kindness. It is the ability to see the heart and not see the surface. It uses not the eye of what externalities alone are seen but with the eyes of faith. It is the key that gives access to the heart of every young person. There are very few people who rebel in the face of genuine goodness. One gets discipline with a blend of kindness and firmness, and by never asking what is above the strength of the child. In a dream towards the end of his life, Don Bosco narrates to his Salesians and boys of a past pupil by the name of Valfre who appears to him and explains the efficacy of loving kindness. "See", said Valfre, "familiarity leads to affection, and affection leads to confidence; confidence opens the heart which reveals everything without fear. They become frank and docile to whatever is told them by the one who they feel certain loves them."

Of course, the path of loving kindness is not always easy. To become a friend of young people is a slow conquest. Affection cannot be imposed. Don Bosco knew it too well, "In every young heart, even of the most unfortunate, there is a chord". The heart is like a fortress, always closed to rigidity and harshness. Hence, his advice to educators and parents: "Strive to make yourself loved." Don Bosco lived this principle. With all the work he had in hand, he spent time with them in recreation to converse, play, crack jokes, recount lively stories, and laugh heartily with them. This was good and useful for the education of the young. He lived more than forty years in the midst of boys. He claimed that he got whatever he asked for from them, and never even once did he need to raise his hand or his voice. The secret of his success with the boys was Loving Kindness.

St. John Bosco Parish Christmas Party

■ Chelsea Dipasupil

A Christmas party was held on December 29 for 220 parish volunteers who served during the Simbang Gabi and Christmas masses as a way of thanking them for their services. The attendees were members of the Knights of the Altar, the Lectors and Commentators Guild, Special Ministers of Holy Communion, Greeters and Collectors, the different choirs of the Music Ministry and the Youth Ministry. The opening prayer and opening address was led by Fr. Ting Miciano, SDB, Parish Priest. A simple salo-salo followed and games such as "Hep! Hep! Hurrah!" and "The Boat is Sinking" were played much to the enjoyment of the attendees. More than 30 raffle prizes were also given away, courtesy of generous benefactors.



Photos by Mitch Gonzales



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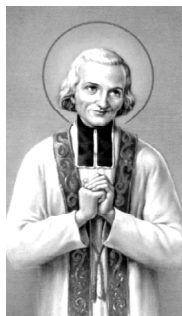
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Relics of Saint John Mary Vianney

There will be an exhibition of the relics of Saint John Mary Vianney on January 23 at the National Shrine of the Sacred Heart in San Antonio Village, Makati City. The stole he used in confession and his breviary will be exhibited from 1:00 pm until 10:00 pm. Please come and visit the relics of the patron saint of priests.

St. John Bosco Parish

Financial Report For December 2009

Mass Collection	₱ 1,112,685.50
Other Income	132,771.67

Gross Income	₱ 1,245,457.17
Less: Total Expenses	1,870,010.96*

Deficit	₱ 624,553.79**
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* Total expenses include operating expenses, Rectory expenses, and maintenance of facilities

** Financial deficit and ongoing projects of the parish are covered financially by the Salesian society of St. John Bosco

Thank you to all our generous benefactors!



Pondo ng Pinoy Sunday

At the Saint John Bosco Parish, every last Sunday of the month is PONDO NG PINOY SUNDAY. Kindly bring your Pondo ng Pinoy bottles and offer them during the Mass. Thank you.

SIMBAHAY NEWSLETTER

Advertise. Evangelize.

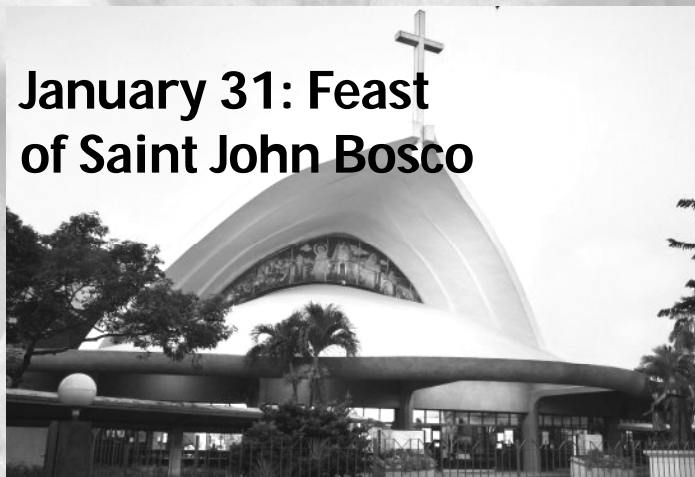
To our generous sponsors, thank you very much for supporting us in our mission to evangelize. To those who would like to place an ad, please call Mrs. Rosario Romero at the **ST. JOHN BOSCO PARISH OFFICE, MAKATI CITY**, Tel. 894-5932 to 34. Payments are accepted only at the PARISH OFFICE. Thank you and may God bless you!

ADVERTISING RATES

1 Whole Page	₱15,000 per issue
1/2 Page	₱ 8,000 per issue
1/4 Page	₱ 4,000 per issue
1/8 Page	₱ 2,000 per issue
Boxed Ad (Three Lines)	₱ 1,800 per issue
Boxed Ad (Two Lines)	₱ 1,300 per issue
Boxed Ad (One Line)	₱ 900 per issue

10% discount for 3 consecutive months ad placements
15% discount for 6 consecutive months ad placements
20% discount for one full year ad placements

January 31: Feast of Saint John Bosco



Happy Fiesta to all the parishioners!

Information on the 2010 FIESTA SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES will be disseminated in the following weeks. We look forward to celebrating the feast day of Saint John Bosco with all of you. Thank you very much and may God bless you all!

Pray at all times

For the eyes of the LORD are on the righteous and his ears turned to their prayer, but the face of the LORD is against evildoers.

-- 1 Peter 3: 12



January 17: Feast of the Sto. Niño

The Feast of the Sto. Niño (Holy Child Jesus) is celebrated in the Philippines every third Sunday of January. The devotion to the Sto. Niño, the Holy Child Jesus represented as a boy and king, was of Spanish origin. In April 1521, Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan, in the service of King Charles I of Spain, arrived in Cebu. Magellan persuaded Rajah Humabon and his wife Hara Amihan, to pledge their allegiance to Spain. Later baptized into the Catholic faith, they took on the Christian names Carlos and Juana. Magellan gave Juana an image of the Santo Niño as a symbol of the alliance.

Prayer to the Sto. Niño

O Santo Nino, who has said,
"ask and you shall receive;
seek and you shall find;
knock and it shall be
opened unto you,"
Give we beseech you, to us
who ask the gift of
your divine love,
that we may love you with
our whole heart,
in word and work,
and never cease from
showing forth your praise.

January 25-29: Second National Congress of the Clergy

The second National Congress of the Clergy will be held at the World Trade Center in Pasay City from January 25 to 29, 2010.

These will be days of spiritual reflection and profound prayer for priests in the Philippines.

The highlights of the five-day Congress are the liturgical celebration of the Eucharist, Communal Penance and Reconciliation, the Via Crucis, Lauds and Vespers and the recitation of the rosary.

Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa, a Franciscan Capuchin and preacher of the Papal household, will deliver five conferences on "Faithfulness of Christ, Faithfulness of Priests", the theme chosen by the Holy Father for the celebration of the Year for Priests (June 2009 to June 2010).

Prayer for Priests

-- St. Therese of the Child Jesus

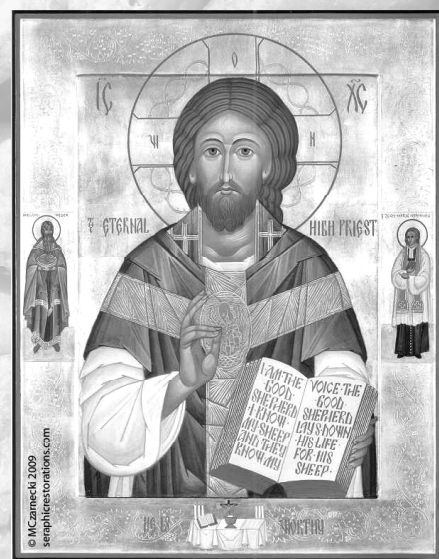
O Jesus, eternal Priest,
keep your priests within the shelter
of Your Sacred Heart,
where none may touch them.
Keep unstained their anointed hands,
which daily touch Your Sacred Body.

Keep unsullied their lips, daily purpled
with your Precious Blood.

Keep pure and unearthly their hearts,
sealed with the sublime mark
of the priesthood.

Let Your holy love surround them
and shield them from
the world's contagion.

Bless their labors with abundant fruit
and may the souls to whom they
minister be their joy and consolation
here and in heaven their beautiful and
everlasting crown. Amen.



June 2009 to June 2010
Year for Priests