



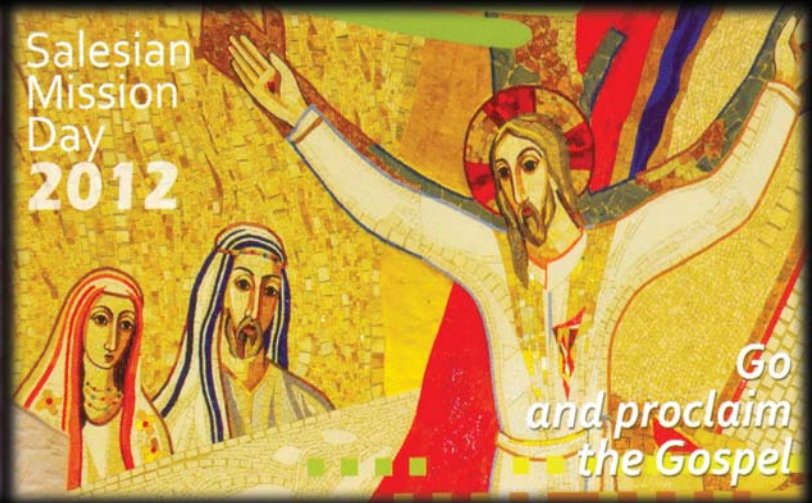
# SIMBAHAY

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

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 8

OCTOBER 2011

## October, the Month of the Rosary and the Missions



by *Dominicanis and Beth Chai*

### MONTH OF THE ROSARY

Since ancient times, people have been using “prayer beads” to keep track of repeated prayers and to help in their meditation. Evidence exists from the Middle Ages that strings of beads were used to count Our Fathers and Hail Marys. Eventually, fifty Hail Marys were recited and linked with verses of psalms or other phrases evoking the lives of Jesus and Mary. During this time, this prayer form became known as the rosarium (“rose garden”), from which the current name “rosary” was derived. The feast of Our Lady of the Rosary is celebrated on **October 7**.

As Pope Benedict’s XVI expressed during one of his pre-Angelus reflections, “Our Lady invites us to rediscover the beauty of this prayer. Even the beloved John Paul II was a great apostle of the Rosary: we remember him on his knees with the rosary beads in his hands, immersed in contemplation of Christ.” The pope added, “The rosary is a contemplative and Christocentric prayer, inseparable from meditation of the Sacred Scripture. It is the prayer of the Christian who advances in the pilgrimage of faith, following Jesus, preceded by Mary.”

The Family Rosary Crusade Philippines’ mega-project, **A Million Roses for the World** which was featured in the September *Simbahay* will be a pilgrimage of faith for one million people praying the rosary together for one country each day from October 10, 2011 to May 30, 2012. Be part of the million! Fill in pledge forms at the Parish office or visit <http://millionrosesfortheworld.org> to pledge online until October 7, 2011. You may view the video of the project’s official theme song with lyrics by Archbishop Soc Villegas, music by Ryan Cayabyab and vocals by Ms. Loudette Zaragoza-Banson, Chairperson, in <http://www.sjbmakati.com>.

### MONTH OF THE MISSIONS

In the same occasion, the Pope cited the other significant theme for the month – October as the month of Missions. Every year, Catholics all over the world celebrate World Mission Sunday on the last Sunday of October; it falls on **October 23** this year. By extension, the entire month becomes Mission Month.

“The Church is missionary by nature,” the Pope continues. “As the Father has sent me, so I send you (Jn 20:21), said the resurrected Jesus to the Apostles in the Cenacle. The mission of the Church is the continuation of Christ’s mission: to bring God’s love to all, proclaiming it with words and the concrete testimony of charity.”

While we can’t all be sent as missionary priests, sisters or lay missionaries, we can still help the Church fulfill its mandate to spread God’s love to those in need or those who don’t know Him when we support the propagation and growth of missionary endeavors.

Thanks to generous donors of financial and spiritual support, since the first Salesian Missionaries founded houses in Argentina and Buenos Aires in 1875, Don Bosco’s dream to spread the Kingdom of God from Turin to the furthest ends of the world has become a reality in over 130 countries. About 34,000 Salesian priests, brothers and sisters assist poor youth and families through technical and vocational schools, centers and shelters for at-risk youth and self sustained communities for the poor, etc.

Since 1988, the Rector Major offers a missionary theme for Salesian Missions Day (SMD) which allows for a concerted, global alignment of the entire congregation’s projects for mission awareness and promotion for a particular continent throughout the year beginning on SMD which coincides with World Mission Sunday. The 2011 SMD theme is “America: Volunteers proclaiming the Gospel”. For 2012, the 25th SMD focuses on “Asia, Telling the Story of Jesus”.

For information on how to help the SDB Missions in the Philippines please visit <http://salesian.kabayancentral.com/donate.html>





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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

## THE RELUCTANT MISSIONARY

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PARISH PRIEST

While most missionaries choose to become one, I became a missionary “by chance”, or so I first thought. For as I learned the long and hard way, when it comes to serving and following God, nothing comes “by chance”; everything is part of His grand design.

Two years into my priesthood as a formator in the College Seminary, I requested my provincial superior to be assigned from a seminary to a regular Salesian house. At that time, he was desperately looking for somebody to send down South to our mission in Papua New Guinea as the boys’ spiritual moderator and to teach Philosophy in the local seminary. After the initial shock at this “outrageous” offer, I calmly requested to be allowed to think it over and to consult my family.

In June 14, 1993, a new, albeit, reluctant missionary arrived in Papua New Guinea, “the land of the unexpected”. It was the first day of a 13-year mission life which would change me as a person and as a Salesian priest in ways I would never have dreamed of. My first assignment was in Rabaul, a quintessential paradise with its scenic bay and majestic volcano. After a year, I was transferred to the capital, Port Moresby, to become the principal of our technical school. As I gradually readjusted to city life, I learned (first hand) about rascals (petty criminals), gang wars and Aussie English, enjoyed the world-renowned cultural shows and the company of the ubiquitous *Pinoy* communities and new-found friends.

Since, the Salesians already had secondary technical schools in PNG we needed a tertiary institute to train local teachers for our schools; and the daunting task to establish such an



institute fell on me. To say, that I didn’t feel up to the task was gross understatement. The reluctant missionary seemed poised for a comeback.

But in 1999, after two years of graduate school and a year of painstaking preparations, the Don Bosco Technological Institute in Boroko welcomed the first batch of 50 young men aspiring to be teachers. By the time I left for my next assignment as principal of our vocational school in the Simbu Highlands, DBTI was admitting women, had state-of-the-art equipment and more importantly, enjoyed government recognition through the prestigious Divine Word University.

In 2006, with greater self-confidence, maturity and fulfillment in my personal and ministerial life, I finally decided to request to be re-integrated to the Philippine province. My missionary story was initiated by an unforeseen call, processed in “the land of the unexpected”, and became a journey filled with uniquely memorable experiences that made me what I am now. If there was one lesson I learned in the PNG chapter of my life, it was never to miss an opportunity, no matter how challenging, to answer God’s call to serve in unexpected events of life which are all beautifully part of His grand design.

— Fr. Ting Miciano, SDB

## FEATURED MINISTRY: SOCIAL SERVICES

by Welly Ongpin Cuna

When people hear of the Social Services Ministry, they immediately think of gift-giving during Christmas and relief operations during calamities. So, many will be surprised to learn that SSM has activities and responsibilities which keep its members busy throughout the year.

Sis Aura Lachica who heads the Social Services Ministry talked about the other SSM activities. Because donations are received throughout the year, SSM members are often busy sorting, packing and labeling donations of used clothes, household items and food so that these will be readily available when needed. She cited the Parish’s quick response during the fires at the Botanical and Laperal areas. SSM is also in charge of the annual “Operation Linis” of the entire Church and Parish compound every Holy Monday. They are also the “silent heroes” in many Parish activities providing needed manpower and ‘back stage’ support.

Sis Aura (standing center) invites parishioners to volunteer for the Social Services Ministry, “Mahalaga man ang mga donasyon at abuloy, inaanyayahan kong sumama sa amin sa Social Services Ministry ang sino mang gustong makatulong sa Parokya tungo sa layuning nitong bumuo ng mga komunidad.”



## MIRACLES IN OCTOBER

by *Maris Katigbak – San Juan*

(condensed from Story number 37 of *Mama Mary and her Children Book 2, True Stories of Real People*, by Fr. James B. Reuter, SJ)

I cannot forget October 1989 – the month of Our Lady’s Rosary.

A regular medical check-up turned into a nightmare as my chest x-ray detected enlarged lymph nodes. For several weeks, my husband and I kept our worst fears from our children, even as I was going through a series of medical tests and procedures.

On October 13, the feast of Our Lady of Fatima, I decided on two things: that I have had enough of doctors’ tests, and that instead, I would go on a healing pilgrimage to the Shrines of Padre Pio<sup>[1]</sup> in San Giovanni Rotondo, Italy, of Our Lady of Medjugorje in Yugoslavia and of our Lady of Lourdes in France.

It was almost winter in Europe then, but it could well have been springtime as my nightmare-driven journey of faith and hope soon blossomed into a dream-like passage from one miracle to the next.

In Giovanni Rotondo, my first destination, I cried in thanksgiving when a nun handed me an entire bouquet of flowers taken from Padre Pio’s tomb. Barely an hour earlier, as I prayed by his tomb, I secretly requested this beloved saint for just one flower from the very bouquet. To this day, I have kept the dried flowers, as testimony of an answered prayer.

A few days later in Medjugorje, not only did I “miraculously” manage the rocky climb to the hilltop where Our Lady had appeared to

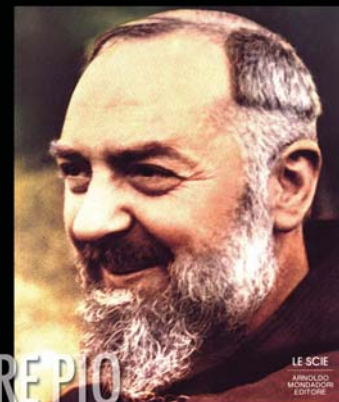
visionaries, when I brought out my rosary to pray, I caught my breath as I beheld another miracle – the chain from the crucifix to the bead of the first Glory Be had turned a bronze color, a phenomenon which “regularly” accompanies healing miracles in that sacred place.

As if two miracles were not enough in one trip, not to mention, in one lifetime, I was gifted with a third. This one did not happen in our final destination, the most famous Marian pilgrimage shrine of all time, but in the immigration area of Charles de Gaulle Airport in Paris where an unyielding French officer refused to honor our entry visas to France. I believe it was Our Lady who interceded on our behalf, for just when we were almost resigned to fly back to Manila, the same officer led us through a small door beyond immigration, and *voila*, I read, “*Bien Venite Lourdes!*”

Today, twenty-two years later, I still look back with awe on those grace-filled days of October, 1989 and thank the Lord for the gift of life!

*Ms. Maris Katigbak - San Juan hails from Lipa, Batangas. She worked with PAL, Air France, the French Embassy and the Kennedy Centre for special children in New York (her youngest sister has Downs Syndrome), and was the Philippine Delegate to the New York World's Fair. The SLV Worship Coordinator, Maris is credited for her tireless support of the Parish's activities and projects including major fund-raising activities and the acquisition of the beautiful Murano glass mosaics of Our Mother of Perpetual Help and the Divine Mercy (a joint project with Fr. A Faroni and other generous benefactors).*

<sup>[1]</sup> Padre Pio was beatified almost ten years later on May 2, 1999 and canonized into sainthood on June 16, 2002.



PADRE PIO



## THE ROSARY LADY

by *Dominicanis*

Her nimble fingers bend steel wire and string beads into rosaries worthy of being considered as works of art. But for Lourdes Diego, SJB Parish’s own Rosary Lady, making rosaries that she sells before and after Masses by the Church’s entrance is more than just a craft, it is a way of providing for her family’s needs.

Dez, as she is fondly called, was selling home-cooked meals in a small canteen by the Parish mortuary chapels when she and other members of the Social Services Ministry were trained to make rosaries. The canteen and rosary making were among the livelihood projects of then parish priest, Fr. Bernie Carpio. Dez started making and

selling rosaries to augment her earnings.

When the canteen had to give way to the Pugad Breadshop, Dez continued to sell rosaries by the Church entrance until the table she was using to display her products was needed for something else. It was then that Dez started taking in laundry. Fortunately, when Fr. Ting Miciano took over as Parish Priest in 2009, he and Divine Livelihood’s Rescy Bhagwani decided to revive rosary-making as a DL project. In no time, the Rosary Lady was back by the Church entrance making and selling rosaries.

A simple woman, Dez takes pride in knowing that the items she crafts are appreciated by her customers – Vice President Jejomar Binay is a *suki*.

Those who are interested to give handmade rosaries as Christmas gifts may place their orders directly with the Rosary Lady or at the Parish Office.

## 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](http://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.



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

October 2, 2011 Readings

\***Is 5:1-7** – The Lord compares Israel to a vineyard which does not yield good grapes.

\***Phil 4:6-9** – Paul exhorts us to put our trust in the Lord and to treasure whatever is good.

\***Mt 21:33-43** – Jesus warns the leaders of Israel that they will be rejected by God if they do not respond to His love.

#### **Theme: GOD'S GENEROSITY VS. MAN'S INGRATITUDE**

Ingratitude is a moral defect which ranks very close to treachery and callousness. An ungrateful person is usually despised and avoided as one who lacks a basic ingredient of what it takes to be a decent human being. Ungrateful people seem to take for granted the generosity and liberality of others. They may even reach the point of "biting the hand that feeds them"....

Unfortunately, ingratitude is not so rare a defect, nor is it confined to the relationship among human beings. The greatest victim of human ingratitude is actually our greatest

benefactor: God Himself! He who has given us all that we have and are, is often forgotten by us. Sometimes He is even treated as an intruder and an enemy. Jesus, the Incarnate Son of God and mankind's most generous benefactor, experienced all this at the hands of the Jewish religious authorities who even conspired to kill him and eventually succeeded in their murderous intent. Nor is such a despicable attitude a closed chapter in human history. If we look around, we realize that it is still a sad reality in our time. Perhaps, even in our very lives.



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

#### **Indigenous People's Sunday**

October 9, 2011 Readings

\***Is 25:6-10a** – The messianic banquet is a symbol of God's plan of love for all men.

\***Phil 4:12-14.19-20** – Paul finds in God the strength to endure all hardships.

\***Mt 22:1-14** – Jesus warns the leaders of Israel not to reject God's call.

#### **Theme: CHALLENGED TO BE WORTHY OF GOD'S INVITATION**

God's plan encompasses all His creatures for He loves all that He has created. Of all the creatures, however, He has a special love for the human beings because these are the only ones created in His image and likeness; the only ones with whom He can have a personal relationship destined to last for ever. This is what we call "heaven" and what Holy Scripture often compares to a solemn banquet characterized by abundance of everything and joyful sharing.

God's love would want all human beings to participate in that feast of life. Such a gathering of all nations starts already in this life with the establishment of the Church but will reach its perfection only in the age to come.

All are invited to participate in it, but unfortunately, not all accept God's

invitation. Not all those who would like to participate have the necessary dispositions. The result is that "The invited are many, the chosen ones are few" not because God's love has not reached out to the many, but because they have opted out.

The challenge today is for us to show appreciation for God's invitation to participate in His feast and to remove from ourselves whatever makes us unworthy of His presence.



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

October 16, 2011 Readings

\***Is 45:1.4-6** – The Lord's providence guides even the kings who do not know him.

\***1 Thes 1:1-5** – Paul thanks the Thessalonians for their reception of God's Word.

\***Mt 22:15-21** – Jesus states a fundamental principle of Christian involvement in civic life.

#### **Theme: CHALLENGED TO GET INVOLVED IN THE BUILDING OF A BETTER WORLD**

It was Jesus who said that his disciples are in the world, but not of the world. (See *Jn 17:11.14.16.*) This statement is surely true and it means that a follower of Jesus should have nothing to do with the greed, arrogance, materialism, and hedonism that have always characterized so many human societies. Unfortunately, for so long and for too many Christians, the sentence above meant that their social involvement was reduced to being obedient subjects and paying their taxes.

After the Second Vatican Council and the Second Plenary Council of the Philippines, all of us, most especially the laity, have been expected to do much more than that: We are expected to play an active role in the creation of a just and caring society. We must get involved in all aspects of our national life, as well as in fostering international relations characterized by mutual respect, solidarity and cooperation.

This means that we should not just obey the laws of the land, but also contribute to make and enforce just laws, dismantle oppressive and unjust structures and replace them with just ones. This is our way of "giving to Caesar what belongs to Caesar." The road to heaven passes not only by the Church, but also by the type of society we have created.



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

#### World Mission Sunday

#### October 23, 2011 Readings

\*Ex 22:20-26 – God is the protector of the weak and the poor.

\*1 Thes 1:5-10 – Paul praises the faithful of Thessalonica who have become a model for all believers.

\*Mt 22:34-40 – Jesus summarizes the moral demands of the two Covenants in the love of God and neighbor.

#### Theme: THE MAIN ROADS TO GOD'S KINGDOM

Our moral life should be characterized by a continuous ascent, from conquest to conquest, ever closer to God, and ever farther from whatever makes life materialistic, self-seeking, and degrading. Maybe that is why an authentic Christian moral life has often been compared to a flight – the flight of a beautiful bird that soars high in the freedom of a sky filled with God's glory.

Just as no bird can fly without wings, so we can not make any progress in our moral life without the two wings of the love of God and the love of neighbor. Any attempt to make moral progress apart from these basic means of moral perfection is just wishful thinking. These twin loves are the two wings our divine Teacher urges us to use with constant determination, powered by the gentle breeze of the Holy Spirit. This is what Jesus teaches us with his words and example if we are serious about transforming our lives into an inspiring flight

toward the One who is the Fulfillment of our greatest aspirations.



### 31<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

#### Prison Awareness Sunday

#### October 30, 2011 Readings

\*Mal 1:14b-2:2b.8-10 – God's harsh words against complacent clergymen

\*1 Thes 2:7-9.13 – Paul's happy memories about his stay in Thessalonica

\*Mt 23:1-12 – Jesus warns his disciples to avoid the moral defects of the scribes and Pharisees.

#### Theme: LEADERSHIP BY VISION AND EXAMPLE

Every group or nation needs leaders, but not just any type of leader. What are needed are persons who love those entrusted to their care and guide them with gentle firmness toward the attainment of a greater good; leaders who lead by example, who are the first to carry the burden they may have to impose on their people; individuals who are deeply honest, humble and sincere and who put the interest of their people before their own – *Bayan muna, bago ang sarili.*

Unfortunately, already in the history of the Chosen People, it was not hard to find examples of perverted and oppressive

### OCTOBER 2011 CALENDAR

01 Sat	St. Therese of the Child Jesus
02 Sun	27 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time
04 Tue	St. Francis of Assisi
07 Fri	Our Lady of the Rosary 1st Friday Vigil Adoration/Taize after 6pm Mass
09 Sun	28 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Indigenous People's Sunday Extreme Poverty Day
15 Sat	St. Teresa of Jesus
16 Sun	29 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time
17 Mon	St. Ignatius of Antioch
18 Tue	St. Luke, Evangelist
21 Fri	"TINIG" Concert – Church 7PM
23 Sun	30 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time World Mission Sunday
28 Fri	Sts. Simon and Jude
29 Sat	Rosary Rally after 6PM Mass
30 Sun	31 <sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Prison Awareness Sunday Pondo ng Pinoy Sunday

Sick Visitation – Thursdays 9am

Holy Hour – Thursdays 6:30pm

Medical & Dental – Sundays 2:00pm

Street Mass – Saturdays 7:30pm

Visit our website for the complete Oct 2011 Calendar  
<http://sjmbakati.com/parish-activities.html>

leaders. Jesus himself clashed head-on with the religious leaders of his time on account of their failure to lead the people to what was just and right, and especially to recognize him as the awaited Messiah.

Failure to lead the people in the right direction is a permanent danger for all those in authority in whatever area: from religion to politics, to education, to the family.... It is our duty to be aware of this danger, and to help all those in authority to do their duty well through our prayer, our advice, and even our constructive criticism whenever necessary.

St. John Bosco Parish  
Antonio Amado Avenue corner Amorsolo Street  
Barangay San Lorenzo, Makati City, PHILIPPINES

CONTEMPLATIVE  
OUTREACH



# LECTIO DIVINA

Roozen Hall, St. John Bosco Parish  
October 08, 2011 [Saturday]

8:30A.M. - 4:30 P.M.



501-5231



cop.secretariat@gmail.com



FR. PAT VILLASANTA, SDB \* BR. MON DELA CRUZ, SDB \* FR. BOY PABLO, SDB

## SOWING SEEDS IN CALAUAN

From an article by Fr. Pat Villasanta, SDB  
Km 77, SV-7, Calauan, Laguna

While surfing for materials on Salesian Missions for this month's feature, we came across the following entry **Don Bosco Alive in Calauan** in <http://say.sdb.org/blogs/c11> which we quote in part:

"Thanks be to God for one wonderful Sunday morning at Calauan, Laguna, Philippines. It's probably one of the most meaningful new Salesian missionary presences in East Asia in past few years, full of potential. About 15 months ago 3 Salesians 'landed' in this lonely place between the mountains and field

some 70km from Manila and (and are now) living in very simple NGO Habitat build houses, no electricity, no water guarantee. Sharing their life whole day with thousands of poor people in their midst, becoming living images of Don Bosco."

The three "living images of Don Bosco" in Calauan, Fr. Salvador Pablo, Br. Ramon dela Cruz and, Fr. Pat Villasanta, have started the Salesian presence and work in a 107 hectare resettlement site at the Southville 7 (SV-7) in Calauan, Laguna for former Metro Manila slum dwellers. From 6,400 families in June 2011, a population of 10,000 families or 50,000 to 80,000 relocatees is projected for the end of 2011.

To head off a potential "social volcano of various crimes, vices and other social issues", the Salesians have embarked on a major project with several stakeholders including the Diocese of San Pablo, LGU, ABS-CBN Foundation, SMC Foundation, to make SV-7 a sustainable community within the next 3-5 years with adequate shelter, clean water, electricity, sanitation, education, and venues for community empowerment and evangelization.

They are currently setting up a company named "**BoscSeeds**" for *Bosc Sustainable Enterprise and Economic Development Services, Inc.* that may generate jobs and livelihood for the people. "**BoscSeeds**" currently operates 8 projects which are creatively named after Salesian Saints: **1. Rinaldi Builders** (Construction Work), **2. Caravario Agricultural Development** (Organic Piggery & Farming), **3. Zeferin Shoes** (Shoe-making), **4. Savio Fun** (Children's Party & Accessories), **5. Cagliero Fudz** (Finger Foods), **6. Michael Rua Trade** (Job Placement/ Hiring Office) **7. Securo di Magone** (Security Agency).

To quote Fr. Pat, "We are convinced that as part of our socio-pastoral care for the community/people, we have to device livelihood programs too that may bring about work, food at table and most especially 'dignity' of their own, pegged with human & spiritual values and integrated with our Salesian Culture and Spirituality."

## THE LORD'S TOWEL aka "CACO"

by Fr. Carlo Maria Savio De Ocampo Villegas, SDB  
Ulaanbaatar, MONGOLIA

I belong to the last group of novices under Jose Carbonnel, our master of novices. Those were the years where we studied philosophy and worked for our bachelors degree of education in the field of industrial education, sciences and language. In hindsight, this multi-pronged preparation was not only good for our resumes but was to prove providential for the unseen years to come. It was Don Bosco's vision to equip his sons with both ecclesiastical and civil degrees, which would make them more useful and well appreciated even in secular societies that are unfriendly, even hostile to Christians.

While still a novice, I asked Fr. Alfred 'Povero' Cogliandro, if I could already go for the missions. I was no Indiana Jones thrill-seeker; yet, there was a restlessness in me that was seeking for something. Instead, Don Cogliandro advised me to complete my studies, be ordained as a priest and THEN



Fr. Caco – back row rightmost

go for the missions. To his advice, this holy man added one condition which I have taken to heart and still makes me smile to this day, "... don't come back". To die and be buried someday in the mission lands (like many of our Salesian pioneers and missionaries) is something I take not only as a program of life but also as purpose to live a life to the

full.

Before my ordination by then Bishop of Lipa, Gaudencio Rosales, on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception in 1993, I presented my handwritten application for the Missions in Papua New Guinea to Fr. Provincial (then Fr. Capo) who was so happy until he read

my request to be exempted from the traditional "Missionary Cross send off" ceremony. We argued spiritedly but parted in peace. But in 2000, I was eventually "forced" to receive the Missionary Cross, before I could meet the new team which I was to lead into the Pioneering Mission of Mongolia.

My missionary vocation as it implies is a 'calling' – a natural consequence of that tiny whisper in the caverns of the heart and caves of a human soul that was not content with a life that was within one's grasp and comfort zones. It was a restlessness that was only set at peace when it found its place in the hand of God, as a towel to wash the feet of His people. A hand that led to places, persons and potholes that kept my own hands sweating and knees shaking, but helped me sleep in bliss like a baby whether on a dinghy "rodeoing" over the treacherous waves in the gulf province or on rascal-infested dirt roads of the "buai" route of Bereina, or a room in the central steppes of Mongolia with deep freeze air-conditioning.

Being a missionary is beautiful and is best understood in the words of a good daughter-in-law, Ruth, a Moabite whom Naomi excused from her filial obligations to return to her people and her family after her husband had passed away. The words that embody the love of Ruth, I hope I can embrace with the help of God till end of my

own life, "please don't send me away (from you), your people will be my people, your land will be my land, your God will be my God." Need I say more?



**JOY IN SERVICE**

by *Sr. Joy Impelido, FMA*  
DBTI Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea

I am Sr. Joy Impelido, FMA. Since July this year, I have been staying in Don Bosco Technological Institute in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea.

I teach Christian Living Education to fifty ladies who are taking up technical courses to become electricians and machinists. They come from the different parts of PNG, from

highlands to the coastlands, and stay in our dormitories where I also assist them – my other assignment.

The medium of instruction is English, so communication is easy but, of course, I need a translator when they start speaking in Tok Pigin. Language is very important when you are in the mission. Most of my students are not Catholic but belong to different Christian denominations. As a result, our classes are quite lively as they really ask a lot of questions from "what is original sin and why did Mary not have it" to "why should men and women be equal".

My biggest challenge here is learning and understanding cultural differences because, as I mentioned, our students come from different tribes and villages, each with its own culture. Occasionally, when I try to correct them, they would challenge me with, "Sister, in OUR culture, it is like this". Family ties (wantok) are very strong in PNG, men are considered superior to women in their highly patriarchal society, polygamy and the payment of the bridal price before marriages are practiced. There is so much to learn about the people in PNG. I am told other Salesians who have been here for more than 20 years are still learning.

*\* For the full account of the mission stories of Fr. Caco, Sr. Joy and Fr. Pat, please visit [www.sjbmakati.com](http://www.sjbmakati.com)*

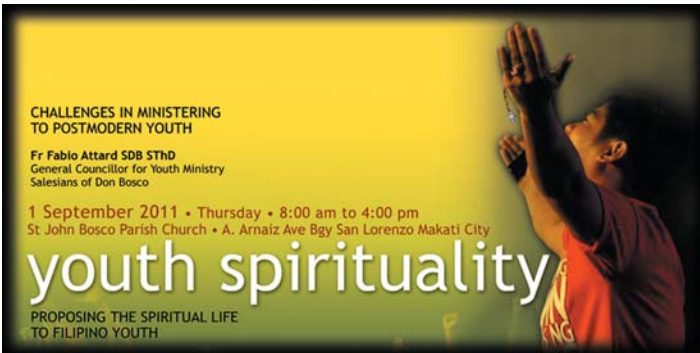
**ON OCTOBER 9, 2011, WE OBSERVE EXTREME POVERTY DAY, IN BOTANICAL GARDENS, SJB PARISH MAKATI...THEY OBSERVE IT EVERYDAY.**

*To help - contact the Social Services Ministry.*



photos by Welly Ongpin Cuna

**I WANT YOU TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR NEXT DOOR NEIGHBOR. DO YOU KNOW YOUR NEXT DOOR NEIGHBOR? - MOTHER TERESA**

**NEWS BRIEFS** by Welly Cuna, Chester Tolentino and Beth Chai**SJBP HOSTS THEOLOGICAL SYMPOSIUM ON YOUTH SPIRITUALITY**

*“Unfortunately it seems that many of us are not willing to be stretched for the sake of our youth...and yet it is essential that the young people of our generation be made to understand and embrace the ‘everydayness’ of their spirituality. The must know that as followers of Christ it means being fully engaged in every moment and allowing their spirituality to spring from daily living.”*

So goes one of several concepts that youth ministers and leaders from different organizations in Metro Manila and surrounding provinces were asked to reflect on during the theological symposium entitled “Youth Spirituality: Proposing the Spiritual Life to Filipino Youth” conducted by the Don Bosco Center of Studies at the SJBP Church last September 1, 2011.

Three highly-respected experts on youth ministries and youth spirituality were the featured speakers in this well attended one-day symposium: **Rev Fr. Fabio Attard**, General Councillor for Youth Ministry **Rev. Fr. Martin Macasaet**, Rector of Don Bosco Technical College Mandaluyong and **Raoul Roncal**, President of Christ’s Youth in Action.

**DBYC SPONSORED 24 MAYA KITCHEN CULINARY TRAINING SCHOLARS**

As part of its livelihood projects, the Don Bosco Youth Center (DBYC) under the Rector’s office of SJBP Makati sponsored 24 poor, young people (including 6 from Don Bosco Calauan and 2 from San Ildefonso Parish) to undergo culinary training at the Maya Kitchen. The 400-hour, TESDA-certified training which began September 16 and costs Php 20,000 per scholar, includes courses in Hot Commercial Cooking and Baking with elective courses e.g. Meat Processing.

In addition, Fr Rector Richard Varela mentored the scholars on good manners and work ethics and basic English Communication.

To see SIMBAHAY in color, visit our website at [www.sjbmakati.com](http://www.sjbmakati.com)

**SJBP MAKATI WELCOMES INA, OUR LADY OF PEÑAFRANCIA**

SJBP Makati warmly welcomed the image of Our Lady of Peñafrancia which arrived in the Parish last September 8 for a four day visit. Triduum masses in honor of “INA” were attended by hundreds of Marian devotees from within and outside the Parish. A farewell mass was held on September 11 before the image was carried on a motorcade from Makati to Agrifina Circle in Manila. The visit is part of the year-long activities which marked the Tricentenary or 300 years grand celebration of the devotion to Our Lady of Peñafrancia of Naga.

**FAMILY AND LIFE MINISTRY HOLDS EFFECTIVE PARENTING AND NFP USERS TRAINING SEMINARS**

The Family and Life Ministry organized back-to-back seminars on Effective Parenting on September 3 and Natural Family Planning on September 10.

Rene and Lily Perez, the “chaircouple” of the Commission on Family and Life of the Archdiocese of Manila for members of SJBP organizations talked about different parenting styles to the members of SJB Parish Organizations.

A week later, Ms. Irene Gaudier, Natural Family Planning (NFP) Trainer of the Vicariate of Sts. Peter and Paul conducted NFP Users training seminar for 70 participants from the Marriage Encounter Foundation and Barangay Pio health workers.

**PARISH MEDICAL AND DENTAL CLINIC RELOCATED**

The Parish Medical Clinic has moved to a more spacious, much cooler and well-lighted room on the 2nd floor of the Parish Building. Since September 11, volunteer doctors have been conducting free medical consultations in room 209 which is now accessible by elevator even for the elderly and mobility-impaired patients. Likewise, the Parish Dental Clinic has been relocated and will soon open in room 210, adjacent to the Medical Clinic. Every Sunday from 2-5 in the afternoon, about 30-40 patients avail of the free Medical/Dental services, a project of the Parish’s Health and Sanitation Ministry headed by Dr. Sylvia Bueser, MD.