

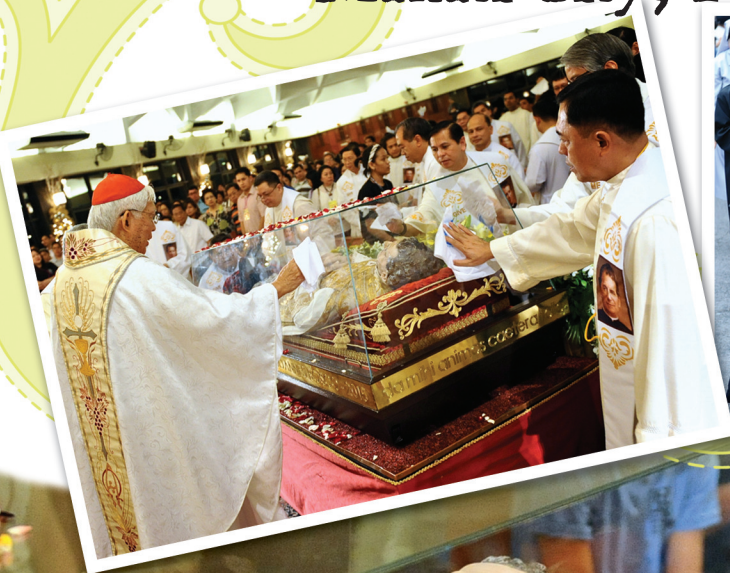
SIMBAHAY

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

SPECIAL ISSUE

FEBRUARY 2011

The Worldwide Relic Pilgrimage of St. John Bosco visits St. John Bosco Parish Church, Makati City, Philippines



Photos on cover by Rekz Sarmenta



DIVINE MINUTES AND MOMENTS

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PARISH PRIEST

He came, we touched him, he has gone. But it was as if he has never left us.

The visit of the Pilgrim Relic of our Father St. John Bosco to our parish on Dec. 23 and 24 was a day to remember. It was just a single day but the minutes and moments that crammed that day were enough to satisfy one's thirst for holiness.

Indeed, the relic of St. John Bosco, his right hand inside the chest cavity of the wax full-body replica inspired so many of us. We never imagined that this single event would gather over a period of 24-hours, hundreds, if not, thousands of

parishioners, devotees, past pupils and their families and even pilgrims from far away places. Many were moved to tears. Many more were drawn, knees-bent, to thank God for the life and work of a priest who worked tirelessly for the salvation of souls and who, up to now, radiate that goodness and gentleness that lead so many to God.

Don Bosco, as we fondly call him, has conquered our hearts once again. Now we know that he has never really left because the inspiration and holiness that he bestowed on us during this visit will beckon us to imitate that same zeal and sanctity in our own lives. Don Bosco now lives in us.

— Fr. Ting Miciano, SDB



From December 23 to 24, 2010, St. John Bosco Parish in Makati was honored and blessed by the visit of the Worldwide pilgrimage of St. John Bosco's Relic – his carefully preserved right hand, kept hidden in a resin replica of the saint's body which lies enclosed in a glass casket. A brass border surrounds the casket - etched with the saint's motto, "*Da Mihi Animas Caetera Tolle*" – Give me souls; take away the rest.

DECEMBER 23 – Day one

At 3:35PM on December 23, the chartered plane carrying the Relic from Cebu landed in Villamor Air Base in Pasay where it was accorded state honors and blessed by The

Papal Nuncio to the Philippines, Archbishop Edward Joseph Adams. The guest of honor, Ms Ballsy Aquino-Cruz represented her brother, Philippine President Benigno Aquino III.

Fr. Eli Cruz, SDB, Provincial Superior of the Salesian Northern Province of the Philippines (FIN) was there to receive the Relic papers from Fr. Fidel Orendain, SDB of the Salesian Southern Province of the Philippines (FIS).

In turn, Bro. Tony Caspellan, SDB, representing the Salesian Community of St. John Bosco Parish in Makati was on hand to receive the Relic and to escort it to the Parish. With him were Mr. Arjun Socco, SJB Makati Parish Pastoral Council President and Mr. Alex Flores.

At 4:15PM, St. John Bosco Parish in Makati kicked off the celebration with Welcome and Arrival Ceremonies at the

corner of Don Bosco and Amorsolo Streets where hundreds of mostly young parishioners welcomed and led the Relic Truck in a joyful parade to the Parish Church.

Welcoming their father at the main gate of the Church parking lot was the entire SJB Makati Parish Salesian Community: Fr. Richard Varela, Rector and Head of the Parish Organizing Committee for the Relic Visit, Fr. Ting Miciano, Parish Priest, Fr. Dave Buenaventura, Fr. Tuy Hizon, Fr. Dennis Paez and Bro. Tony Caspellan. They were joined by the Salesian Confreres from FIN - Salesian Sisters, Salesian Cooperators, Religious and Priests and the parish faithful.

As soon as the Relic truck had unloaded its precious cargo, the Welcome and Arrival Honors continued with the Knights of the Altar leading the short but solemn procession to the Church. Behind them, the SJB Parish Community pulled and escorted the Relic on its custom built wood and metal cart. The members of the other Salesian Communities followed.

Fiesta came a month early to the Parish! As the Relic passed, the Lilies of the Altar strewed rose petals on its path, student flag bearers waved their flags, the people clapped while festive music from four bands filled the air mingling with the laughter and cheers from the young and youthful – just as Don Bosco would like it.

At the main church door, Fr. Richard together with the Parish Salesian Community formally welcomed Don Bosco to the Parish with a prayer of thanksgiving for this revered father and teacher of the young.

As doors slid open for the Relic's grand entrance into the beautifully decorated Parish church, the overflow crowd of devotees cheered, "Viva, Don Bosco, Viva!", joyfully waved white commemorative handkerchiefs and sang round after heartfelt round of "St. John Bosco – Our Loving Father."

His Eminence, Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales of the Archdiocese of Manila presided in the Concelebrated Pontifical Mass with Fr. Eli Cruz, FIN Provincial Superior, the SJB Parish Community and many other priests from the different Salesian Houses of the FIN province.

Vice President and Mrs. Jejomar Binay and Makati Mayor Jejomar Erwin Binay joined in the presentation of offerings.

Viewing of the Relic and prayer services began immediately after the Mass and continued until midnight, pausing only for the duration of the Anticipated Simbang Gabi. The Holy New Harvest Ministry animated the youth vigil with a prayer concert as scores of devotees came to venerate the Relic.

In the Parish Gymnasium, after the Welcome Mass, the Parish hosted a thanksgiving dinner for special guests and parishioners in honor of the Relic's visit and to fete members of the Parish Salesian Community who were celebrating the anniversaries of their priestly ordination and/or religious profession. The honorees were Fr. Ting Miciano, SDB, 20 years as priest, Rev Fr. Arthur Hizon, SDB, 25 years, Fr. Dave Buenaventura, SDB, 33 years, Fr. Richard Varela, SDB, 35 years and Bro. Tony Caspellan, SDB, 25 years as religious.



DECEMBER 24 – Day two

The veneration of the Relic and prayer services resumed next day. Between Masses, representatives of SJB Parish Makati Organizations and Ministries took turns in leading the prayers services during the viewing.

A special healing mass was celebrated at 2:00PM for the sick, elderly and disabled parishioners, some of whom were brought to the Parish Church by members of the SEDA Ministry. Bags of groceries from donations of the Parish Organizations, Ministries and the surrounding community were then distributed by the Social Services Ministry which organized this Christmas gift-giving project.

At 6:00 PM, the SJB Children's Choir and SJB Chorale serenaded the assembly with Christmas songs. Fr. Ting Miciano, SJB Makati parish priest obliged with a couple of songs. And for the grand finale, the assembly joined the choirs in another rousing rendition of "St. John Bosco – Our Loving Father".

Fr. Richard presided in the Christmas Vigil Mass of the Youth at 8:00 PM which was also the Parish's farewell mass for the Relic.

Before the final blessing, the historic, once-in-a-lifetime visit to the Parish of SJB Makati of the Relic of St. John Bosco officially ended with the Handing Over Ceremonies to Fr. Remo Bati, SDB, Parish Priest of San Ildefonso Parish, the next host in St. John Bosco's Philippine Pilgrimage.

The following videos on the visit by Salesiana FILMS are available on YouTube:

FIN-01_St. John Bosco visits Manila- Arrival (Dec 23, 2010)

FIN-02_St. John Bosco Parish Makati 01

FIN-03_St. John Bosco Parish Makati 02

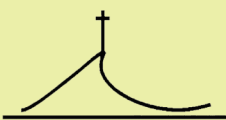
FIN-04_Turnover SJB-Mkt to SIP-Mkt (2010 12-24)

Visit <http://www.godslovetotheyoung.info/> for more articles and pictures.

THE WORLDWIDE PILGRIMAGE of the relic started from Valdocco, Turin on April 25, 2009 and will end on January 2014 after visiting 130 countries. It forms part of the preparations for the 200th birth anniversary of Don Bosco on August 16, 2015.



The Parish thanks the volunteers who coordinated, planned and smoothly organized this historic Parish event.



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