

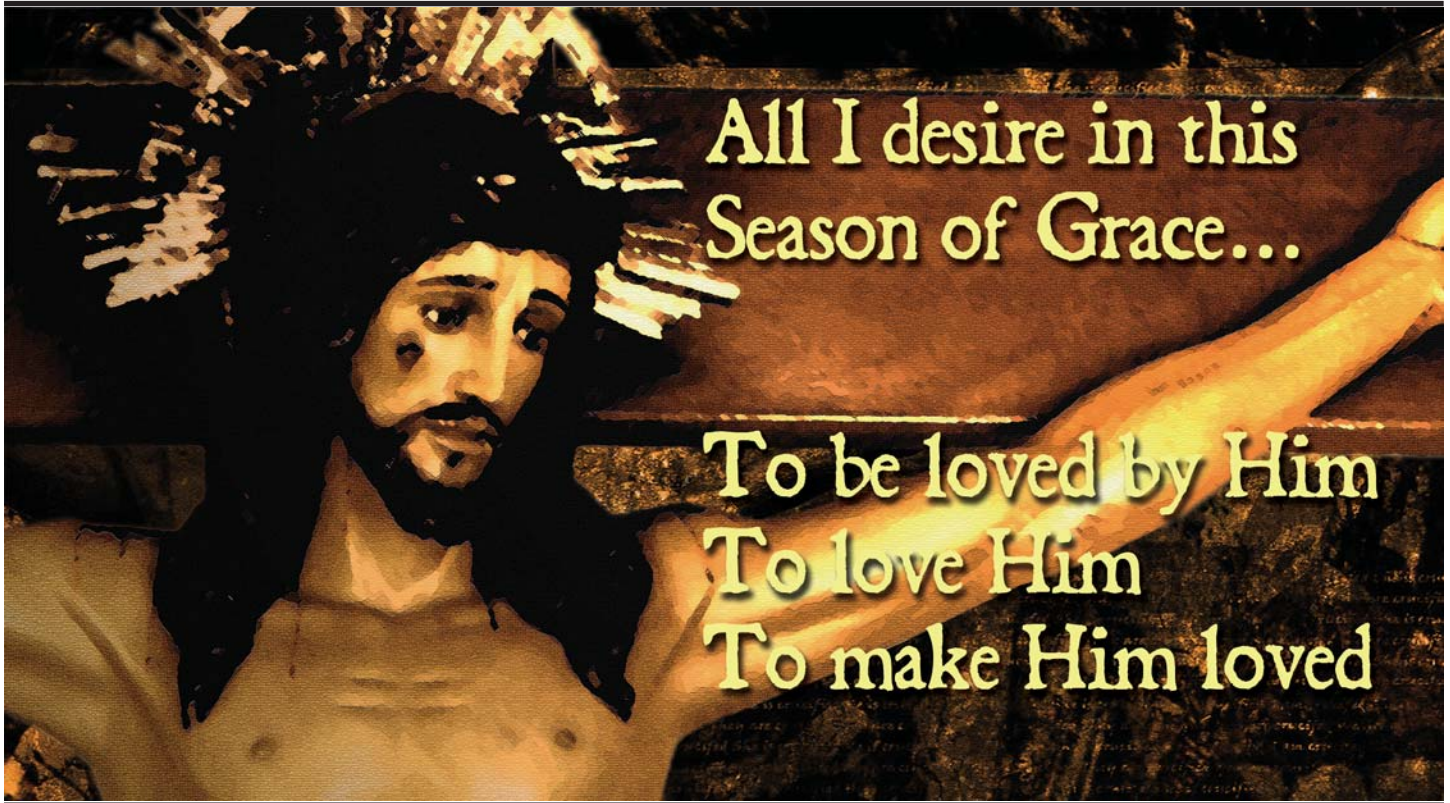


SIMBAHAY

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

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 3

MARCH 2012



The God of Silence...The Silence of God

by Tess Colayco

Lent is the season when we are invited to go into an extended "retreat", a time when we pause from the busyness of ordinary life, and in prayerful silence, reflect on where we are in our spiritual journey. Just as Jesus went away to the desert for forty days in solitude, silence and privation, so must I go away, literally, (if only for a while) or figuratively, (into my inner self) to encounter God in a deeper way.

I need to make space in my heart for this God who calls me by name and throws Himself lavishly all the way to Calvary out of love for me. He looks at me silently, gazing thru the eyes of His beloved Son hanging on the Cross. What is He saying to me? What does He mean when He says: "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do?" Or speaking to his mother and his beloved disciple, "Woman, behold your son. Son, behold your mother?" If I follow Him as His disciple more than 2000 years after His "senseless" death on the Cross, will He fill my life with meaning? If I decide to commit to Him, will He stand by me thru thick or thin 24/7? Who is this God who I profess to "know" as I go to daily Mass, pray my devotions, practice works of charity, pray and fast during Lent?

Living in an extremely noisy world with its deafening and relentless attempts to catch my attention all day, I can only hear God if I am silent for "God's first language is silence." St. John of the Cross

said: *"The Father spoke one Word, who was His Son, and this Word He is always speaking in eternal silence. It is in silence that the soul must hear it."*

And so I step back for a few moments each day creating stillness in my otherwise all-too busy mind, giving God permission to speak to me. During these quiet times, I let God be God. I listen with complete openness, allowing Him to speak freely, tenderly, lovingly. It is no longer a case of: *"Listen, Lord, for I am speaking"* but: *"Speak, Lord, for I am listening"*. And He doesn't disappoint me for He engages me in a heart to heart communication that is so affirming, changing my life forever!

In silence and stillness, God shows me His true face. It is one of a gentle and tender Father, also of a tremendous Lover pursuing his bride relentlessly, to bring me, a poor creature, into the friendship and union of divine love. But almighty and powerful as He is, He shows me His utter humility and vulnerability, first by choosing to become man and join me in my human condition with its attendant miseries and woundedness. Then He takes it to its ultimate peak by dying a humiliating death on the Cross.

What an extraordinary God He is! Such is the God of Silence...such is the Silence of God.

"Be still and know that I am God." (Psalm 46:10)



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SCHEDULE OF MASSES

Monday to Friday:

6:30am • 7:30am • 12:15pm • 6:00pm

Holy Hour every Thursday after the
6:00 pm Mass

Saturday:

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

Sunday:

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

*with sign language interpreters

Confessions are available during all
the Masses

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

PARISH OFFICE & RELIGIOUS STORE HOURS

Monday to Friday (except Thursday)
8:00am - 11:30am • 12:30pm - 6:00pm

Thursday:
8:00am - 11:30am • 12:30pm - 4:00pm

Saturday:
8:00am - 12:00pm • 1:00pm - 5:00pm

MARCH 2012

SUFFERING THAT LEADS TO LIFE

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PARISH PRIEST



You and I have the same sentiment about suffering – it is not pleasant! How often we hear people complain, “I’m simply fed up with this pain that doesn’t go away”, or “*Bakit ba ako pinarurusahan ng D’yos sa sakit na ito?*”, or “I would have been much happier had this problem not come my way!” And since all of us do suffer pain and experience discontent, more or less, in varying degrees, suffering has a unique way of uniting all of us! But before we band together in group-pity about our miserable state, know that suffering can also unite us in more positive ways if we care to think about and endure it longer.

First, suffering allows us to get in touch with ourselves, as one quotation rightly states “*adversity introduces a man to himself.*” Pain is a language unto itself, it has a way of speaking to us about us that no other language form can communicate. For the deeply spiritual, suffering and pain can even speak the language of God. “*God whispers to us in our pleasures ... but shouts in our pains: it is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world.*” (C.S. Lewis) We hear of many instances when people who suffer from great pain or sickness suddenly get transformed by their suffering into meek and uncomplaining beings. They have heard God’s message through their suffering!

Secondly, we may not welcome suffering and the discomfort it brings, but the truth of the matter is that it is necessary for us to live! This might seem contradictory because suffering is viewed as decreasing life and the quality of life, so why is it necessary to life? I chanced upon a medical program on TV that talked about cleansing and detoxifying the body. Hard as it may seem to believe, a doctor was explaining that it is unhealthy to clean the body too much so as to eliminate all bacteria; the colon, for instance, is designed to be normally full of bacteria to maintain body equilibrium. If bacteria has its own beneficial purpose, I

guess, suffering goes the same way; it has its beneficial purpose - it has meaning! “*Suffering is an ineradicable part of life, even as fate and death. Without suffering and death human life cannot be complete.*” (Viktor Frankl, Austrian neurologist, psychiatrist and Holocaust survivor)

Thirdly, suffering is God’s unique way of making us survive, helping us find solutions and leading us to a fuller kind of life. I turn again to a TV show I happened to watch in the *National Geographic* channel. (Who says that TV is just a waste of time and only for kids?) It featured very interesting but little known life-forms called “*extremophiles*”. By definition, these are microorganisms that live in conditions of extreme temperature, acidity, alkalinity or chemical concentration. In simple words, scientists were able to discover living things in conditions that normally would not support life: scalding hot volcanic vents deep in the ocean, sulfuric surfaces near land volcanoes and in the frigid permafrost of the Arctic! What does this tell us? Living organisms are programmed to live; they find ways, inexplicable at times, to survive and thrive! It also means that extreme difficulties or threats to life are but obstacles to overcome.

The next time any of us will face a problem, big or small and will be tempted to complain or worse, to give up on life, let us consider the other (bright) side of pain and suffering. God allows us to suffer because He wants us to develop and mature, to gain new insights in life and arrive at a fuller kind of life. For what is life but boredom if there are no tribulation and pain? Let me end with another quotation from an author who was not alien to suffering and trials. Helen Keller wrote, “*The world is full of suffering, it is also full of opportunities to overcome it.*”

— **Fr. Ting Miciano, SDB**



CONTEMPLATIVE OUTREACH PHILIPPINES
will be conducting an

Introductory Retreat on Centering Prayer

Speaker: Pixie Cuisia

March 16, 2012 (Friday) to March 18, 2012 (Sunday)

Please be there by 11AM of Friday, Mar 16.

The retreat begins on Fri, 2:00PM and ends on Sunday, 11:00AM

Venue: St. Bridget’s House of Prayer, Tagaytay

For details, please contact: Anna Marie Llanos: 842-0201/788-7660 or Contemplative Secretariat 501-5231
email address: copsecretariat@gmail.com website: www.cophil.org

“We wait patiently;
in silence, openness,
and quiet attentiveness;
motionless within and without.
We surrender to the attraction to be still,
to be loved, just to be...”
“Open Mind, Open Heart”
- Fr. Thomas Keating

CELEBRATING HOLY WEEK THE "HOLY" WAY

by Frances M. Solinap

(Since I became a church volunteer, I have been celebrating Holy Week "properly" for the past 15 years. Gone are the "Mahal na Araw" holidays of my carefree youth. Instead, I have chosen to immerse myself, not in beach resorts, but in the beautiful customs, rich traditions, liturgy and music of the Easter Triduum. Sightseeing gave way to Visita Iglesia, as night-market "pasalubong" shopping yielded to dawn Salubong processions. In short, I have somehow evolved from avid "bakasyonista" to quintessential Holy Week "manang". On Easter Mondays, I am tanned from praying the Stations of the Cross outdoors, slightly hoarse from the Easter Triduum rehearsals, footsore from the daily processions, yet renewed and "re-graced" with mega-doses of meditations, Masses, and Sieta Palabras reflections...grateful to be a Catholic in the Philippines. — editor)

We take you on a brief tour of the Holy Week celebrations. Make this year's Holy Week holidays special for your family – take a holyday!

Palm Sunday also called Passion Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week. It recalls the triumphant entry of Jesus to Jerusalem as crowds waved palm branches while others covered the road with their cloaks and leafy branches. In the Philippines, the woven, braided and beribboned *palaspas* are veritable works of folk art.

Holy or Maundy Thursday

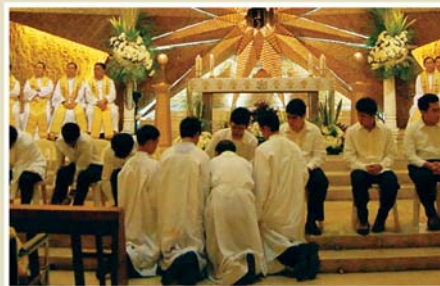


Chrism Mass takes place early morning of Holy Thursday in only one church in the diocese with the Bishop as presider and the priests from his diocese, concelebrating. Two important events take place during this celebration – the blessing of the sacred oils, most particularly, the Sacred Chrism and the renewal by the priests of their commitment as shepherds of the Church.

Paschal Triduum, Easter Triduum or Holy Triduum is the collective term for the Church's rites and celebrations during the three days from the evening of Holy Thursday to the evening of Easter Sunday. It begins with the Mass of the Lord's Supper and ends with the Vespers on Easter Sunday. As Roman Catholics, we witness a wealth of religious traditions, symbolism and practices that fully explains our faith.

The Triduum helps the faithful to remember the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus as depicted in the Gospels.

Mass of the Lord's Supper begins around sunset of Maundy Thursday. The institutions of two important sacraments are commemorated during this celebration – the Ministerial Priesthood or Holy Orders and the Holy Eucharist. The washing of the feet takes place after the homily and shows the importance that Jesus gives to humility of service.



After communion, the main altar is stripped, sanctuary candles are extinguished and the Tabernacle is left open. The celebration concludes with the solemn procession of the Blessed Sacrament to the Altar of Repose evoking the Lord's Agony in the Garden. Eucharistic adoration follows until midnight.



Since early Christian times, the **Visita Iglesia** (church visit) has been a popular Filipino tradition wherein families or groups of friends visit seven or, sometimes, even fourteen churches to pray before the Blessed Sacrament in the Altar of Repose.

Good Friday

Reflecting on the **Seven Last Words** that Jesus uttered from the time of his crucifixion to his death is a way for the faithful to show their solidarity with His suffering in order to attain redemption. These words also reflect Jesus' divinity as well as His humanity.

The **Veneration of the Cross** traditionally follows at 3:00 in the afternoon, when, many believe, Christ breathed His last. NO mass is celebrated this day. The celebrant dressed in red vestments, starts the service by prostrating in front of the altar. The crucifix which is slowly unveiled during the procession to the altar remains in the center of the Sanctuary while the faithful pay homage to it.



Procession of the Santo Entierro and Mater Dolorosa usually follows right after the Veneration of the Cross. The images of the dead Christ and the sorrowful Blessed Mother are taken in procession around the Parish by the parish priests and the lay faithful while praying the Holy Rosary.



Holy Saturday

The **Easter Vigil** which is held after nightfall on Holy Saturday or before dawn on Easter Sunday is the most important vigil celebrated by the Catholic Church. The vigil is divided into four parts – Liturgy of Light; Liturgy of the Word; Liturgy of Baptism; and Liturgy of the Eucharist.

The blessing of the fire and lighting of the Paschal candle (or Easter candle) take place at the church entrance, a solemn procession follows and the Easter proclamation is sung at the ambo. The fire symbolizes the brightness of God's love while the candle symbolizes Christ's resurrection.

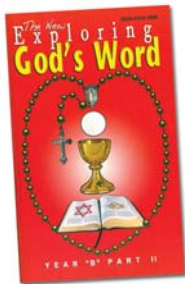
The Liturgy of the Word consists of several readings and psalms from the Old Testament which narrate salvation history beginning with Creation. The Gloria and Alleluia are then sung for the first time since Ash Wednesday, the church bells are once again rung after being silent for two days.



Liturgy of Baptism includes the Blessing of the Water and the Baptismal font using the Easter Candle, the Baptism of catechumens, if any, and the Renewal of Baptismal Promises by the rest of the faithful.

The last part of the vigil is the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Throughout the Easter season, white and gold vestments are used.

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.

**4TH SUNDAY OF LENT (B)**

March 18, 2012 Readings

***2 Chr 36:14-16.19-23** – The Lord punishes his people out of justice, and saves them out of love.

***Eph 2:4-10** – Our salvation is the gratuitous gift of God's love reaching out to us in Christ.

***Jn 3:14-21** – Jesus Christ is the greatest sign of the Father's love for all men.

Theme: THE FATHER'S UNIVERSAL LIFE-GIVING LOVE

As we proceed in our Lenten pilgrimage and approach the dramatic days of the Holy Week, today we are invited to focus on the essence of it all: **God's immense love for all human beings**. His love for us is eternal.

It is patient and wise, kind and strong, resourceful and constant. It is exemplified in Jesus Christ, the God-Man who, out of love, laid down his life in order that every human being might have life, life to the full.

The rejection of God's love through a life of disobedience leads us into the darkness of sin, which produces suffering and death, as emphasized in today's First Reading. On the other hand, the acceptance of God's love in our lives, especially as manifested in His only Son Jesus, leads to the realm of light. Jesus, in fact, is "the light of the world" and he came to enable us to "live in the light" by performing the "deeds of light."

The divine life and light brought by Jesus become ours whenever we open our hearts to him in faith and let him flood them with his saving presence. This is what we do, especially when we participate in the Eucharistic celebration with faith, hope and love.

**5TH SUNDAY OF LENT (B)**

March 25, 2012 Readings

***Jer 31:31-34** – The Lord announces that He will make a new covenant with his people.

***Heb 5:7-9** – Through his obedience and suffering, Jesus has become the source of salvation for all those who obey him.

***Jn 12:20-33** – Jesus is ready to follow the Father's plan to the very end.

Theme: "UNLESS THE GRAIN OF WHEAT FALLS TO THE GROUND AND DIES..."

We are just one week away from the beginning of the Holy Week and the theme of today already introduces us to the basic truth that our salvation is the fruit of the dramatic death of Jesus Christ. Indeed, we have been redeemed at the price of Jesus' life, a life offered for us on Calvary when "the hour" of his Passover came.

To be ready to die that we may live is also the challenge addressed to each of us. If we want the life of grace to grow within us we must be prepared to die to our pride, lust, greed, vengefulness, and any other form of negative passions. It is only when we die to our lower selves that we can start living unto the Lord and we begin to enjoy the foretaste of the world to come.

**PASSION/PALM SUNDAY**

Alay Kapwa Sunday

April 1, 2012 Readings

***Mk 11:1-10** – Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem

***Phil 2:6-11** – A summary of the humiliation and exaltation of the incarnate Son of God

***Mk 14:1-15:47 (Long Form) or 15:1-39** – An account of Jesus' passion and death

Theme: WHEN HATRED SEEMED TO OVERPOWER LOVE

Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem fanned hopes in many that he might lead a revolution against the Roman occupants. But Jesus chose to be the Messiah according to God's plan, rather than the temporal messiah expected by many Jews, including most of his disciples. He had a better Kingdom to proclaim and establish. His mission was to overthrow Satan, and to establish the sovereignty of God in the hearts of all.

His attitude of non-involvement in political matters could not meet the approval of the glory-minded and power-grabbers who wanted to use Jesus for their own ends. Feeling disillusioned, they rejected him as a "useless messiah." They easily became instruments of Jesus' avowed enemies who in a very short time mustered a crowd of easily bought scum and rowdy elements who filled the air with the hatred-filled clamor "Crucify him!"

A WALK WITH THE LORD

The Church has created three sets of specially-chosen Scriptural readings (one set for each of three consecutive years). These readings guide the faithful in their Lenten and Holy Week Pilgrimage towards the Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord.

This Lent, we, pilgrims, meet and walk with Jesus in the Gospels.

1. (Feb 26) The Temptation of Christ in the desert (Mk. 1:12-15)

On the 1st Sunday of Lent, we saw His humanity.

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert, and he remained in the desert for forty days, tempted by Satan.

2. (Mar 4) The Transfiguration of Christ (Mk. 9 2-10)

On the 2nd Sunday of Lent we saw His divinity.

From the cloud came a voice, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him."

3. (Mar 11) Jesus drives out the money changers from the Temple (Jn 2:13-25)

On the 3rd Sunday of Lent, we see Jesus, a man of courage and conviction, confronting religious and civil authorities who have desecrated His Father's Temple.

AND WITH YOUR SPIRIT



In the new response to "The Lord be with you", "spirit" refers to the noblest part within the person of the priest-celebrant or the deacon, and not to the Holy Spirit. It affirms the Lord's presence in the assembly.

Learn about this and more in the Lenten Parish Recollections by Rev. Fr. Ting Miciano, SDB entitled, "Catechism on the New English Translation of the Roman Missal" on March 7, 14, 21 and 28, Wednesdays, after the 6:00PM Mass or visit www.sjbmakati.com

based on the Primer on the New English Roman Missal by Rev. Fr. Anscar J. Chupungco, OSB



Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up. But he was speaking about the temple of His body.

4. (Mar 18) God's Love (Jn 3:14-21)

The 4th Sunday of Lent brings us JOHN 3:16, and invites us to believe in Him.

For God so loved the world that he gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him might not perish but might have eternal life.

5. (Mar 25) The Grain of Wheat (Jn 12:20-33)

The 5th Sunday is special for all those searching for Jesus.

Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit.

6. (Apr 1) Hosanna to Christ the King! (Jn 12:20-33)

On Palm Sunday, we rejoice as Jesus enters Jerusalem.

Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields. Those preceding him as well as those following kept crying out: "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!"

7. (Apr 5) The Breaking of the Bread (Jn 13:1-15)

On the evening of Holy Thursday, we celebrate the Mass of the Lord's Supper. We recall that during the Meal, Jesus gave us a new commandment.

"Do you realize what I have done for you? You call me 'teacher' and 'master,' and rightly so, for indeed I am. If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another's feet."

8. (Apr 6) The Passion of Christ (Jn 18:1-19)

On Friday, we listen as St. John tells the Story about the Passion and Death of our Savior. Jesus' last words were:

"It is finished." And bowing His head, He handed over the spirit.

(With our thanks to Reverend Fr. Kevin Joseph McHugh, MSSC)



The Mystery of Faith

Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again

A PASCHAL TRIDUUM RECOLLECTION

featuring three of the Philippines most respected theologians

FR. FRANCIS GUSTILO, SDB - Holy Thursday, April 5

FR. CATALINO AREVALO, SJ - Good Friday, April 6

TBA - Holy Saturday, April 7

9:00AM – 11:00AM SJB Parish Church

APRIL 2012 CALENDAR

- 30 Mar** Live Way of the Cross c/o YM (Dulo) - 7PM
- 01 Sun** **Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion/ Alay Kapwa Sunday/**
- 04 Wed** **Holy Wednesday/** Live Way of the Cross c/o YM (SLV) - 8AM
- 05 Thu** **Chrism Mass** (Manila Cathedral) - 7AM/ **Holy Week Recollection** - Mystery of Faith - 9-11AM/ **Mass of the Lord's Supper** - 6PM (Church) / Reposition of the Holy Eucharist/ Visita Iglesia at Altar of Repose (Church)
- 06 Fri** **Good Friday/ Morning Praise** - 7:30AM/ **Holy Week Recollection** - Mystery of Faith - 9-11AM/ **Seven Last Words** - 12NN/ **Celebration of the Lord's Passion** - 3PM/ **Procession of Santo Entierro and Mater Dolorosa**
- 07 Sat** **Holy Saturday/ Morning Praise** - 7:30AM/ **Holy Week Recollection** - Mystery of Faith - 9-11AM/ **EASTER VIGIL** - 10PM with Adult Baptism/ **Salubong**
- 08 Sun** **EASTER SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S RESURRECTION/** Sunday Mass schedule except no 6AM Mass
- 15 Sun** **2nd Sunday of Easter/ Divine Mercy Sunday**
- 22 Sun** **3rd Sunday of Easter**
- 23 Mon** St. George
- 25 Wed** St. Mark the Evangelist
- 27 Fri** YE Facilitator's Seminar (Tabor House) c/o YM
- 28 Sat** St. Peter Chanel / St. Louis de Monfort
- 29 Sun** **4th Sunday of Easter/ Good Shepherd Sunday/ World Day Prayer for Vocations**
- 30 Mon** **Pope St. Pius V**

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 April 2012 Calendar
<http://sjbmakati.com/parish-events.html>



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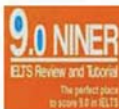
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The Stations of the Cross in the garden beside the church which are being refurbished and landscaped by the Maintenance Department in time for Holy Week under the direction of Rev. Fr. Arthur Hizon, SDB.

THE HHS CONTRACEPTION MANDATE AND THE RH BILL

This year, as the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Annunciation on March 26, coinciding with the International Day of the Unborn Child, common issues confront the faithful in two nations as they defend their rights to uphold the sacredness of life.

BACKGROUND ON THE HHS MANDATE

by Caren Rebenito

In February, 2012, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under Obama's administration finalized "without change" a mandate that health insurance plans include in their coverage, contraceptive services for women based on the premise that easily accessible birth control services would have significant health benefits and reduced health costs for women. Non-profit religious employers who were initially exempted from this rule are given until August 1, 2013 to comply with or incur a penalty of about \$2,000 per employee per year (EWTN, the Catholic TV station, stands to lose as much as \$600,000 a year).

This contraception mandate has roused objections from religious and non-religious groups alike. Catholics, other Christian denominations and faith leaders, and seven US states have found a common thread in opposing the said mandate. It is in violation of the First Amendment to the U.S.

Constitution guaranteeing the free exercise of religion as it compels people of faith, whether of a religious institution or not, to engage in activities contrary to their beliefs. Lawsuits against the mandate are ongoing.

REFLECTIONS

by Dominicanis

In the US, where legalized abortion has been around for almost 40 years and the Catholic Church is being constantly challenged on its stand against contraception, abortion and homosexuality, the HHS Mandate issued by the Obama government has aroused the Church's ire in a classic case of the local saying "*kapag napuno na ang salop*". But how does it apply to us?

We can learn. Observe – governments using legislation to enforce an immoral rule upon its citizens. Imagine – with the HHS mandate, even business owners and religiously affiliated organizations believing that all life is sacred will be forced by the government to provide directly (if self-insuring) or indirectly (through their insurers) for contraceptives (including drugs which can cause abortion) and sterilization services for their employees. In the Philippines (should the RH Bill pass), God-fearing citizens, believing that all life is sacred, will be forced to finance the cost of contraceptives (including drugs and devices which can cause abortion) and sterilization services for their employees or for patients in government



health centers and hospitals. In both cases, present and possible, the government will order its people to violate their own personal conscience! And because these are legal, those who disobey such laws should be prepared to suffer repercussions ranging from heavy fines to outright imprisonment.

There are issues beyond legislation. Only God can give life. The life He gives is both a gift to society and the human person. To work to prevent those lives from beginning or to end those lives once they have begun is a crime against that person, society and God. If the God-given right to life is not urgently and bravely promoted and defended, society suffers and continues its downward spiral into immorality and decay. We pray that the US government rescinds the HHS law. We pray that our government never passes the RH Bill.



The in-house Maintenance Department headed by Mr. Eduardo Dalida and assisted by Mr. Roger Samarita, handles the upkeep of the buildings, grounds, equipment and the construction requirements within the SJBP Compound.

NEWS BRIEFS

YOUTH MINISTRY PLANS 2012 SUMMER ACTIVITIES

by Welly Cuna

The young people of St. John Bosco Parish Youth Ministry, recently concluded their planning for the Summer 2012 activities. The youth went through a 5-week process led by Rev. Fr. Dennis Paez, SDB which covered topics such as Discovering Meaning in Life, the 3 Elements of a Meaningful Life (Something to look forward to, something to do, someone to love), The Problems and Needs of Youth Today. From these formation topics, the youth were able to brainstorm, deliberate on, select and rank the most meaningful and appropriate projects that are educative and evangelical learning experiences.

Each activity has a central focus. It is either Intra, or an activity which pertains to the self, Inter, or an activity which involves the self and others in the parish or Extra, an activity which pertains not only to the self and others but encourages the young people to reach out to the bigger community in which we live. The 5 main activities chosen for the summer are:

1. Bilibid Immersion and Tuloy sa Don Bosco Interaction
2. Youth Leadership Camp
3. Theater workshops and culminating play
4. Youth Life in the Spirit Seminar
5. Fun Run

The SJB Youth Ministry invites all young people to become involved and be part of the Summer activities! For more information add us on Facebook: SJBPM Makati

LIVE WAY OF THE CROSS RETURNS

by Mary Grace Gueriba

SJBPM's Live Way of the Cross returns after a one year hiatus. This year, the dramatization of the passion, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ along the streets of two barangays of the Parish will be staged by DBYC's recently formed theater group.

The schedule of performances is as follows: March 30, 2012 (Last Friday of Lent) in (Dulo) Barangay Pio del Pilar and April 4, 2012 (Holy Wednesday) in San Lorenzo Village (SLV).

Young people (ages 13 – 29) who are interested to perform in this and future productions of the DBYC Theater Group are welcome to apply.

To see SIMBAHAY in color, visit our website at www.sjbmakati.com

IT'S MORE FUN AT THE SJBPM FAMILY DAY



by Beth Chai

On March 3, hundreds of parishioners came together for a fun-filled celebration of the annual Parish Family Day and the launching of SJBPM So Alive@35, a one year preparatory run-up to the 35th Anniversary of the Dedication of the Parish Church on March 4, 2013.

The festivities began with a Mass celebrated by Rev. Fr. Ting Miciano where he spoke of the resilience of the Church which follows the will of the Lord and loves as He does. He also took the occasion to announce the plans for SJBPM So Alive@35 year-long activities which include the physical

improvements of the church building (doors, pews, stained glass, floors, ambo, altar), the Gallery of Saints and the Adoration Chapel as well as spiritual preparations including the Lenten Recollection, Salesianity Formation for Organizations, PREX, revival of Catechism for Children in Dulo and Botanical, among others.

Exciting games followed next, along with lots of refreshments and a yummy lunch courtesy of the Divine Livelihood Ministry and the different organizations. Bert and Violy Magsakay of the Family and Life Ministry and DB Marriage Encounter Foundation organized this very successful and really fun event.

DBYC HOLDS TRYOUTS FOR VARSITY BASKETBALL TEAM

by Mary Grace Gueriba

For two consecutive Saturdays, February 25 and March 3, the Don Bosco Youth Center (DBYC) held tryouts for the new DBYC Basketball Varsity team. About 40 young men (ages 16 – 23) joined the tryouts; 15 were chosen. The Varsity Team will compete in "tune-ups" or friendly matches with the teams of other Salesian Parishes this summer.

The creation of the Varsity Team was spearheaded by the supportive DBYC Salesian In-Charge, Fr. Richard N. Varela, SDB. Mr. Jessie Peralta, a DBYC alumnus, will train and coach the athletes with the assistance of DBYC sports committee head, Jason Cabellon and Adrian Redoblado.

