



SIMBAHAY

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

VOLUME 6 ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2014

NINE DAYS OF JE (JESUS ENCOUNTER) IN THE PARISH OF SJB

By Vi P. Hernandez

One night in 1825, the young John Bosco dreamt his famous "Dream of Nine"*, which had such a profound influence in shaping and directing his life's mission, that less than 50 years after his death, he was canonized and honored with the title, "Father and Teacher of Youth". Last year, for nine nights in December, during the Simbang Gabi (as in *gabi*), Fr. Renato "Degz" De Guzman, SJB

Makati's new Parish priest, shared his dreams for the Parish, which he revealed (one dream per *gabi*) in a series of homilies, entitled **Nine Days of JE (Jesus Encounter) in the Parish of SJB**.

Each night from 15 to 23 December, Fr. Degz guided the assembly in the different ways of encountering Jesus based on a theme, from which evolved his "Nine Dreams for the Parish of SJB".

THEME	DREAM
1 st Night: Simbang Gabi 2013 - Nine days of Jesus Encounter	That Jesus may be the means and the end of the ministry / service of SJB Parish servants.
2 nd Night: Encountering Jesus in the Church, in the Parish Community	That SJB Parish may become a missionary Church with activities that encourage and train its members to be evangelizers.
3 rd Night: Encountering Jesus in the family	That our Parish community may be an environment where families welcome, pray to and live by the teachings and examples of Jesus.
4 th Night: Encountering Jesus in the liturgy, sacraments, prayers and personal devotions	That SJB parishioners may become conscious that God is acting in all of the Parish's liturgical, sacramental and devotional activities; and that they act only in Jesus and the Holy Spirit.
5 th Night: Encountering Jesus through Mary (God's pray-er) who said "Yes" to God	That SJBP continues to honor and love Mary and learn how to pray from her. - That it will soon form its Association of Mary Help of Christians.
6 th Night: Encountering Jesus in the poor	That SJBP continues and even intensifies its love for the poor, making them feel "at home" in the Parish.
7 th Night: Encountering Jesus in the Youth and Children	That the Youth Ministry, together with lively catechesis for children and youth, will be revived; and that many youth organizations will be resurrected and reorganized. - That by August 16, 2015 (Don Bosco's bicentenary/ 200 th birthday), SJB Parish will be alive with young street evangelizers.
8 th Night: Encountering Jesus in the Word of God	That the Parish community be centered on the Word of God, which will guide all its pastoral plans and major decisions. - That a systematic study of the Bible be organized and spread through the Parish's families and BECs.
9 th Night: Rejoice and Commit to Encounter Jesus Everyday	That we rejoice and commit ourselves to encounter Jesus every day. - We begin by enthroning God's Word written in the Bible, in our homes and our hearts.

Fr. Degz invites all of us to share these dreams with him and make them come true for our Parish, (hopefully, with God's grace) during the liturgical year of 2014.

In this way, Don Bosco's life-mission will continue to live on beyond 200 years, beyond SJB Parish, in the hearts and minds of so many Salesian priests, brothers, sisters and lay volunteers who labor in the fields, factories, prisons, oratories, schools, youth cen-

ters, retreat houses and parishes all over the world – wherever the children of Don Bosco's Madonna, the Lady of his dream, are in need of God's transforming love.

For a summary of the homilies of the Nine Days of JE in the Parish of SJB, please visit St. John Bosco Parish, Makati City, Philippines in facebook.

* "Dream of Nine" go to page 3



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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

JANUARY 2014

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PARISH PRIEST

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ, parishioners of St. John Bosco Parish,
Peace and Joy to each one of you!

Briefly and quickly I wish to again do a "selfie" introduction, similar to what I did at the end of the Masses on the 4th Sunday of Advent, the day I began the ministry of shepherding the parish community of St. John Bosco.

I am Fr. Renato de Guzman, SDB. Friends call me Fr. DEGZ, the short cut of my surname DEGuZman.

Though I had some stint in parish work, this is my first doing full-time ministry in a Salesian parish community. And I am excited as well as nervous because God gives me another gift of new experience, discoveries and learnings.

So please help me in leading the parish community to the way that we should follow, to encounter the person we should be with, to reach the vision we all dream of – in a word JESUS.

The first part of the Ordinary Time in our liturgical year begins with Jesus' Baptism on 12 January, reminding us of our own baptism and our dignity as children of God. This challenges us to live the Christmas Story of God in our personal and family story that we write everyday, though Christmas is over.

Finally, January for us in SJB Parish is a very important month. It is the month of our parish patron, St. John Bosco. The novena days will begin on 22 January. This year, the fiesta will be celebrated on the feast day itself of Don Bosco, 31 January. So please mark these days in your calendar so we can spend time together in honoring our father and patron saint as well as in celebrating our being a parish community.

Fraternally yours in Jesus,

Fr. DEGZ, sdb

P.S. You are invited to the installation rite of the parish priest on 31 January 2014, during the 6pm Parish Fiesta Eucharistic Celebration.



Children offer baskets of flowers to the Blessed Mother, in whose honor the Simbang Gabi Masses are celebrated. The daily floral offerings represent our dreams for the Parish and provide a soft carpet of petals for the Baby Jesus to lie on.



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St. John Bosco Parish,
Makati City, Philippines
&



St. John Bosco Parish Makati
Activities in Photos

A God's Love in a Child's Eyes

By Ian Culibao

On January 12, we celebrate the Feast of the Sto. Niño, a feast that springs from the devotion of our country to the Holy Child. Reflecting on the nature of the Christ child, we see how his innocence and purity encourage us to cultivate the same qualities as the first step towards seeing God. Don Bosco encouraged the little boys under his care to remain innocent – “Run, jump, make noise, but do not sin”. The same could be said of adults who are children at heart. For sinners, it is important to be repentant and be humble enough to ask forgiveness, so that God can heal and purify the heart so wounded by sin.

Yet, we often overlook the fact that children suffer, even in their innocence. When parents argue, or death takes a beloved family member or friend, or when there is bullying or unjust punishment at school – a little girl or boy's heart suffers. How can we justify the suffering of the young, who are so ready to love, if only the world teaches it love?

Blessed Anne Catherine Emmerich said that Jesus, being an omniscient God, knew even as a child how his death will unfold. I look at the cross, and I shudder to think how a child could carry that in his heart. Or that knowing all the evil that humanity could do to itself, especially to the weakest and most innocent – abortion, sexual abuse, child labor, teaching them twisted forms of morality or refusing to love them – he could still ask his Father to “Forgive them, for they know not what they do!”

I believe that we Filipinos have a strong devotion to the Sto. Niño because we feel a deep affinity for children. We love to laugh, to be like children in the way we treat others and the world. Our hearts are light, and these show in our irrepressible smiles. But we hurt silently too, and carry our own crosses as bravely as we can. If we are scared of the darkness and the enemy that lurks in the shadows, we cling to God and in simplicity give Him our trust. In this sense, we have more in common with the Christ Child than we think. He carried his cross too, but he still smiles and blesses. He loves completely, in the way that children can fearlessly and completely love.

To gaze at the Sto. Niño is to behold all the love that God can offer – that immense love that has no breadth, depth or height.

All of that is there in the eyes of the Child Jesus.



* DREAM OF NINE (see front page article)

Simbahay first featured Don Bosco's “Dream of Nine” two years ago. We recall that when he was nine years old, the young John dreamt of a field where unruly children were playing. John was so upset with their cursing, he soon found himself fighting with them. An elegantly-dressed Man of noble bearing appeared, called John by name, and as a gentle rebuke, asked him lead the “wild” children by befriending, instead of fighting with them, by being kind and gentle and teaching them that virtue is beautiful and sin ugly. Seeing how confused and afraid John was with his seemingly impossible mission (after all, he was only nine), the Man introduced him to his new Teacher, a Lady wearing a “beautiful mantle glowing as if bedecked with stars”, she looked like a Queen and was very kind to John. Suddenly the unruly children turned into animals: dogs, cats, goats, bears, etc. The Lady told John that “this was the field where he must work”. And that by becoming humble, strong and steadfast, he would be able to do for the Lady's children, what would happen to the wild animals; the wild animals then became gentle lambs. When John awoke and told his family about his dream, they offered different interpretations, but it was his mother, Mama Margaret, who somehow knew what the dream meant when she asked, “Who knows if some day he may not become a priest?”

From <http://saintbosco.org/books/bosco05/>



Thank God for Gifts !

For the golden goodies, among you, these lines must be familiar, "But summer's not forever more, no matter how we tried—the trouble with hello is goodbye." I remember a friend telling me this before immigrating to another country, years ago. I remember it again as I started writing one last time for Simbahay. Then and now, goodbyes are not easy.

How can one encapsulate seven fruitful years of apostolic work and parish ministry in a few words? How can one distill a heady brew of fulfillment and failings, raves and regrets in one sober farewell?

Looking back, among the events which stand out as most significant and meaningful for me and the Parish I served are those which seem most ordinary. As a pastor, I had given my best to provide the SJB Parish community its daily spiritual sustenance through the liturgy of the Word, the celebration of the sacraments, teachings, formations, by comforting the sick, molding the young, counseling and listening. In turn, the responses I received from you have been overwhelming, affirming that with the Lord's grace, I have helped nourish you with feasts!



While administering the day-to-day running of the parish, and the pastoral animation of a variety of ministries, organizations and touching base with the community of SanLo to Dulo, had often been sustained and inspired by your enthusiasm and talents, yet your appreciation of my own gifts and strengths have been touchingly sincere, the friendships you have offered solid and genuine. And by accepting each other's strengths and triumphs, weaknesses and flaws, we have honored each other as real persons.

For these I am most grateful to all of you . . . and, yes, most humbled.

It is an honor to entrust this remarkable parish to the most capable hands of Fr. Degz De Guzman, one of the few Doctors of Catechetics in the country, a widely respected authority on pastoral work and youth ministry formation and a Vatican-recognized expert on the new evangelization. Please extend him the respect, support and friendships you have so generously lavished on me, that together you and Fr. Degz, through Mary, may bring SJB Parish ever closer to Jesus.

I leave with a sigh of gratitude. "Everything is a gift from God." Beginnings and endings, triumphs and defeats, laughter and tears, "hellos" and "goodbyes" . . . everything is gift.

And as I mentioned during my *despedida*, whenever I would think and pray for all of you, I will remember your faces and recall the story that goes with each face – memories that will gladden this priest's grateful heart for years to come.

Goodbye and God bless you all.

Your friend,

Fr. Ting Miciano, SDB

Lessons from a Marian Priest

By Valerie Averia

Behind every man of God is a Woman. And her name is Mary.

But in the case of Fr. Ting Miciano, the Blessed Mother wasn't just guiding and supporting his pastoral activities from behind the scenes. She occupied the dominant position: front and center.

The ministry of this Marian priest in our Parish ended as a new year began. Our memories with him will be as many as the souls he had touched. For in our community, Fr. Ting was more than a priest of the sacraments. To the sick, he was a comfort. To the children, a father. To the lonely in need of a listening ear, a friend. Throughout his office, he made himself approachable and available. He was a servant to our spiritual needs.

To us legionaries, students of the school of Mary, Fr. Ting was a teacher who used the *fiat* of one Woman to illumine God's tender love for mankind.

Sandals on his feet. A book in his hands. A necklace with a cross pendant around his neck. It is September 2011 and it is my first encounter with SJB parish priest and spiritual director of the Marian organization Legion of Mary. He is a silent, unobtrusive figure patiently standing there as we enter the classroom to listen to his *allocutio*—a commentary on a spiritual reading.

He begins to speak and I watch his otherwise serious face light up, transfigured by the subject: Mary. Every meeting since then has reinforced an observation made on those first encounters: Talk of Mary makes Fr. Ting smile. Mary is the joy of his heart.

As legionaries, we are the extensions of his hands in reaching out to the last, least and lost of God's flock. His instructions in our apostolate couldn't have made his devotion to Her clearer: "Speak about Mary in every opportunity!" "Do not fear loving her," he would often say. "You are safe with her. She will always guide you to God."



God's timing is always perfect. We thank the Lord for the time Fr. Ting spent in SJBP Makati. As we pay tribute to this man of God and bid our goodbyes, we are comforted knowing that Our Lady will guide him in his life's next missions. May he too be comforted knowing that he had created many Marian hearts who will continue telling the world about the Woman dearest to him.

Thank you, Fr. Ting! Thank you for being our humble pastor!



With Thanks and Songs in our Hearts

By Maris Katigbak-San Juan

We were basking in the joy of the Christmas season, shortly after Fr. Ting's very successful second concert "Live the Dream", when he broke the news that his term as parish priest has ended and that, in a few days, he was flying to a Salesian Center in Fujairah in the United Arab Emirates to celebrate the Christmas Season with the overseas Filipino community there. It was a challenging moment that crushed our spirits in a season of celebration.

His announcement and departure came like the Christmas rush. He was gone before many of his friends could say goodbye, or wish him well or even greet him a Merry Christmas.

Happily, Fr. Ting was not gone for very long; soon it was the 29th of December, he was coming home. Less

than 24 hours after arrival, he graciously set aside his jet lag to join some parishioners in a welcome dinner hosted by Lito Yabut at his residence.

The next day, National Heroes Day, many more came to honor their own "hero" for the years that he had served them. The Roozen Hall was filled with parishioners from *SanLo* to *Dulo*, with benefactors, friends and members of the different organizations coming forward to offer their personal messages of gratitude. Words of praise, admiration, love and thanksgiving resounded across the room, while other words remained unspoken, expressed instead as hitherto unshed tears. A tarpaulin filled with handwritten messages of grateful affection was then presented to Fr. Ting. The messages were from the many people whose lives he had touched.

From the start, Fr. Ting wanted the

affair to be a celebration. And he made sure it was. To thank the many who came, in a way that only he can, Fr. Ting joined the SJB Chorale in an impromptu mini-concert, reprising songs from the *Tin1g* and *Live the Dream* concerts. A more appreciative audience one could not ask for, a more memorable finish to one of the most well-attended *despedidas* in the Parish one could not recall, as the evening literally and figuratively, ended on a joyful note.

In closing, let me share a quotation from John F. Kennedy "As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them." With grateful hearts, we say thank you, Fr. Ting, for being a beloved parish priest to all of us. As our shepherd for almost four wonderful and grace-filled years, you will always have a special place in our hearts.

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.

Listen to Fr. Salvatore Putzu, SDB (General Manager and Editor, Word and Life) at *Bisperas sa Veritas* 846 AM, 5pm Saturday.



BAPTISM OF THE LORD (A)

12 January 2014 Readings

***Is 42:1-4.6-7** – God introduces His Anointed One

***Acts 10:34-38** – Jesus is the promised Messiah.

***Mt 3:13-17** – At his baptism, Jesus is proclaimed "Beloved Son" by the Father

Theme: JESUS, THE SON/SERVANT OF THE LORD

Jesus' baptism in the Jordan River is the second "epiphany," i.e., the second manifestation of his identity and mission. Today the revelation goes a step further than last Sunday because it presents him as the "Son-Servant" whom the Father anoints and sends to bring light and salvation to all mankind.

But Jesus' mission will entail much more than just "being good to people." It will entail taking upon himself the crushing weight of mankind's sinfulness. This is, actually, the final reason for his coming to earth and he will not back off. His seeking to be baptized in the company of repentant sinners is his first official step in identifying with sinful mankind and in paying the supreme price his mission will entail.

FEAST OF THE STO. NIÑO (A)

19 January 2014 Readings

***Is 9:1-3.5-6** – The Child who brings peace and justice

***Eph 1:3-6.15-18** – Praise to God for having chosen us in Christ

***Mt 18:1-6.10** – Child-like simplicity and innocence and gateways to the Kingdom

Theme: THE CALL TO RESPECT AND LOVE CHILDREN AND YOUTH

We Filipinos are noted for our devotion to the Sto. Niño. We enthrone and honor his image not only in the family altar, but also in the place where we work and even in our cars. We carry his *stampita* in our wallets . . . But this is not enough. If our devotion to the Sto. Niño is genuine, it must find its practical manifestation in our concern for the millions of children in our country and throughout the world who are neglected or victimized in many ways.

Jesus loved children and showed his love and esteem for the total welfare of them in very practical ways, as we learn from today's Gospel passage. As his disciples, we are expected to show the same concrete love for the children of our time.



3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

National Bible Sunday

26 January 2014 Readings

***Is 8:23-9:3** – The Lord brings light, joy and freedom.

***1 Cor 1:10-13.17** – Those who believe in Christ must be one in mind and heart.

***Mt 4:12-23** – Jesus begins the proclamation of the Good News

Theme: RECRUITING WORKERS FOR THE KINGDOM

The "Kingdom" is God's initiative. It is the "code name" for His comprehensive "Grand Plan" which encompasses the whole mankind and which will be fully accomplished only at the end of time. The great herald of this Plan and its main "constructor" is Jesus Christ. But he does not do everything single-handedly. In his wisdom and trust in human beings, he wants all to be involved in it. He also invites some to be his special assistants in the implementation of the great Plan.

That invitation resounded for the first time along the shores of the sea of Galilee

2,000 years ago. It has been echoing ever since in all generations and places, changing the lives of those who respond to it. It still continues to be addressed even today to as many as God wants.



PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

2 February 2014 Readings

***Mal 3:1-4** – The Lord announces the coming of His Messenger – the Messiah – who will purify the people.

***Heb 2:14-18** – Jesus became similar to us in everything, in order to be our merciful high priest.

***Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32** – Jesus is presented in the Temple and Simeon proclaims that the Child is the awaited Messiah.

Theme: COMMEMORATION, OFFERTORY AND PROPHECY

The "presentation" of a male firstborn in the Temple was both an expression of *gratitude* for the sparing of the Jewish firstborns in Egypt, and a profession of *faith* in God as the source of all life. Strictly speaking, the presentation was a consecration of the child to the Lord. But the possibility of "redeeming" him through an offering, in many cases, made the rite just a little more than a pious formality.

Not so in the case of Jesus. His presentation in the Temple was a solemn *consecration* and a real *offertory*. It expressed in a ritual manner the deepest reality of the purpose of Jesus' very existence – to be totally consecrated to the service of the Father.

His "presentation" in the Temple was an anticipation and a prophecy of his self-offering on Calvary for the salvation of all men. God, who had spared the Israelite firstborns in Egypt, would not spare his own firstborn Son, but would hand him over for us all. (See *Rom 8:32* and *Jn 3:16*)

For her part, Mary, his mother, was part of that sacrificial offering not only in the Temple, but also on Calvary, as Simeon prophesied: "Suffering, like a sword, will pierce your heart." (*Lk 2:35*. See Also *Jn 19:25*)

Ika-25 ng Enero – ANG LANDAS NG DAMASCO, LANDAS NG PAGBABAGONG-LOOB

Ni Jon Elarmo

Isang paglalakbay upang mang-usig na naging paglalakbay tungo sa pag-ibig. Liwanag na naging sanhi ng pagkabalug na nauwi sa pagkamulat at pagsaksi sa Liwanag. Si Saulo na taga-usig ni Kristo nang umalis sa Jerusalem ay naging si Pablo na apostol ni Kristo nang marating niya ang Damasco. Mula sa pagiging mortal na kaaway ng pananampalataya tungo sa pagiging tagapagpalaganap at tagapagtanggol ng pananampalataya. Iyan ang kuwento ng paglalakbay ni San Pablo tungo sa Damasco, isang kuwento ng pagbabagong-loob.

Ano ang dahilan ng pagbabagong-loob ni San Pablo? Paano siya naging hindi lamang basta tagasunod bagkus ay apostol pa nga ni Kristo? Paano siya naging katulad ng labindalawang apostol na pinili ni Hesus mismo?

Ang sagot – dahil nakita at naka-engkwentro niya si Kristo.

Tayong mga Katoliko ay Kristiyano. Bilang mga Kristiyano, tayo ay taga-sunod ni Kristo. Tulad ni San Pablo, tayo ay inaanyayahan upang maging mga apostol ni Hesus – “Halina at tingnan ninyo” (Juan 1:39). Ang ating bokasyon ay maka-

engkwentro si Kristo at ang ating misyon ay maging instrumento upang maka-engkwentro ng iba si Kristo.

Pero paano natin makakasalamuha si Hesus?

Makaka-engkwentro natin ang Diyos sa pamamagitan ng pagdarasal. Sa panalangin ay kinakausap natin ang Diyos, at nagsasalita Siya sa atin sa katahimikan ng ating puso. *“In the silence of the heart God speaks. If you face God in prayer and silence, God will speak to you”* (Mother Teresa).

Mapapalapit tayo kay Hesus sa pamamagitan ng pagbabasa at pakikinig sa Salita ng Diyos na nakasulat sa Bibliya. *Ignorance of the Bible is ignorance of Christ.* Kaya nga, mas nakikilala natin si Hesus habang nagkakaroon tayo ng kaalaman tungkol sa Kanyang salita.

Mararanasan natin ang dakilang pag-ibig ng Diyos sa pamamagitan ng mga sakramento. Ang sakramental na pagdiriwang ay “pakikipagtagpo ng mga inampong anak ng Diyos sa kanilang Ama, sa pamamagitan ni Kristo at ng Espiritu Santo” (1153, Katesismo ng Simbahang Katoliko).

Halimbawa, sa kumpisal ay nakikipagkasundo tayo sa Diyos at pinapatawad Niya ang ating mga kasalanan. Sa banal na Eukaristiya naman ay ibinibigay ni Hesus ang Kanyang sarili at tinatanggap natin Siya sa anyong tinapay at alak.

Makakadaupang-palad natin si Hesus sa pamamagitan ng ating pakikitungo sa ating kapwa, lalo na sa mga mahihirap at nangangailangan. Sila ang mukha ni Hesus, sa piling nila ay matatagpuan natin si Hesus. Sinabi ni Hesus, “Anuman ang gawin ninyo sa pinakamaliit na ito ay ginawa ninyo sa Akin” (Mateo 25:40). Pakainin natin ang mga nagugutom, painumin ang mga nauuhaw, patuluyin ang walang masilu-ngan, damitan ang walang maisuot, at kalingain ang mahihina. Sa gayon, makikita natin si Hesus sa mukha ng ating kapwa at madarama nila ang pagmamahal ni Hesus sa pamamagitan natin.

Sa pagdiriwang natin sa Kapistahan ng Pagbabagong-loob ni San Pablo tuwing ika-25 ng Enero, tularan natin siya. Nawa'y maka-engkwentro din natin si Hesus sa ating panalangin, sa Bibliya, sa mga sakramento at sa ating kapwa.



JANUARY 2014 CALENDAR

19 Sun Feast of the Sto. Niño / Holy Childhood Day

22 Wed Start of Novena to St. John Bosco 6:00pm church

23 Thu Novena to St. John Bosco 6:00pm church

24 Fri Novena to St. John Bosco 6:00pm church / St. Francis de Sales

25 Sat Novena to St. John Bosco 6:00pm church

26 Sun Novena to St. John Bosco 5:30pm church

27 Mon Novena to St. John Bosco 6:00pm church

28 Tue Novena to St. John Bosco 6:00pm church

29 Wed Novena to St. John Bosco 6:00pm church

30 Thu Novena to St. John Bosco 6:00pm church

31 Fri Solemnity of St. John Bosco, priest, Patron of the Parish/ Installation of new Parish Priest – Fr. Renato G. De Guzman, SDB – to be presided by His Eminence Luis Antonio Cardinal Tagle, DD, Archbishop of Manila.



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

NEWS BRIEFS

2013 CHRISTMAS GIFT-GIVING

Despite the limited time to prepare, SJB Parish held its traditional Christmas gift-giving program for selected poor beneficiaries on 30 December 2013. This year, the collections from the Simbang Gabi Masses went into purchasing 100 (Noche Buena) gift packs worth 500 pesos each. Ms Aura Lachica and other members of the Social Services Ministry were in charge of preparing the gift packs. SJB Parish Priest, Fr. Degz De Guzman joined them during the distribution to welcome and get to know the parishioners.



SJBP CONVENES THE 1ST PPC/PPA GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF 2014



Last 3 January 2014, a few weeks after starting his stint as SJB Parish priest, Fr. Degz De Guzman convened the year's first General Assembly of Parish servants belonging to the Parish Pastoral Council and the different Parish Organizations primarily to plan for the activities of the upcoming Parish fiesta on 31 January, the feast of our patron, St. John Bosco. Coordinators of SJBP's ministries were joined by representatives of the Legion of Mary, Basic Ecclesial Communities, Zone Leaders, CWL, DBPG and Parish servants assisting in the Eucharistic Celebrations.

The Parish shall announce the complete lineup of Fiesta activities shortly.

PILGRIMAGE OF RELICS OF BLESSED YOUTHS TO VISIT SJBP



As part of the spiritual preparations of the Salesian FIN Province for the Bicentenary of St. John Bosco's birth on 16 August 2015, the pilgrimage of the Relics of Blessed Laura Vicuña, Blessed Ceferino Namuncurá, and Blessed Alberto Marvelli will visit SJB Parish from 24 to 26 January.

Blessed Laura Vicuña was a 13 year old Chilean girl. She studied at the *Hijas de Maria Auxiliadora* ("Daughters of Mary Help of Christians") School and wanted to be a nun. She died of tuberculosis after a life of abuse. She is the patron of victims of abuse.

Blessed Ceferino Namuncurá was born in Argentina; his father was from the indigenous Mapuche tribe. Ceferino received his Catholic Education from the Salesians and even studied to become a Salesian priest. Known as the "Lily of Patagonia", he is revered as a model of youthful holiness and selflessness.

Blessed Alberto Marvelli attended the Salesian Oratory in Rimini and, at 18, was elected president of the Italian Catholic Ac-

tion. He was known for his piety and service to the poor. Even as a young engineer in WWII, he continued to serve the poor and saved numerous people from deportation to the concentration camps and safeguarded the Blessed Sacrament.



Congratulations, Mr. Mark Philip M. Ragos, SJBP Knights of the Altar Animator, for placing 9th in the recently concluded Licensure Examination for Teachers (Secondary Level), besting thousands of other examinees. Well done, Mark!