

# August 2015 Parish Medical and Dental Mission

**“We can’t help everyone, but everyone can help someone.”**

**-Ronald Reagan**

In line to our Kingly Mission as Christians which is to serve others, our parish once again conducted a Medical and Dental mission for this month.

We welcomed more than a hundred new beneficiaries of the Medical and Dental Mission this month! Another mission was fulfilled for the well being of our brothers and sisters. Thank you to all our volunteers.

To those who would like to avail of this service or become a volunteer, you may join us every 2nd Friday of the Month.

For more pictures, please check our Facebook album [here](#).

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## Zone 2 Celebrates Twin Fiesta

Our two chapels at Zone 2, Barangay Carmen will celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel on July 16. The officers of these 2 chapels had a meeting with Fr. Joel and agreed that their fiesta celebration will no longer be Birhen Sa Kota but Our Lady of Mount Carmel (OLMC). Both chapels are under the patronage of Our Lady under this title. Though their patron is Our Lady of Mount Carmel and is located at Carmen, they are not part of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish but part of Sacred Heart Parish, our Parish.

**Fiesta Preparations**

To prepare for the fiesta, the community started their novena on July 7. This will last until July 15. During the novena days, the two communities also had their community recollection. This was given by Br. Gary Manansala, SSS. The OLMC – Binonoan Community had theirs on July 9 and the OLMC – Oro Chain Community on July 13. Br. Gary gave a one hour talk in the evening of those days at the 2 chapels about Our Lady of Mt. Carmel.

A film showing was also done in the two chapels. These films were about values on family relationships and on friendship. On July 14, the two communities will have joint children's which at OLMC – Oro Chain Village Chapel. In the morning of the 15<sup>th</sup> of July, the two communities will have a joint procession of Our Lady around the area of Zone 2, Carmen.

### **Two Fiesta Mass at the 2 Chapels**

Both communities will have their separate fiesta Mass at 9:30 in the morning. After which, the priests will go around to bless their houses.

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## **Birhen sa Kota Feast Day, Celebrated by Zone 2, Barangay Carmen**

JULY 16, 2013– Brgy. Carmen Zone-2 celebrated its first annual fiesta in honor of *Birhen sa Kota* at their new Chapel last July 16, 2013.

Fr. Joel Lasutaz, SSS, presided the Holy Mass in honor of **Birhen sa Kota**. In his homily, he explained the origin and

the significance of the Birhen sa Kota. [*Birhen* means, the Virgin Mary; and *Kota*, means, a fortress. Thus, Our Lady of the Fortress[1]. According to Fr. Joel, the *Birhen sa Kota* protected a fortress in Cagayan de Oro. During the World War-II, people were so afraid of the Japanese who happened to pass by their place. The people went on hiding, they have been praying to Our Lady to protect them. Until now, the people claimed that the [Birhen sa Kota](#) miraculously hid them from the occupying Japanese soldiers so they were never been attacked. The *Birhen sa Kota* is a small image of the Virgin Mary. It is now enshrined at St. Augustine Metropolitan Cathedral in the Archdiocese of Cagayan de Oro.

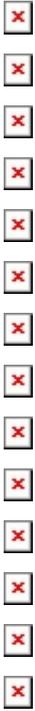
The homily was followed by children's Baptism. Infants and children up to six years old were baptized. During the offertory, the people generously gave more of their donations for the on-going construction of the new Chapel dedicated to the Birhen sa Kota. There were, at least, 70 people who received the Holy Eucharist. There were more than a hundred people who attended the Fiesta-Mass in honor of the *Birhen sa Kota*. They included children and adults parishioners.

Before the end of the Fiesta-Mass celebration in honor of the Birhen sa Kota, Fr. Joel thanked the people for their generous support for the on-going construction of their community chapel. He encouraged them to pray piously to the *Birhen sa Kota* to protect them, especially from floods and other natural calamities and from all physical and spiritual harm.

After the Fiesta-Mass in honor of the Birhen sa Kota, house blessings followed. (Br. Dennis Marquez, SSS)

Here are some pictures taken during the community fiesta:





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[1] <http://www.sunstar.com.ph/author/1550/antonio-j-ledesma-sj> (accessed July 16, 2013).

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