

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).

Eucharistic Saint of the Week: St. Peter Julian Eymard, Apostle of the Eucharist

The life and activity of Saint Peter Julian Eymard was entirely centered on the mystery of the Eucharist. Initially he approached it with the theology of his time, stressing particularly the “real presence”. Nevertheless, he was able to gradually free himself from the devotional and “reparatory” aspect with which the eucharistic piety of his age was almost exclusively concerned and he arrived at the point of declaring the Eucharist to be the center of the life of the Church and society: “No other center than Jesus Eucharistic”.

Beatified by Pius XI in 1925, he was proclaimed a Saint by John XXIII on the 9th of December 1962 at the conclusion of the first session of the Vatican Council II. Exactly 33 years later, on the 9th of December 1995, his feast day was inserted into the general Roman calendar and he is now presented to the whole Church as an “Apostle of the Eucharist”.

Source:

<http://www.blessedsacrament.com/mission/eymardspirit.html>

Corporal Works of Mercy - Holy Communion with the Poor

To fulfill our mission of responding to the hungers of the human family especially the poor and the weak by doing the **Corporal Works of Mercy** out of love of God, this coming July 12, the second Friday of the Month is our monthly schedule of our 2 major Social Apostolates namely, the Medico-Dental Clinic (pastoral care for the sick) and the Feeding Program for the Poor.

Corporal Works of Mercy through The Healing Mass for the Sick

We will begin the day with the usual Healing Mass, which is liturgically called as Mass for the Sick. This Holy Eucharist, the source of the Corporal Works of Mercy, will be celebrated in Cebuano and presided by our newly ordained priest, Fr. Marlon Reyes, SSS who usually gives deep and inspiring homilies. In this Mass, all the sick are lifted up to God especially those who are participating in the celebration and our parishioners. The Mass-goers write the names of their sick relatives and friends in a record book, which is offered along with the offering of Bread and Wine during the Presentation of the Gifts or the Offertory. This book is placed at the side of the Altar. The Mass continues as usual.

After the Mass, the people are called to the center aisles to line up for the laying-on of hands. The presider prays over on each one so that all their infirmities, be it spiritual, physical, emotional, psychological and social sickness may find healing by the power of the Holy Spirit. We use a

Trinitarian Formula which we draft ourselves: "Loving Father, send your Holy Spirit upon your servant and heal all his/her infirmities through Christ our Lord. Amen." This is just a simple formula and yet filled with faith and conviction that God cares for His people and He heals them for He is a Loving God. This Mass, therefore, is an expression of our faith that true healing comes from God and that medical practitioners are God's instruments.

The Free Medico-Dental Clinic – one of our Corporal Works of Mercy

While others are still lining up for the healing, the Medico-Dental Clinic is opened. People from all walks of life especially the poor, registers for the free medical consultation and free medicine and vitamins. We, however, ask for a very small registration fee of 10 pesos, equivalent to \$.04. This is for them to feel that they at least paid for the medical consultation and medicines and not just given as dole out. It is, in a way, giving them some sense of dignity. Though many come from other parishes, they are always welcome to receive our services. The *corporal works of mercy* inspires us to also welcome non-Catholics and non-Christians. This clinic is open from 9:00 am until 12:00 noon.

Those who are attending to them are volunteer doctors and nurses. Some are student nurses. Our Pastoral Care for the Sick team which is composed of 2 committees, the Medico-Dental Team headed by Edna Eugenio, MD and the Parish Community Health Team headed by Zuziez Rosete, RN, handles this program that fulfills the corporal works of mercy of the parish.

The Feeding Program for the Poor

Our corporal works of mercy this day extends until 11:00 o'clock with another program for the poor. Some of those who received our free medical services stayed and together with

our poor parishioners they are given free lunch. The food is prepared by the Social Apostolate Commission headed by Lingling Buzon who is also our San Roque Chapel Animator. She coordinates the parish corporal works of mercy ministries. Those who come for the feeding are children together with their parents from our poor communities in the Parish and others are street people and children. They number to more than 100.

Making A Difference In Their Lives

The funding for these two apostolates is from the Parish General Fund, which is coming from the share of the parish in the over-all monthly Mass collection and office transactions. There are from time to time generous individuals who give us financial assistance; others give in kind like medicines, vitamins and a sack of rice for the feeding. But these are not enough to sustain the ministry. We need your help. If you are willing to share a little from the blessings God gives you, we are more than happy to be a channel of your graciousness to our poor brothers and sisters. You will surely make a difference in their lives you let yourself be used by God for His people to experience His Love. I can say that they are also doing their [corporal works of mercy](#).

Would You Like to Inquire How You Can Help? Send us a message.

▪ Name*

▪ Email*

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Eucharistic Conference: The Call of Duty

"We are either in the process of resisting God's truth or in the process of being shaped and molded by his truth."

We can never deny how religious Filipinos are. Some people go to church everyday, once a week, twice or even more. All out of love and deep faith in God. The thought of having the Eucharistic celebration becomes truly a part of their daily life. The journey of faith has long been started but has that journey been meaningful and clear to everyone? The cry and thirst for truth is a poverty everyone cannot deny. Yes, we truly believe and tried to be of good worth of God's love but still there has always been a room for learning the faith we stand for. As Catholics, we are obliged to help our brothers and sisters in Christ in any good ways we can. For us, duty calls not only when people asks for help, we help even when they don't ask for it. Many of the us admits that we still have a lot to learn about the Catholic's Liturgical Norms. Not everyone knows why is this and that is. We get inside the church and pray, sing and reflect but through it all, do we know why we kneel? Why we say Amen? And why pray? Basically, we have our own reasons and understanding on these but the

Church herself has the answer. All we have to do is ask and truth shall be rightfully given to us.

Now these cries for learning and thirst for truth are over for the Santuario Eucaristico – Sacred Heart Parish which now offers you the best opportunity you must not miss. The very chance to know what you have not known yet, to clarify all the questions in your mind about your faith and to participate and at the same time help in taking part of this monthly event in the church. The learning process is a step by step walk towards faith. We take one step at a time but each step with faith. This so called conference is where we continue to build our faith in good foundations the church itself provides. Every month, we learn new things and realize what we've not realize before. Reality might be, all these time, under our noses. As we embrace the things we learn and share it to others, we continue the teachings Jesus had started way back a very long time. This conference is a two way process. The church gives, the people receives and vice versa. When we continue to commit ourselves to change, we not only change ourself, or another person. It might be one way to finally changing the course of humanity towards what they say dying church.

The living church continues to enrich the people with good learnings. As long as we believe and do something on that belief, no matter how small it might be, it will always grow like a big tree with deep roots and fruits. Let these roots be your foundation, your stand in life which is your faith. Do bear fruits of goodness and love. Let the church nurture your tree all the time by participating in the opportunities offered to you by the church. Start little and end up big. Come and join the Eucharistic Conference and you will surely nurture your tree. Become a wonderful tree before it's too late. The church is always open to everyone, so start now and grow healthy. Let Jesus nurture you. Come and Join us now.
(Jessica Sarah Palacio)

Santuario Eucaristico Launches Bible Conference

The Santuario Eucaristico, in addition to the Conference on the Holy Eucharist, will launch a Bible Conference this coming July 20 at 9:00 in the morning. This is done every other month alternate with the Eucharistic Conference.

This conference is a response to the unexpressed need to know about the Word of God. Many Catholics today may probably be reading the Scriptures but may find it difficult to understand. To make it understandable, others just simply relate it to their lives. Some others only rely on a Sunday Mass to hear the Word of God proclaimed and deepened on the homily. These are, of course, good and even liturgical ways of learning the Scriptures.

Moreover, Msgr. Daniel Kutys wrote in his article at www.usccb.org:

Average Catholics asked today how often they read the Bible likely would say that they do not read the Bible regularly. However, if asked how often they read Scripture, the answer would be different. Practicing Catholics know they read and hear Scripture at every Mass. Many also recognize that basic prayers Catholics say, such as the Our Father and the Hail Mary, are scriptural. But for most Catholics, the Scripture they hear and read is not from the Bible. It is from a worship aid in the pew.

But we can do more than what we ordinarily do to learn more deeply about God in the Scriptures. I am referring to the Bible Conference we are going to have here at Santuario

Eucaristico. This is not the usual Bible Sharing that some organizations and Basic Ecclesial Communities (BEC) are doing. Since this is a conference, a time for individual reflection and sharing is not provided formally but this is done through the open forum. Nevertheless, we will still do this conference in an atmosphere of prayer.

My main source is the book *“Understanding the Scriptures: A Complete Bible Study”* by Dr. Scott Hann. On July 20, we will start on the basics presented in the first chapter, which deals with *“What is the Bible?”* The topics in this chapter are the following: *“What Catholics Believe About The Bible,” “How the Bible Was Written,” “The Bible is a Sacred Literature,” “The Bible is Religious,” “What “Salvation History” Is?” “The Church will be our Guide,”* and *“How the Canon Came To Be.”* We will try to cover what we can in an hour and half talk. But, if we are not able to finish, we can, of course, continue it on September 21, the schedule for the next Bible Conference since August 17 will be a Eucharistic Conference.

I am, then, inviting all our Eucharistic Shrine Mission Partners to give yourself a spiritual favour by embracing the Scriptures during our Bible Conference. Learn and incarnate the Word of God in your life.

Come on July 20, Saturday, at 9 in the morning. Bring your friends with you. They will appreciate it. I pray that you will join.

Shrine Celebrates Yearlong

Year of Faith

This year is declared as the Year of Faith by Pope Benedict XVI (October 1, 2012 – November 24, 2013). The Year of Faith

summons to an authentic and renewed conversion to the Lord, the One Savior of the world” (Porta Fidei 6). In other words, the Year of Faith is an opportunity for Catholics to experience a conversion – to turn back to Jesus and enter into a deeper relationship with him. The “door of faith” is opened at one’s baptism, but during this year Catholics are called to open it again, walk through it and rediscover and renew their relationship with Christ and his Church. (<http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/new-evangelization/year-of-faith/>)

For us here at the Shrine, one of the major programs during this Year of Faith is the Monthly Eucharistic Conference which aims at bringing the faithful to appreciate the Eucharist more deeply so that they may celebrate it profoundly and experience God’s Love at work in their lives. This month the topic is **“Eucharist: Nurturing Love”**. This will be on December 15 at 8:00 in the morning. Fr. Boy Salvador, SSJV, SLD will be our preacher. This conference is described as follows:

In this conference, we will learn how God’s love nurtures His people and how in a very intimate way is this nurturing love celebrated at the Holy Eucharist and how at this celebration He actually nourishes us. At Holy Communion, God gives us the True Bread from Heaven, the Word made flesh, Jesus, our Lord. He gives us His flesh to eat and His blood to drink. What does it mean to eat Jesus? How does eating the Word of God nourish us? And how does eating the Word made Flesh nourish us? What is the relationship between the Holy Communion of the Word and the Holy Communion of the Body of Christ? As God nourishes us, how then are we to nourish one another?

I strongly encourage all our parishioners and mission partners to learn more about the Holy Eucharist. This is what your being a Mission Partner means. You are our partners in the Eucharistic Mission. Come and deepen your faith in the Eucharist. Learn and appreciate our FAITH.
