

NewsLetter



Baltimore's Cardinal Keeler Graces Fiesta '08

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Message from the Hermano-Hermana Mayor 2008

By Totoy and Tita (Carpina) Cornillez

It was one busy weekend in Baltimore City during the summer of 2008 when we celebrated our Association's 18th Annual Fiesta from August 22nd to the 24th. It was not only the Bobonanons flying and driving into town from all over the US and as far as Australia, but it was also the baseball fans of two popular rival teams in the

eastern division of the American league, the visiting New York Yankees and our own Baltimore Orioles that crowded the city thereby creating heavy city traffic and artificially high hotel and restaurant prices. But these really did not matter to those Bobonanons who along with their families, friends, and guests gathered at charm city

to celebrate with us our most-awaited annual festivities honoring our beloved Señor Santo Niño de Bobon.

It was at the Chicago fiesta in 2004 that we were asked by our Association President and cousin Butch Paredes about sponsoring fiesta 2008 and we gladly accepted it.

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Ganie and Neria Garcia and Giorgio Cerenado will host Fiesta '09 in California

Fiesta '09 will be back in California and it will be hosted by Ganie and Neria Garcia and Giorgio Cerenado. It will be held on August 22, 2009 with a mass starting at 5:30pm followed by dinner and dancing until 12:00 midnight at the Holiday Inn-Beverly Garland Hotel in North Hollywood, California.

A Program/Invitation has been sent by email to some members and is also available for download at our website. Ganie, Neria and Giorgio would, however, like to remind everyone of the following additional announcements:

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Fiesta 2008 Picture Gallery

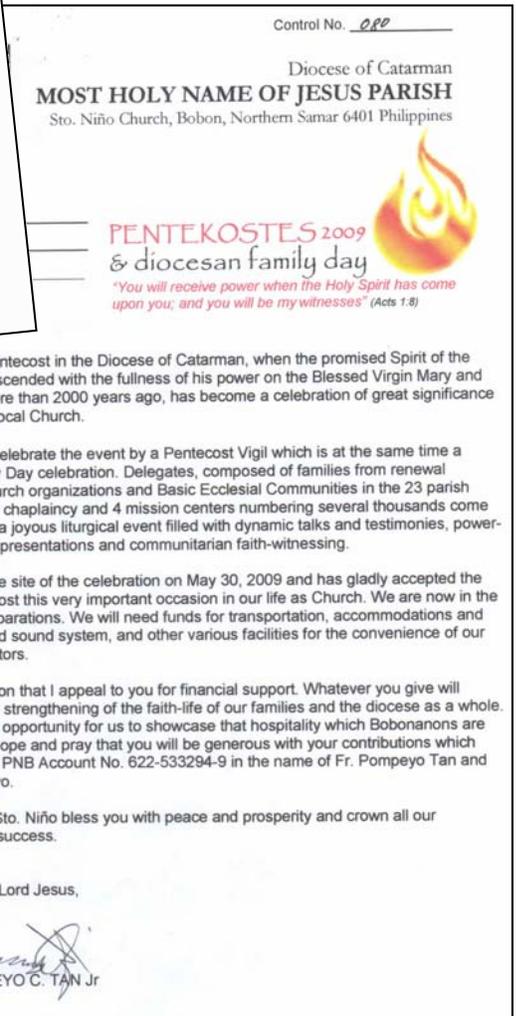
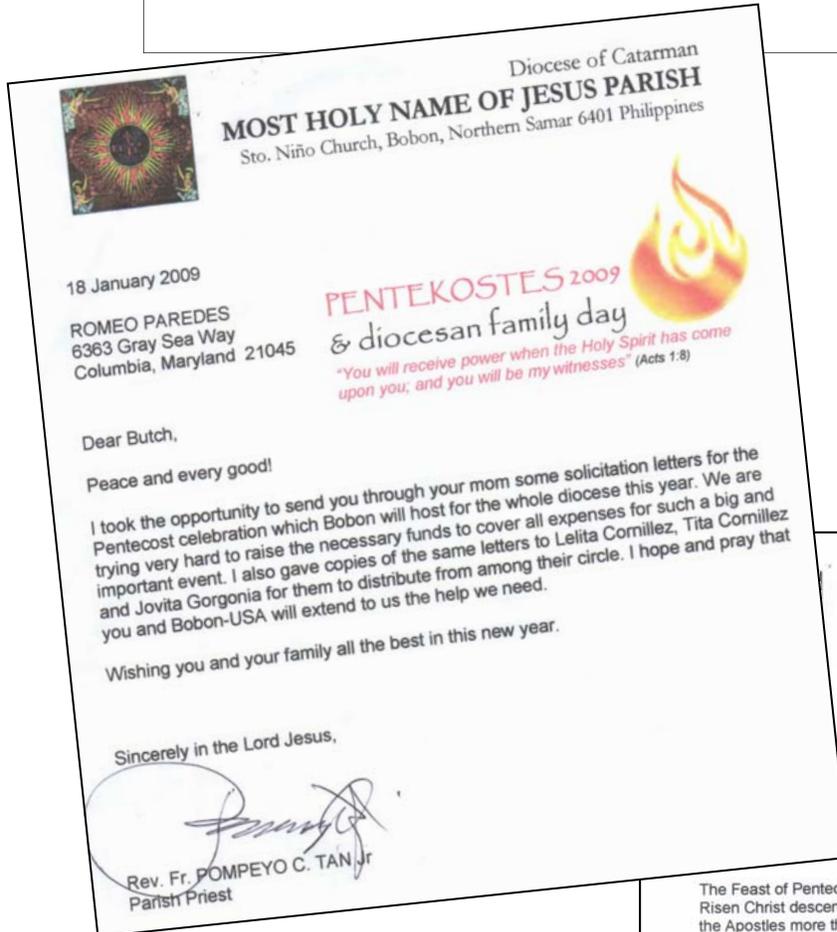
You can view and download these pictures and more by logging on to our website at:
<http://www.bobon.us/Fiesta%2008/>



Fr. Tan Requests Financial Support for Pentekostes 2009

In a letter dated January 18, 2009, Fr. Pompeyo Tan has requested the association and its individual members for support for the upcoming **Pentekostes 2009 & Diocesan Family Day** which Bobon has the honor of hosting on May 30, 2009. Funds will be needed for transportation, accommodation, food, lighting and sound system and other various facilities for the convenience of the many pilgrims and visitors coming to our town. Individual letters of solicitation have been sent to some members already.

We appeal for your generosity and sense of community.



Ganie and Neria Garcia and Giorgio Cerenado (con't.)

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1. 2009 Fiesta ticket prices have been revised as follows:
 - 2 yrs. old and below - Free, provided they will NOT occupy a seat (or a high chair)
 - 2 yrs. old - 12 years old - \$30.00
 - 13 yrs. old and above - \$45.00
2. Attire is semi-formal (no denims, please).
3. If you are planning to stay at the Holiday Inn hotel, you are advised to book early to avail of the discounted rate because there are only 15 rooms available for Bobon-USA Association fiesta registrants. Additional details of the celebration including directions, attire, airport information, places of interest, fiesta ticket information and many more can be found by logging on to our website at <http://www.bobon.us/info.html>. Check out the website also for up-to-the-minute announcements.

The Feast of Pentecost in the Diocese of Catarman, when the promised Spirit of the Risen Christ descended with the fullness of his power on the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Apostles more than 2000 years ago, has become a celebration of great significance throughout the local Church.

Each year, we celebrate the event by a Pentecost Vigil which is at the same time a diocesan Family Day celebration. Delegates, composed of families from renewal movements, church organizations and Basic Ecclesial Communities in the 23 parish municipalities, 1 chaplaincy and 4 mission centers numbering several thousands come to participate in a joyous liturgical event filled with dynamic talks and testimonies, power-filled music and presentations and communitarian faith-witnessing.

Bobon will be the site of the celebration on May 30, 2009 and has gladly accepted the great honor to host this very important occasion in our life as Church. We are now in the midst of our preparations. We will need funds for transportation, accommodations and food, lighting and sound system, and other various facilities for the convenience of our pilgrims and visitors.

It is for this reason that I appeal to you for financial support. Whatever you give will contribute to the strengthening of the faith-life of our families and the diocese as a whole. It will also be an opportunity for us to showcase that hospitality which Bobonanos are known for. We hope and pray that you will be generous with your contributions which you can send to PNB Account No. 622-533294-9 in the name of Fr. Pompeyo Tan and Tomas Añonuevo.

May the Señor Sto. Niño bless you with peace and prosperity and crown all our endeavors with success.

Sincerely in the Lord Jesus,


Rev. Fr. POMPEYO C. TAN Jr
Parish Priest

The Sto. Niño Who Wants to Stay...

By Letty Rodriguez-Cepeda, August 29, 2008

"It was only then that everything made sense to me: the Sr. Sto. Niño wants to stay and be with the Bobonanons..."

For many years, I have witnessed the Sr. Sto. Niño go from one family to another in the different cities in the US. I have volunteered to change His attire from its original to something new and more colorful and regal for a fiesta, which I myself made since the inception of the Bobon-USA Association.

Last year, a new and bigger Sr. Sto. Niño was donated by Steve and Inat Tobes. When I asked them what they planned to do with the old St. Niño, they told me I could have Him if I want to. And so, I brought Him home to North Carolina with me.

This year, my husband and I decided to go back home to Cagayan de Oro for good. I had planned to take the Sto. Niño with us and bring Him back to the Philippines. I packed it

securely for shipping ready to go into one of the balikbayan boxes together with our belongings. This August, I thought that I had everything shipped out but when I looked around to double-check, I noticed a box in our closet. Lo and behold, it was the box containing the Sto. Niño! "Why was I so careless?"

I then decided to just leave the Sto. Niño with our daughter who lives in Florida and who at one time wanted to have an image of the Sto. Niño also. But when my husband and I went to Florida to see our daughter, we forgot to take with us, of all things, the Sto.



Letty Rodriguez-Cepeda with Sr. Sto. Niño

Niño. I told our daughter that I would just send the image to her before we leave for the Philippines in September.

However, last August 18th, I hurried to pack the image for Florida. That morning, my son, Karl, was too busy to drive me to the post office, so the

mailing was postponed. In the afternoon of that day, Butch Paredes called me and requested that I bring the Sto. Niño to the fiesta in Baltimore. It was only then that everything made sense to me: the Sr. Sto. Niño wants to stay and be with the Bobonanons in the US...

...and Go Back to His Home Land!

By Melinda Paredes

Last November, 2008, Butch and I were blessed with the opportunity to take a trip of a lifetime to the Holy Land. Sr. Sto. Niño came with us on that journey that brought Him back to Bethlehem, His very birthplace. Here are some pictures taken of His visit to His Home Land:



Melinda laying down Sr. Sto. Niño beside the Star of Bethlehem.



Sr. Sto. Niño by Himself at the Star of Bethlehem in the Church of the Nativity believed to be the very spot where He was born.

Sr. Sto. Niño with Butch at the manger in the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem believed to be where He was laid after His birth.



Cardinal Keeler (con't.)

(Continued from page 1)

Soon after that, we started planning and preparing, keeping in mind the enormous responsibilities and tasks ahead of us. It was, indeed, a great honor for us to be a part of this tradition, help carry on our own spiritual journey, and provide a chance for us to be once again with our families and friends. For some, the occasion afforded them the chance to tour this part of the country due to its closeness to fabulous tourists attractions and destinations north and south from Baltimore.

For our fiesta, we wanted it to be honorable and memorable, elegant and enjoyable as well as historic. With these things in our minds, we continued to plan for the celebration. The church, where we are registered parishioners and Totoy also a choir member, is the historic Baltimore Basilica, the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the first US Cathedral which symbolizes the cradle of American religious freedom. This living house of worship whose cornerstone was blessed in 1806 and its dedication in 1821 is where our holy mass took place. A



more's Tremont Grand where we had our reception is another historic place. It was originally built in 1866 and after it survived the two great fires of the city, it underwent reconstruction in 1907 and served as the Grand lodge of the Maryland Masonic Lodge. The newly renovated and carefully restored Tremont Grand in its Edinburgh Hall and Inner Chapel of the Ascension located on the fifth floor of the building was the reception hall of our 18th Annual Fiesta Celebration and just like us, other Bobonanons discovered the beauty of one of Baltimore's treasures and a facility

trip to Australia for the World Youth Day, when Butch called to tell us about Fr. Clarito Jundis, a priest from the Philip-pines and a friend of their family. We made arrangement to meet with him and formally requested his services which he willingly accepted. About a week or two before our scheduled feast day, our good friend Linda Lachica who is also the music director and organist of the Basilica, suggested the idea of inviting His Eminence Cardinal William Henry Keeler, Archbishop Emeritus of Baltimore to be the main celebrant of our holy mass. Linda helped us submit our request to Cardinal Keeler, and with the Santo Niño on our side guiding us, we were blessed to get his approval and was honored to have him concelebrate the mass with Fr. Jundis.

that provided a versatile and gracious ambiance for our own special occasion. Fittingly enough it was decided to be a formal evening affair. Both places are just about a block or two apart from each other. Some members and their guests who utilized the



few months before our fiesta mass, the Basilica was just re-opened and rededicated after two year extensive restoration efforts that brought back the original image and "light" as envisioned by then Archbishop of Baltimore John Carroll, and its architect Benjamin Latrobe who also designed the US Capitol. Our association has now become a part of the Basilica's history. The Balti-

Mount Vernon Hotel for their accommodations, enjoyed the convenience of a walk across the street to the church, while the Belvedere where we reside which is another Maryland Landmark is only five blocks away north on historic Charles Street.

We were in search for our mass celebrant since the possibility of Fr. Pompeyo Tan's trip to the USA became null because of his coinciding

As we continued to plan and prepare, more details came to mind like the welcome reception. Again, just as we were discussing about it, Butch and Melinda called us with an excellent suggestion that we host a welcome reception together since they were also planning to host a party for their many relatives and friends who are coming for the fiesta. We decided to hold what we, Bobonanons called "vesperas". Melinda suggested having a crab feast since Maryland is well-known

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"...we wanted it to be honorable and memorable, elegant and enjoyable as well as historic."

Cardinal Keeler (con't.)

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for its crabs. So, with a bushel or two of medium to large size crabs, coupled with all the other Filipino dishes and delicacies and with the help of Lala and Ceasar Garalde, we gathered and completed our menu for the evening.

Being residents of Columbia, a suburb of Baltimore City, Butch and Melinda were able to rent the Jeffers Hill Neighborhood Center which was just the perfect place to hold the event. Many mamaratrons and some guests came and joined the merriment including some of my co-workers and friends from Johns Hopkins Hospital. It was a big hall complete with tables and chairs and all the other necessary facilities for our convenience and comfort. The colorful banderettas and the large and wide Santo Niño Bobon-USA Association banner added to the fiesta atmosphere just like we have them in Bobon. A special table covered in red was set up for the image of Señor Santo Niño, then for the food and guests were the ones covered with crab-designed papers. A portable keyboard was on hand that let Linda, our versatile music director and organist, transcribe our waray-waray mass songs into organ music and patiently rehearsed the songs with Bobonanons with the help of the Paredeses. Adjacent to her was the rolling video camera with its master Lovell catching everyone through its lenses, while the photographer Kimberley walked around and took those perfect snap shots.

Before we had dinner, we prayed our ninth day novena. I led the novena prayer at the conclusion of which, everyone greeted one another with hugs, kisses, conversation and laughter, as children giggled and ran around. After a short thanksgiving prayer, we were all ready to satisfy our hunger. It was a joy seeing those crab lovers tackle and enjoy the taste with their bare hands. For others there were the plastic ware. My brother, Ber, accompanied himself with a guitar and entertained everyone with waray songs. While I was busy trying to sell souvenir tees for our own fund raising effort for the association, I was also reminding everyone to be in church on time the next day. Before



long it was over, and after we cleaned up and said our brief good nights we all headed home. For us, we had to make one more quick stop at Kinkos to pick up the last print job ordered for the fiesta. Now, finally home and exhausted and as I laid down to oblivion, I thanked God for such a pleasant evening.

August 23rd, 2008 on a Saturday our Patron Day, we started the event from our residence where the image of our Patron Saint Señor Santo Niño was enthroned for a year, where we worshiped and honored Him. We were humbled and blessed by His visit and felt the vacuum He left behind. We will forever be grateful and He will remain enthroned in our hearts and minds. After some souvenir pictures were taken with Totoy and myself, and with family members: Kathy, Tawie, Tin-tin, Cheryl and friend Jill, we headed for church. Half hour before the four o'clock mass started, the ushers: Giorgio Cerenado and Noel Cornillez; and usherettes: Cheryl Tobes and Salve Cornillez were on hand to greet and welcome everyone at the Basilica's entrance. Butch who gladly took the sacristan and cross bearer roles, the same for Melinda and Liv Bautista as our candle bearers during the processional, offertory and recessional, were at the sacristy being briefed and vested by the Basilica's senior sacristan, while I reviewed with Kathy and Tawie their readings up on the pulpit. The choir group were also occupied rehearsing with Linda on the organ.

The mass started on time as

scheduled with the introductory announcement of lead cantor Lisa Paredes while I lector. As mentioned before, it was a con-celebrated mass with His Eminence Cardinal Keeler, as the celebrant, and Fr. Clarito Jundis as the co-celebrant. In his homily, Cardinal Keeler made mentioned of his close association years

ago with our own Cardinal Sin and other Filipino church dignitaries, and his endearment to the Filipino community here and abroad. And at offertory he described the significance and symbolism of the centuries old chalice he was holding. The mass was also participated by family members Kathy C. Perez and Manuel (Tawie) Carpina, Jr. For our first and second scripture readings respectively, while I read the intercessions. During the offertory, with the candle bearers on our side as we processed to the altar, we presented His Eminence Cardinal Keeler and Father Jundis with our gifts and offerings while we heeded the angelic voice of Louise Cornillez Keeler with her singing of the offertory hymn of Mozart's "Ave Verum". Lisa and Arpee Paredes, our cantors lead the singing from the choir loft supported by Edna Unay, Ninfa Bautista, Tez Paredes and the entire congregation below. Their voices blended specially with their harmonious singing of the communion songs, and with Linda playing the 2,427 pipes of the Basilica's bicentennial organ, together they brought about our native church and community songs titled: Santo Niño de Bobon, Santo Niño Bendisyuni, and An Iroy nga Tuna to echo the walls of the beautiful and splendid Basilica. Immediately following the holy mass we have a family picture taken and group photography at the front of the altar with his Eminence Cardinal Keeler and at the front entrance of the Basilica. With these we concluded our church activities.

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"For us, we had to make one more quick stop at Kinkos to pick up the last print job ordered for the fiesta."

Cardinal Keeler (con't.)

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The formal dinner and dance reception was held at the Baltimore's Tremont Grand where 143 Bobonanons with their families, friends and guests gathered for the next segment of our festivities. Everyone looked so charming and so elegantly dressed. Emceed by Ofelia (Lala Celespara) Garalde and Nonong (Tony) Abellar, they commenced the program with the customary playing and singing of the United States and Philippine national anthems, Lala and Tony proceeded with their brief welcome and introductory remarks followed by their highly respectful invitation of His Eminence Cardinal Keeler to the podium for his invocation. A welcome address was delivered by our association president, Butch Paredes; while Totoy and myself, as this year's Hermano and Hermana delivered the closing remarks and acknowledgment. The sumptuous dinner was served with each of their choice of the combination menu of beef, chicken, crab cake, and salmon with bread and salad, vegetables and drinks, and the final serving of desserts while a subtle music played as we dined. Subsequently, the night's program of songs and ball room dance exhibition took its own place to the delight and enjoyment of everyone. When we formally opened the dance floor to the waltzing music of the band's playing and singing of "Let Me Call You Sweetheart", husbands and wives, sweethearts then everyone joined in pairs to fill the dance floor. It felt like a wedding party for a moment but the mood quickly shifted to reality after the opening dance ended and the fund raising started with the sale of the raffle tickets. Soon after Lala and Tony announced the first pair of our traditional money dance "curacha" no other than yours truly and Giorgio Cerenado: the outgoing and incoming hermana and hermano respectively.

The evening resumed with the alternate dances of modern, ballroom and line dancing with everyone's participation, while we had curacha numbers during breaks. The rest of the curacha pairs were: Edna Unay and Matt Lindsey; Neria Garcia (next hermana) and Ber Carpina: Letty Cepeda and Bernard Purisima; Grace Adams and Butch Paredes; Lynn Omega

and Joshua Keeler; Dr Myrna Escareal and Giorgio Cerenado. We thank you all for your graceful acceptance and willingness to participate, and for those who helped and contributed to raise funds for our association.

The reception was where we also recognized and presented our door prizes and raffle ticket winners with a souvenir. One special couple John and Grace (Chan) Adams from New York received a compact book of our First US Cathedral's history and restoration autographed by His Eminence Cardinal Keeler for their prompt response to our fiesta invitation. We recognized and thanked Mrs. Jill Smith from Arizona and a friend of Kathy Carpina Perez for donating all of her raffle ticket winnings back to the association. We will not forget our special guests from New Jersey: Joy Whiteley and Gary Cassidy who are friends of Zeny Jao-Escareal, for their most exciting and entertaining ballroom dance exhibition numbers. The terrific rendition of medley of waray songs by my brother Ber Carpina; the harmonious duet of the Paredes brothers, Ervin and Jonathan; the opera/Broadway-inspired songs of old and new as marvelously sang to us by Lou Keeler added to everyone's delightful moments. Our surprise number? Well, it still is. Everyone enjoyed the food, the merriment, the dancing to the beautiful sound and live music of the Ultra

to thank for their hard work to almost satisfactory. (They messed up with our desserts by not serving them up to the allotted time). The beautiful flower arrangements at the church and reception was carefully prepared by Gina's flowers, while her husband Jon and his partner Lee were our photographers. Another friend of theirs Lovell of Lovell's Video kept his camera rolling to capture most of the events from the welcome dinner; then on the day of the fiesta, from our residence to the church to the reception.

Our religious traditional dance "sinulog", a form of worship of our beloved Señor Santo Niño to the beat of the drums, appropriately took place in the inner chapel of the Ascension inside the reception hall and for a good half hour or more, many of us prayed through the dance of sinulog.

The evening's program came to a conclusion with the turnover of our beloved Señor Santo image to the next sponsors for the 19th annual fiesta 2009 to Ganie and Neria (Cornillez) Garcia, and Giorgio Cerenado which will be held in Hollywood, California. Then there was our traditional group picture taking to seal more or less the attendance and finally the Binobonanon style goodbyes and good nights.

Like they say, it's not over until it's over. So, from the fifth floor of the Tremont on to the upper floor, the party resumed at the Purisima and Abellar suite. There, we sat on the couch next to each other. But while they carried on with their conversation, I gradually went into a state of unconsciousness until perhaps everyone else was now totally non-functional and ready to give up until wee hours in the morning. I do not remember when we finally got home but before long we were up and running again with a renewed energy for the

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"Like they say, it's not over until it's over. So, from the fifth floor of the Tremont on to the upper floor, the party resumed ..."



-sonics Band from New Jersey led by Delfin Edralin, Then of course we have the managers and staff of the Tremont Grand

We're on the web!
At www.bobon.us

Fiesta 2010 and Beyond

Rene and Neneng-Paredes Bautista will be hosting Fiesta 2010 while **Amparo Madeja-Bongalos** will sponsor the 2011 celebration. **Lou and Josh Keeler** will sponsor the event in 2012 while **John and Grace-Chan Adams** will host the celebration in 2015!

Please mark your calendars and note that 2013 and 2014 are still open!

Cardinal Keeler (con't.)

(Continued from page 7)

last segment of the fiesta. It was a small going away party for some family members and friends awaiting their flights back home. Soon, it was over and this time, it's really over.

Before we end this article which took us a long time to write and finish (we are not writers, you know), allow us to mention those whom we are truly grateful and appreciative of their efforts and support in helping and guiding us through during the early stages of our planning and preparations and up to the final minutes of the events that took place. To Butch, whose expertise and patience in forming our program, the invitations, reply cards and tickets to perfection to our specifications. To Bobbie, who gave me a crash course on the phone to be a computer savvy because of my less crafty skills on the keyboard and monitor trying to type and print perfectly the addresses for the envelopes for mailing, while my husband Totoy kept on wondering why I was spending too much time on my computer eager to get them on the mail on time. To everyone who did not mind my phone calls at anytime day or night to get their correct names and addresses, or even just to ask questions and answers to help us out. To Melinda for her ideas for the perfect decor for the welcome party that we jointly planned, and for helping us balance the menu while Lala and Ceasar assisted us in completing them. It was Butch and Melinda who contacted Fr. Jundis, and our friend Linda from the Basilica was instrumental in gaining Cardi-

nal Keeler's approval that made the con-celebrated mass happen for our fiesta, and also for her efforts and time spent on our church music and rehearsals. To Louise with our repeated calls to one another to ensure that the Mozart song was part of the mass and to Josh for being with her. To Arpee and Lisa for their tremendous help as cantors. To Edna, Neneng and Tez for their readiness in forming our choir. Oh yes, To Dr. Ed Unay for his immediate action in bailing us out from our church obligation due to my temporary memory lapse. Again to Lala, and to Tony for accepting our invitation to emcee at our reception at the Tremont and for a job well done. To Tin-tin and Cheryl for their productive ways of selling those raffle tickets and for those whom we called upon to assist us with the drawing of the winning raffle ticket for the money, and dinner stubs for

door prizes. Special appreciation goes to Patrick and Juvy (Jao) McFadden for their determination and bravery to come to the celebration from the crab feast welcome party to the church to the reception inspite of her risk of giving birth at anytime during those moments. Baby Lea arrived two days after our fiesta.

To all of us whose presence made a difference during our celebration. We thank each and everyone, our families, relatives, friends, and guests alike. All those who in one way or another in their own special way helped us, supported us, and shared with us their unique talents and capabilities in making the occasion truly honorable and memorable, and one great success of its own. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts. And if ever or whenever for whatever reason during these times we caused anyone any discomfort of any kind, our apologies certainly go to you

God bless us all, our beloved town of Bobon, the Philippines and America.

Totoy and Tita (Carpina) Cornillez
Sponsors, Fiesta 2008

"To everyone who did not mind my phone calls at anytime day or night to get their correct names and addresses, or even just to ask questions and answers to help us out."



Treasurer's Report by Bobbie Cornillez

Balance as of September 2007	\$11,922.65
Petty Cash	42.07
Add: Fiesta Income	
Membership Dues	410.00
Food Donation	4,840.00
Kuracha	2,173.00
Raffle	101.00
Cash Donations:	
Totoy & Tita Cornillez	300.00
Mr. & Mrs. Fernando Ty, Sr.	100.00
Mr. & Mrs. Ben Agos	100.00
Ms. Jill Smith	101.00
Interest Income	
(Oct 2007-Sept 2008)	16.86
	8,141.86
Less:	
Fiesta 2008 Dinner expenses	4,840.00
Newsletter Photocopy-Staples MD	184.44
Web Hosting 2-yr Renewal (bobon.us)	81.40
Postage	94.96
Bank Fees	7.10
	5,207.90
Ending Balance as of Sept. 2008	\$14,898.68