



### A “Serenade for Mary” at Saint Therese of the Child Jesus Parish

**MAKATI CITY, Philippines** - The Music Ministry of Sta. Teresita Parish hosted its first Marian Singing Contest on September 7, 2017 with a theme: “*Harana kay Maria*” (Serenade for Mary). The event was launched in honor of the birthday of the Mother of God, the Blessed Virgin Mary. The singing contest was only limited to the residents of Barangay West Rembo, not member of the Music Ministry of the parish with ages from 17-45 years old. After weeks of audition, six contenders were screened and oriented to sing their chosen song about *Mary or Motherly Love* as their piece for the event.

The contest proper started at eight in the evening with a Doxology by the St. Therese of the Child Jesus Children’s Choir, followed by an opening message of the parish priest, Rev. Fr. Richard J. Magararu, SMM. There were five prominent musicians who were invited as members of the Board of Judges. The night was truly a musical performance since the Music Ministry also invited guest singers and choir group.

The audience was surprised that Fr. Richard has prepared his special intermission number by playing a trumpet together with Gemelson, a youth from the parish. They played two Marian songs entitled *Inay* and *Stella Maris*. The judges, guests, and contestants were given certificates and special tokens of appreciation being part of this initiative aiming at honoring Mary through music. After a serious deliberation, the winners have been finally announced and received their plaques and cash prizes.

The STP Chorale had also prepared a choral rendition of two Marian Songs (*Stella Maris* and *Maria, Bukang Liwayway*), followed by a birthday song for Blessed Virgin. The audience was stunned by this home grown talent. The night was concluded by a closing prayer and final blessing of Rev. Fr. Angelito Pusikit, SMM, the Parochial Vicar of Sta. Teresita Parish.

The whole program of the *Harana kay Maria* was a fitting tribute of the parish to the birthday of the Mother of God. It was not only a singing contest which aim to compete and to win but a

gesture of gratitude for the gift of singing. Musical talent is indeed a gift received from God and must be shared to the community. So, with this initiative of the Music Ministry of Sta. Teresita Parish, musically inclined parishioners might be encouraged to share their talents by joining any parish choirs.

*“I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being.” –  
Psalm 104:33*

*-Jackielou Foster*