



### **PHILIPPINES: The Postulancy and the Mission Team in Cebu celebrate Family Day 2013**

Even how hectic their schedules are, the families and relatives of the postulants came to support and be one with them in the celebration of the Family Day on September 28, 2013 at the Postulancy and Mission House at Lower Calajoan, Minglanilla, Cebu. The purpose of the gathering is to allow the families to visit their sons and to meet the other postulants and their families, and to know the Montfort Missionaries better- the new family in which their sons are now part of.

The wholeday event begun with a Eucharistic Celebration which was presided by the Postulants' Master, Rev. Fr. Norwyn V. Baydo, SMM, together with Rev. Fr. Francisco M. Tacio, SMM. During the homily, Fr. Norwyn thanked the families and relatives of the postulants for coming to give their love and support. He expressed that the Montfortian family is extended to the family of each member of the congregation. He added that it is important for the family to know that their son is being taken cared of by the community and that they fully entrust him to God. They are encouraged to help him pray that he may persevere in his vocation to the Montfortian religious life. After the Holy Mass, everyone proceeded to the conference hall for a program. One postulant said, "No words could ever describe the happiness I have now, seeing my whole family. It is really great that this kind of event is given importance, giving us the chance to see our families, and allowing our families to visit and to see where and how we live."

The program includes the presentation of the members of the Postulancy and the Mission Communities, the lay collaborators, and the families of the postulants; the sharing about the Montfort Missionaries by Bro. Federick B. Yumang, SMM; the sharing about the life in the seminary by the postulants with an Audio-Video Presentation; games, music and dance presentations; the house tour which made the families felt that they are warmly welcomed; and of course the sharing of the foods during lunch and snacks time. All these gave the postulants and their families a quality time for bonding. The whole day celebration means a lot to the postulants, the Montfortian community and the families as well. Having a high level of support from the families and relatives made the day very momentous.

*-Armel R. Collantes- Postulant*