

Diamond and Silver Jubilee in Baguio



Sr. Natividad Lucila, OSB
Diamond Jubilarian



(L-R) Sr. Lydia Villegas, OSB (Sub-prioress), Sr. Joanne Ungay, OSB, Sr. Mary Paul Baul, OSB, Sr. Gabrielle Costumbrado, OSB, Mo. Adelaida Ygrubay, OSB (Prioress)

Originally planned as a simple Eucharist and renewal of vows, like the Golden Jubilee celebration at St. Scholastica's Chapel in Manila on May 1, the gathering at St Scholastica's Convent, Baguio on May 7 was a two-fold solemn liturgical celebration of the Diamond Jubilee of Sister Natividad Lucila, OSB with her 60 years of monastic profession and Silver Jubilee of Sisters Joanne Ungay, Mary Paul Baul, and Ma. Gabrielle Costumbrado. The traditional introduction to the Mass was delivered by Mother Prioress Adelaida Ygrubay, while Rev. Fr. Manoling Thomas, CSSR, presided (Cardinal Emeritus Gaudencio Rosales failed to come for health reasons). Both the entrance procession and the recessional were headed by the cross bearer (S. Bernita, junior sister from Windhoek Priory, Namibia) and candle bearers Sisters Marie Luca and Paolo (junior sisters from Taegu Priory).

The Rite for Renewal of Vows was beautifully executed with the participation of S Nati seated on her wheelchair, signing of the profession card (S. Adele came down to her pew), showing of the profession cards, and singing of the 'Suscipe.' Priory House organist S. Imelda Halili rendered the organ accompaniment with S. Evangeline Madayag singing the responsorial psalm. Tacloban hospital community superior S. Ana Maria Raca did the first reading, S. Lydia Villegas, subprioress, the prayers of the faithful, and Baguio superior S. Mary Rose Zamudio with S. Adele and the jubilarians were at the offertory procession. The simple thanksgiving words of S Joanne expressed the silver jubilarians' readiness for 'the next 25 years of

professed life, while diamond jubilarian Sister Nati quipped, "This (jubilee) will not happen again."

The jubilarians were prepared for their celebration by a recollection during which a 'profession line' was traced and happy and growth-filled memories revisited. The Book of Job with the trials that beset him and his reward was reflective of the downs and ups of the sisters' monastic lives. Finally, the movement in prayer toward a God of Silence ended the recollection.

The presence of about one hundred sisters from the lowlands and as far as Tacloban and Legaspi graced the occasion, as well as invited family members, friends, and oblates. The presider himself came all the way from Cebu; also present with other relatives was his sister, a Dominican religious who came with a group of sisters from her community. The two religious are nephew and niece, respectively, of Sister Nati. Family members of S. Gabby came all the way from Manila and USA—a brother whom she had not seen for the past 37 years.

The altar was abundantly decorated with white and yellow flowers, thanks to Baguio community neighbor and benefactor Nida Whybrow, while the backdrop had the numbers 60 and 25 in silver and blue and the letterings 'God's faithfulness and love' lovingly prepared by the junior sisters. Also festively decorated was the dining area for the guests where all enjoyed the sumptuous meal which followed.

By: Sister Mary Vincent Feliciano, OSB (who acted as mistress of ceremonies)