

## DIAMONDS ARE FOREVER...



These romantic and/or rather commercial-sounding words aptly describe in capsule the vows our three beloved valiant Benedictine Women-SISTERS ANSELMA PALER, OSB, ASUNCION BONAFE, OSB and VERONICA ORIGENES, OSB pronounced last May 1<sup>st</sup> 2013 on the occasion of their **Diamond Jubilee of Religious Profession**. The altar décor summed up everything: **“from the rising of the sun to its setting, may the Name of the Lord be praised!”** God be praised indeed for His fidelity and marvelous works as our jubilarians pronounced with utter clarity and authenticity **“The Vows I have made 60 years ago in the presence of Mother Adelaida Ygrubay, OSB, Prioress, and all the Sisters gathered here.”** The Spirit of joy, gratitude, fidelity and love pervaded the air in St. Scholastica’s Chapel as everyone gathered witnessed this awe-inspiring occasion on the Feast of St. Joseph, the Worker.



*Standing left to right:* Sr. Angelica Leviste, OSB, Mo. Adelaida Ygrubay, OSB, Sr. Asuncion Bonafe, OSB, Sr. Lydia Villegas, OSB  
*Seated:* Sr. Anselma Paler, OSB and Sr. Veronica Origenes, OSB

The Missionary Benedictine Sisters of Tutzing from different communities, families, relatives, friends, guests, former students, formandees (by the way S. Asuncion was my zellatrix when I was a Novice) and our jubilarians’ former co-administrators rejoiced as they sang

together “Thanks be to God Most High” and participated in the beautiful liturgy prepared by the Sisters in the Priory House. Everyone present was mesmerized when the three Jubilarians sang the “SUSCIPE” with their solid “diamond” voices. I believe that everyone felt affirmed in their jubilation when the main celebrant, Fr. Anselm, OSB from the Abbey of Montserrat recognized how fortunate and how blessed we all are to be in this momentous event! Addressing the jubilarians in his homily he said: “your fidelity and love for God through your monastic-missionary vocation is so contagious, so edifying and worth emulating for us, young religious. We thank God for His fidelity to you as we thank you for your great example of faithfulness to God.” In my mind, I added a prayer “may your fidelity rub in on us for the rest of our lives. Amen.”



Fr. Anselm, OSB Fr. Juan, SJ

Our Sub-Prioress Sister Lydia Villegas, OSB, gave the introduction, reflecting on her own perspectives as a young grader in St. Scholastica’s College observing the beautiful ways of the grade school Principal, Sister Asuncion and the Physical Education teacher Sister Anselma and the Nurse, Sister Veronica. She remembered the words of Sr. Anselma “left, left, left, right, left, left, left, right, left...”, and Sr. Asuncion who pointed to the graders’ fingernails every Monday morning to see if they were clean and the silent yet hardworking Sister Veronica who later upgraded the Nursing curriculum that produced top graduates. S. Mary Jerome Pineda, OSB, was our psalmist with her voice soaring high up to the skies like the voices of our SSC College of Music Choir with S. Mary Placid Abejo, OSB on the keyboard and Ms. Monet Balingcos, conducting. And how touching it was to see during Offertory procession S. Fatima and S. Florence push the

wheelchairs of S. Anselma and S. Veronica respectively while two relatives of each jubilarian walked down the aisle near them while S. Asuncion, still standing, also walked with them to offer candles to the Lord- the God who called them to be His own forever unto eternity.

Our concelebrant, Fr. Juan Bonafe, SJ, the brother-priest of Sr. Asuncion shared in the jubilarians' joy as he stayed on until the "salu-salo" and short program hosted by an energetic alumna who sang her tribute to the jubilarians "a capella" at the Caridad Barrion Hall. Sister Anselma and Sister Veronica also made the audience happy when they sang beautiful love songs with their clear magnificent voices. Sister Asuncion was joined by Fr. Juan and nieces and nephews when she sang "Sarumbanggi," a Bicolano folksong. Who would not think that they were women in love of God in their eighties?

And talking about precious stones and eternity, yes, the simple rings that our Jubilarians received years ago turned into gold and now turned diamonds like the Biblical "pearl of great price," forever precious in the eyes of the Lord.

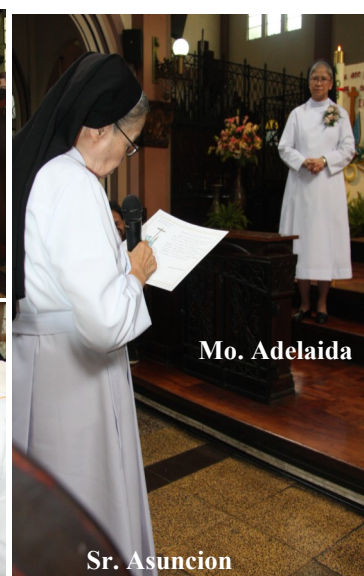
*By: Sr. Eligia O. Cababat, OSB*



Sr. Veronica



Sr. Anselma



Mo. Adelaida

Sr. Asuncion

**THREE NUNS ON THEIR JUBILEE**

*(To the tune of "Three Coins in the Fountain")  
Specially written by Batch HS'63/Coll'67 and SSAFI  
On the occasion of the Diamond Jubilee of  
S. Asuncion, S. Veonica and S. Anselma  
May 1, 2013*

THREE NUNS ON THEIR JUBILEE  
LIKE DIAMONDS THEY SPARKLE BRILLIANTLY  
SIXTY YEARS AGO THEY MADE THEIR  
SOLEMN VOWS  
EACH ONE OF THEM BECAME THE LORD'S SPOUSE

THREE NUNS SERVED IN DIFFERENT WAYS  
A TEACHER, A NURSE AND A MISSIONARY  
EACH DEDICATED TO DOING GOD'S WILL  
AND DEVOTED TO BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

THREE NUNS IN THEIR 80'S  
HONED IN THE SPIRIT OF OSB'S  
GOD BLESS THESE NUNS UNDER YOUR COMMAND  
AND HOLD THEM IN THE PALM OF YOUR HAND!  
SISTERS ASUNCION...VERONICA ... ANSELMA!