



The first Benedictine vocation jamboree was held at St. Peter's College, Ormoc City on the 6<sup>th</sup> of September, 2014. This was planned out during the meeting of the Visayas vocation promoters with Sr. Mary Paul held at the Divine Word Hospital last July 15, 2014. The Ormoc Sisters hosted the 92 participants for the jamboree: 10 ladies with Sr. Claudia from Pambujan, Northern Samar; 5 ladies with Sr. Nicole from Tabunok; 50 students (male and female) from St. Scholastica's College, Tacloban with Sr. Lourdes and Sr. Judith; 12 students (male and female) from Divine Word Hospital with Sr. Martha; and 10 high school student leaders from St. Peter's College. The Tabunok participants were housed at the newly built hotel of SPC while the Pambujan ladies slept at the old Audio Visual Room.

The Jamboree was a one day affair with activities catering to the needs of the youth constantly commencing and ending with the Benedictine prayers; thanks to the coordinated efforts of the vocation promoters and the Ormoc sisters. The guest speakers delivered their talking points well. Atty. Jasper Lucero (an alumnus of SPC) shared the topic on married life, Ms. Erlinda Agsie (former librarian of SPC) on single blessedness and Fr. Larry Miranda, CMF and Sr. Jessica Arante, OSB on religious life.

Sr. Mary Paul was also in attendance to boost the Sisters' endeavors since it was a foremost experience of a Benedictine vocation jamboree in Ormoc. The staff and mothers of St. Benedict Socio Pastoral Center had also a share in the task, that of providing simple lunch and snacks for the delegates and sisters (funds out of their registration).



In the afternoon, while the participants were led to a movie viewing on the life of Mother Teresa, the Sisters had their evaluation on the activity. In general, the goal of the Jamboree was carried out smoothly despite some unavoidable snags and negative comments, but as St. Benedict would declare, *"every time you begin a good work, you must pray to God most earnestly to bring it to perfection."*

The Jamboree wound up with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist and a photo ops per group.

Sr. M. Edita Eslopoy, OSB