

## **Closing the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year of Celebration**

### **Report from St. Lucia**

The 125 Anniversary 1883-2008 ended on the 14th February 2009 in St. Lucia with a focus on how sister and associates can continue sowing, planting, and encouraging the Church to return to moral and spiritual values.

The Day started with Holy Mass at 9:30 a.m. Fr. Stanislaus, a Redemptorist, was the celebrant. Fr. Stan's homily was interesting and very relevant. He spoke on the vision of our founder, Mother Frances Streitl, and the witness the congregation displayed to God's people where ever the sisters served these past 125 years.

With great SSM fervor Sister Christine led the singing throughout the Mass. The first reading was delivered by SSM Associate George Lee St.Jour and the responsorial psalm was sung by Sister Christine. The letter from Sister Sylvia Egan, Provincial, was read by Sister DeLourdes before the blessing. It was a simple yet powerful Liturgy "Let us rejoice and be Glad".

After the Mass we went out on the grounds and planted a tree in memory of 125 years of service. Sister Velorna Marie said a pray of blessing as the tree was planted. Sister Cecile later led the sisters and associates in a lively session on "Call and Response." Some shared their vocational stories on religious life, married life and single life.

At noon we shared a most delicious meal in the beautiful scenic Institute dining room. We had fun and laughter and really enjoyed the goodness of the Lord.

The day ended in chapel with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, reflection on quotations of Mother Frances and our constitutions, *Our Way of Life*. "Thank You, Lord" prayers and intercessory prayers were said.

We closed our celebration with a ritual--sharing seeds and being sent forth. We go to encourage others to fully take part in the Church and The Synod that is on presently.