

Please credit: *PinoyGlobal*

## PRESS RELEASE

*PinoyGlobal* Online News  
FILIPINO IMAGE MAGAZINE

NONYO MENDOZA, Editor & Publisher  
Mailing Address :  
P.O. BOX 40068 • WASHINGTON, D.C. 20016 • U.S.A.  
OFFICE: (202) 370-6446 • FAX: (703) 465-8708  
EMAIL: nonoymendoza@filamimage.com  
WEB SITE: <http://www.filamimage.com>

MEMBER: PNA  
PhilippineNewsAgency



# *Fil-Am Leaders acclaimed OLV Filipino Choir among “SimbangGabi” 2008 celebrations outstanding*

WASHINGTON, D.C., Dec. 29 (*PinoyGlobal*) - The 9-day “Simbang Gabi” novena, concluded last Tuesday, Dec. 23rd, commemorating the traditional Filipino Christmas celebrations where several Filipino-American choir groups in the Washington Metropolitan region presented to mainstream community the Filipino tradition showcasing Filipino songs presented by various choir groups, as well as the traditional after-the holy mass potluck dinner receptions.

“*Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church* topped both the choir and the dinner preparations in the area” observed **Adolfo “Ado” Paglinawan**, founder and reputedly th organizer and spearheader of most of Filipino prayer

groups formed in the region, and former Information and Press Officer of the Philippine Embassy. “Both the OLV Church and the Hess Auditorium were filled to full capacity by the Filipino cream of the crop crowd.”

Added **Claudio “Jun” Pedery**, another well-known and popular community leader of the region: “Like all *TOFA*-led events, the affair was very classy with most, if not all, attendants in their best Sunday attires. The Filipino dishes served in the potluck were abundant with two “lechons”, arroz caldo, adobo, pancit, and many more. The non-Filipino guests were very impressed with the Filipino hospitality. It is on occasions like last Saturday that I am



## *Viduya-led Filipino community of OLV “Simbang Gabi” Choir claimed by Fil-Am leaders outstanding*

Led by choir trainors, **Edith Viduya**, 3rd from left, first row, and **Tony Viduya** first in left, last row, recently formed OLV Filipino choir was acclaimed by several the Fil-Am community leaders as one of the best among the several presentations. First row (l-r) **Farrel May Viduya, Edith Viduya, Emma Capule, Virgie Picardo, Tina Villapando, Annabelle**

**Alcalde**. Second row (l-r) **Cherry Viduya, Meldy Macatangcay, Beng Valdelon, Nelly Payos**. Third row (l-r) **Tony Viduya, Ric Macatangcay, Marye Salud, Ben Alcalde and Mike Viduya**. (*Not in photo: Ado Paglinawan, Virgil Villapando, Castor Salazar, Dr. Bambi Lorica, Aida Mendoza. (PinoyGlobal Photo)*)



*Solemn Holy Mass with Father David Werning, OLV Pastor and Father Jaime Noel Deslate, visiting Filipino priest, concelebrating. In the background are the Filipino choir members in kimona and barong tagalog choir members who rendered beautiful Filipino Christmas songs.*

proud to be a Filipino, and a **TOFA Awardee.**”

Most of the “**Who’s Who**” among Filipino Americans in the Metropolitan Washington, chorusedly agreed the OLV won the admirations and respect of the community’s traditional Filipino “Simbang Gabi” at Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church in this city last Saturday, December 20, 2008.

Led by the **Philippine Ambassador to the United States Willy C. Gaa** and **Minister Carlos “King” Sorreta, Philippine Deputy Chief of Mission**, and other embassy’s officials; Filipino high achievers mostly members of the elite “**Circle of Leaders**” - **Twenty Outstanding Filipinos Abroad (TOFA)** awardees; prominent Fil-Am community leaders of organizations; key leaders of Filipino prayer groups headed by the **BLD** and **Couples for Christs** with their key members, all participated in celebrating the sixth day of the 9-day novena tradition.

Below are some of the participants of the “Simbang Gabi”. **HOLY MASS:** Concelebrants: **Rev. Father David Werning** OLV Pastor and **Rev. Father Jaime Noel Deslate**; Reader: -**Dr. Victor Lorica** (TOFA); Responsorial -**Dr. Larry Yap** (TOFA); Liturgical Offering of Host and Wine; **Ambassador Willy C. Gaa** and **Mrs. Linda Gaa**; Liturgical Offering of Collections: **Minister Carlos Sorreta**, Philippine Deputy Chief of Mission and **Mrs. Maria Sorreta**; Intercessories recited in different dialects: - Visaya: **Consul**

**Rico Fos**; Tagalog: **Mr. Ador Carreon**, Chairman of PAFC- Philippine American Foundation Charities; Ilocano: **Atty. Arnedo “Nedo” Valera** (TOFA); Bicol: **Dr. Antonia Grandea** (TOFA); Pampanga: **Ms. Cathy Manansala**; Cuyunon (Palawan): **Ms. Lolit Villegas** (BLD); Pangasinan: **Ms. Margie Paglinawan** (Couple for Christ); Intercessory on behalf of TOFA: **Dr. Bayani Manalo** (TOFA). **OFFERING:** PAROL (Lantern) **Henry Balagtas** (TOFA) & **Claudio “Jun” Pedery, Jr.** (TOFA)- Represent Filipinos as “Light Bearers” as there are Filipino Immigrants in almost every continents of the world and with them they bring and share the gift of their Catholic Christian faith. **ROSARY:** **Tita Kenney** (TOFA) and **Mel Villegas** (BLD) : Represents Filipinos great devotion to Mary, Mother of God and Mother of all. **PALAYOK OF RICE** (Clay Pot): **Sonny Florendo** (TOFA) & **Dr. Ben Oteyza** (TOFA): Filipino's collective faith that sustain them in times of trials and tribulations. **BASKET OF FRUITS:** **Van Pineda Singh** (TOFA) & **Daisy Tucay** (PRA - Philippine Retirement Authority) Fruits of every Filipino's labor- both materials and spiritual that they willingly and lovingly share with others. **FLOWERS** (Poinsettia): **Atty. Edilberto Atienza** & **Ms. Eileen DeCesare**: Represent that Christmas is at hand. **NIPA HUT & Carabao:** **Ray Cabacar** (TOFA) & **Dr. Nerita Estampador-Ulep** (TOFA) Nipa hut to represent the house and animals, laborers, and farmers of the Philippines. #