

## Victoria Díez an inspiration to teachers in Manila

A one-day Seminar was held at St. Pedro Poveda College



Victoria Díez

MANILA, Philippines (September 15th, 2010).- More than 100 teachers from both private and public schools attended a one-day seminar for classroom teachers with the theme "Victoria ... parang ikaw ... teacher din ako ..." (in English, "Victoria...like you...I, too, am a teacher"). The event took place August 7th in St. Pedro Poveda College, Manila, in commemoration of the martyrdom of

Blessed Victoria Diez in 1936. The members of the Teresian Association in Luzon organized the seminar.

The one-day seminar was divided into two parts, one in the morning and two simultaneous sessions in the afternoon. The first part was on "Classroom Management" with Dr. Emma Melgarejo as the resource speaker. In the afternoon, the simultaneous sessions were entitled "Teaching Math and Science" and "Integrity at Work" with Ms. Jean Japitana and Dr. Ester Bayani as resource speakers, respectively.

The day's activity started at 9:30 in the morning with Dr. Lucille Abad delivering the Welcome and Opening Remarks. In her session, Dr. Melgarejo talked about the parameters for skillful teachers, dealing with different students, the importance of discipline in the classroom and other helpful ways in classroom management.

Before the participants broke up for lunch, the person of Blessed Victoria Diez, whose martyrdom is being commemorated, was introduced to the participants through a PowerPoint presentation about her life, thoughts and example as a teacher.

After the break, the participants proceeded to their respective venues for the afternoon session. Ms. Japitana animatedly delivered her input, relating mathematical and scientific concepts with day-to-day life, inspiring and challenging the participants to be always a step or two ahead of their students. Meanwhile, Dr. Bayani expounded on the importance of integrity in one's profession, the role of a teacher as model of their students, and revitalizing their desire to be good teachers with integrity.

The day was capped with a Eucharistic celebration presided by Fr. Arnold Rex Kintanar. Members



Arrival and registration



Welcome and opening by Lucille Abad



Session with Emma Melgarejo

Session with Jean Japitana

of the Teresian Association joined as well.

The one-day seminar was a tribute to Blessed Victoria Diez' simple yet exemplary life. She was born on September 11, 1903 in Seville Spain, obtained a degree as a teacher in 1923 and joined the Teresian Association in 1926.

During ten years Victoria was a rural teacher in the public school system, where schools had many students and few resources. She worked in the local church, in Catholic Action, and catechesis and was unconditional support to the parish priest. During the turmoil, at the beginning of the Spanish Civil War, she was detained in her home, imprisoned and taken, with a group of men and the parish priest, to an abandoned mine outside the city. On the way, she encouraged her companions, reminding them that they would meet Christ. She was shot at dawn, on August 12, 1936 proclaiming her Christian faith. She was 33 years old. She was beatified in 1993 in Rome, as a martyr, by pope John Paul II.

At the Luzon meeting the participants left the venue in high spirits, bringing with them new inspirations and insights that would help them in their noble profession. It was a collaborative effort of members in Luzon who in one way or the other helped it attain its goals with the Sta. Teresa Group as the main organizer.