

Villars grace Manaoag Feast Day event in New York



SENATOR and presidential candidate Manny Villar and his wife, Congresswoman Cynthia Villar, were guests of honor at the Our Lady of Manaoag Society of America's June 6 celebration at St. Lucy's Church in New York City.

Both legislators were in the United States attending a series of functions, a couple of which Senator Villar had the opportunity to speak to Filipino Americans about his candidacy to the Philippine presidential elections in 2010 as well as touch on recent news and issues in the homeland.

Senator Manny Villar and Congresswoman Cynthia Villar were joined in the festivities honoring the feast day of Our Lady of Manaoag by other high-ranking Philippine officials, including Consul General Cecilia Rebong of the Philippine Consulate in New York, and Senator Alan Peter Cayetano and his wife, Congresswoman Laarni Cayetano, who represents Taguig City-Pateros.

During the festivities, the Villars presided in the crowning of flowers on the image of Our Lady of Manaoag, and assisted in the presentation of medals to the hermana mayores and sponsors of the event.

Among those who were received medals were Hermana Mayores Alice Monis, Carol Olorvida, Flor Dimagiba, Nora Cuevas, Lourdes Ontico, Myrna Ma-

ranan, Nolyta de Vera, Zenaida Jimenez, Elizabeth Edio and Milagros de Castro; and special sponsors Zeny Perez, Rosie Bernal, Lolita Compas, Joe Ramos, Romy & Agnes Mendoza, Benjamin & Remy Legaspi, Bayani & Zita Lapena, Al & Nelly Alino, Ernie & Rexie Dator, Michael & Jocelyn Calicdan, Joji Jalandoni, Ofelia Reyes, Carmen Malanum, Cynthia Ballenas, Linda Mangilit and Lita Solis.

Nida Cortez acted as master of ceremonies. Cortez and Dr. Teofila Santos, who invited Senator Villar and Congresswoman Villar to the celebration of the Feast Day of Our Lady of Manaoag, were the event's overall chairpersons.

A reception followed the Mass presided by Monsignor Oscar Aquino which was highlighted with a short speech from Senator Villar. The Senator was received warmly by the Pangasinense and other faithful gathered at the church.

At the reception in the church's basement, the Villars and the Cayetanos gamely posed for photos with guests.

Aljur Abrenica, a GMA Pinoy TV talent, also made an appearance to the delight of his fans. Mike Braganza and the Santo Nino Dance Group of Nassau rendered performances to entertain the Our Lady of Manaoag devotees who came from the tri-state area. (AJ)



Sen. Manny Villar, Congresswoman Cynthia Villar and Consul-General Cecilia Rebong at St. Lucy's Church.



▲ Sen. Manny Villar places the crown on the Lady of Manaoag.

◀ Sen. Manny Villar with the priest who officiated the mass.



▲ Consul-General Cecilia Rebong, Alan "Peter" Cayetano, Sen. Manny Villar and Congresswoman Cynthia Villar pose with the officiating priest and members of the Fil-Am community.

