

# NEWSLetter



## Alvarez Family hosts Florida Fiesta '17

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Article sent in by Donald McFarland

JACKSONVILLE, Florida — A few years ago, we got an unexpected call from another family member, Shirley Roxas, who informed us that the Alvarez clan will be the Hermanos/Hermanas of the 27th Annual Bobon Fiesta to be held in Orange Park, Florida. Everyone was surprised but welcomed the news with both excitement and apprehension for it was the first time our family would host such a momentous event for the community. And for the rest of us, the younger generation, it would be such a unique cultural experience to participate into.

The first step in the process was to attend the 2016 Fiesta in San Francisco and to formally accept the image of Sr. Sto. Niño. The Hermanos/Hermanas, the Paredes family, as well as the Bobon-USA Association members particularly the President, Mr. Butch Paredes were gracious in welcoming

us (at present were Don & Bonita McFarland, Febis & Jeanette Alvarez, Jovina Gladstein & Marilou Encarnacion) during the affair. They were also encouraging and very much helpful with all the questions we had on what the duties and expectations were.

The next process was the planning and preparation. We all agreed to have a "Star Starry Night" theme in order to make the atmosphere dreamy and magical. The whole family was on board in contributing talents and as well as the financing. Everyone worked together from reserving the hotel, designing the invitations, selection of music for the DJ, planning for the meals to preparing and decorating the Vespera and Fiesta Day venues. Everyone played a vital role in

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**Merry Christmas!**  
and a  
*Blessed New Year*

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## Fiesta '18 goes to Arizona hosted by Jojo and Mydee Vergel de Dios



### Back to Arizona!

Come August, our fiesta celebration moves back to Arizona with Jojo and Mydee Vergel de Dios and sons Daniel and Sam as our Hermanas/Hermanos. It will be held on 8/18/18 at the Holiday Inn Hotel, 1600 S. Country Club Drive, Mesa, Az 85210

More fiesta details will be posted in the next issue of the NewsLetter. In the meantime, start planning for a family vacation to the Grand Canyon state in 2018.



## Fiesta 2017

## Fiesta 2017 Picture Gallery



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making sure all plans were executed smoothly.

On the Vespers day, Friday, 18th of August, we picked the Ronney Hall of St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church because it had a



bigger capacity and plenty of parking spaces for the attendees. Everyone started off praying for the 9th Day Novena lead by Ninfa Paredes-Bautista. Then an informal meet and greet by all the visitors as well as the Bobon-USA Association members. It was then followed by the traditional welcome dinner.

The following day, Saturday, 19th of August, the awaited Fiesta



celebration was held at the Marriott Courtyard. The mass commenced with the procession of Sr. Sto. Niño on the *carro* carried by the brothers-in-law, Don McFarland and Jose Alvarez and the presiding priest, Fr. Rafael La Villa, followed behind. Once the *carro* was put in place, the Mass proceeded along with the Waray music performance by the Association's choir. Right after the Mass, the *Sinulog* started with the vibrant drum beats and everyone stood up to dance in front of Sr. Sto.

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## Fiesta 2017

Niño . Then a break dancing intermission was performed by Zeny Jao's boys, Michael and Sean. Soon it was followed by the buffet dinner, *Kuratsa* dances and several raffle drawings. The night was designed with less program of events in mind



so that everyone can continue to have more uninterrupted conversations with one another, to dance more *Kuratsa*, and to simply just have fun and enjoy the rest of night.

In behalf of the Alvarez clan, we thank all the members of the Bobon-USA Association along with their families/guests for allowing us to be this year's hermanos/hermanas. We are truly honored that you are able to come and support us in making this Fiesta a successful and memorable one for years to come. Although the year 2017 is a trying time for our family, we can certainly say that Sr. Sto. Niño has given us a lot of blessings in various ways and most importantly the process has allowed us to be much closer to one another in order to achieve a common goal.

Viva Sr. Sto. Niño !

The Alvarez Family: Don & Bonita McFarland/Jose & Febis Alvarez/  
Robert & Jovina Gladstein/Shirley Roxas/Marilou & Brigitte Alvarez

*27th Annual Fiesta Hermanos and Hermanas*

*Editor's note:* Donald McFarland further said that this article was originated by Khari-Ann Alvarez-Waters while all other members of the Alvarez family contributed.





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## Fiesta 2018 and Beyond

Our current line-up of *hermanos/hermanas* for our annual fiesta is as follows:

2018 - Jojo and Mydee Vergel De Dios and sons DJ and Sam, *Arizona*

2019 - Zenaida Jao, *TBA*

2020 - Paredes Cousins, *TBD*

Viva Sr. Sto. Niño!

Fiesta 2021 and beyond are still open. Any takers?

If you feel like Sr. Sto. Niño is asking you to honor Him by sponsoring any of our upcoming fiesta celebrations, just let us know.

## More Fiesta 2017 Pictures



## Tips & Other Bright Ideas

### 5 Ways to Cut Your Heating Costs

Winter doesn't have to mean higher heating bills. Here are a few simple home improvement tips you can use to help keep your house warm and your bills under control.



Following these easy tips and tricks can help keep your bill from skyrocketing as temperatures plummet.

1. It's the mantra of dads worldwide – don't turn up the heat, put on a sweater. By maintaining a steady air temperature and changing your body temperature, you'll nix bill spikes. For every degree you lower your heat in the 60 – 70 degree range, you can save up to 5% on heating costs.
2. Installing plastic film over your windows is an extremely affordable do-it-yourself project. Cutting down on the drafts from windows can save you about 14% on your monthly bill.
3. Another source of drafts is your front door. A simple door sweep will keep the heat in and cold out while likely costing you less than \$10 at a home or hardware store.
4. Opening shades on west- and south-facing windows will allow sunlight in during the day. Conversely, closing these shades at night will help keep your heat in.
5. Make sure that you don't have furniture blocking your heating vents. If you have a bed or sofa in front of a vent, your HVAC will work harder than necessary to maintain your desired room temperature.

These five tips should be a simple way to help out with your heating costs.

- Courtesy of <https://www.ahs.com>



**More fiesta pictures are available for viewing and download at our website: <http://www.bobon.us>**