



The Lydian Singers perform at the Advent/Christmas Carol Service in Tortuga.



The food fair attracted many patrons.

# Our Lady serenaded in Tortuga

To the strains of *La Promesa*, performed by Los Alumnos de San Juan, the newly restored 200-year-old statue of Our Lady of Montserrat was carried into the church which bears her name in Tortuga.

The statue is the second oldest image of Our Lady in T&T after *La Divina Pastora* in Siparia.

The December 7 ceremony formed part of an Advent/Christmas Carol Service hosted by the Shrine Committee, which featured Los Alumnos and the Lydian Singers.

The parang group later performed their signature song, *Cantando*, with the Lydians joining in for the chorus.

The Lydians did angelic renditions of *I sing of a maiden; Come, O Come Emmanuel; Ave Maria; Cool Night, Quiet Night; O Holy Night; Plegaria a la Virgen and Joy to the World*. The Lydians' last song, the *Hallelujah Chorus*, was accom-



Los Alumnos de San Juan at the December 7 Advent/Christmas Carol Service at the Tortuga RC Church, with the recently restored 200-year-old statue of Our Lady of Montserrat in the foreground.

panied by *tassa*. The Advent/Christmas Carol Service, which included meditations and prayers led by

parish priest Fr Alan Hall and readings, was the second of its kind at the Tortuga church.

The Lydian singers also performed at the first service in 2011, while Los Alumnos de San Juan were invited this year

in support of the 2013 theme "Year of the Spanish".

"We wanted a parang group that, like the Lydians, was the best in its musical genre, who truly honoured L Paranda and took the time to use correct Spanish and to sing to the Glory of God and his wonderful Mother and ours, Our Lady," said President of the Shrine Committee, Diarr Bertrand, as she delivered the vote of thanks.

Fluent in Spanish, Fr Hall was also in high praise of the event, saying, "*Mi corazon es lleno de emocion y de amor. Quisiera agradecer el grupo Lydians y tambien Los Alumnos de San Juan. (My heart is filled with love and emotion. Thank you Lydian Singers and Los Alumnos de San Juan.)*"

The event also featured a food fair with Spanish and local delicacies, including Fr Hall's ponche de creme and chocolates from Jude Lee San of the Montserrat Cocoa Farmers' Co-operative.

As people sampled the fare, the Troy Chance-led band, *Dulzura de Musica of Mary's, Moruga*, entertained them with some more sweet parang.