

# MARIAN ACADEMY PARTICIPATED IN GREEN – WALK

By Sister Shelly Jhetoo, o.s.u. Coordinator of Environmental Club



World Environmental Day WED is celebrated on June 5 every year to raise awareness of global threats to the environment. It also provides the opportunity for us to consider carefully the impacts of our actions both individually and collectively, on the environment, and equip us with the knowledge that is needed to live more environmentally sustainable lives.

Marian Academy (Our only Catholic School) joined The Environmental Protection Agency in Guyana (EPA) and countries around the world to celebrate WED under the theme “Forests: Nature at Your Service”. This theme echoes an urgent call for all of us to understand why forests are important. Forests sustain life and therefore we must participate in activities to conserve the forests and ensure a green environment.

On the morning of Sunday June 5, 2011 in brilliant sun shine, students, teachers and families gathered in front of the Umana Yana, the starting point of the Green Walk organized by the EPA. Spirits were high as our students and parents chanted:



The rain forest; the tropical rain forest  
Help us save our forest now, help us save our forest now  
Forests give us air to breathe; help us save our forest now  
Forests give the animals a home; help us save our forest now  
Help us save our forest now, help us save our forest now  
Forests give us medicine; help us save our forest now  
Forests give us rain; help us save our forest now  
Help us save our forest now, help us save our forest now.

Our walk ended in the Botanical Gardens, where we were addressed by a member of the EPA, the Mayor of the City, a member of the UNDP and others commending our efforts in observing WED during Guyana Environmental Week and at the same time implored all Guyanese to adapt more environmentally friendly practices. Concluding the programme, trophies were awarded. Marian Academy received the 1<sup>st</sup> prize for the largest contingent. We had over 200 participants. Marian Academy has been participating in the EPA Green –Walk since 1999.



Sister Marie Harper, o.s.u (Principal) and Sister Shelly Jhetoo, o.s.u (Coordinator of the Environmental Club) accompanied the contingent of Marian Academy.