



**MARIAN CHOIR.** Members of the Marian Choir make an impromptu performance by singing Christmas carols at the newly renovated customs arrival area of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) to the delight of arriving passengers and customs personnel during their arrival the other day. Headed by choirmaster Patrick Frias Y. Soriano (right), the choir is composed of Julie Ann Aguinaldo, Claire Dandan, Helen Papeleras, Lady Marie Valmores, Rosalie Mangulabnan, Kristin Tenorio, Marilou Ebron, Ma. Lovella Rivera, Mayette Torreliza, Riza Mangulabnan, Eric Michael Nolasco, Carlo Reyes, Jualius Corre, Thomas Frias III, Gene Albert, Alex Rivera, Jose Roberto Narvaez, Peter Patrick Lara, Rommer Reyes, and Rev. Father Virgilio Mendoza, spritual adviser. (Louie Perez)

## Marian Choir wins awards in world tour

*Wows arrivals, NAIA personnel*

The Marian Choir of the Our Lady of the Pillar in Imus, Cavite, has returned from the United States as part of its 1996 World Concert Tour Pilgrimage after reaping numerous awards and citations in Europe and the United States.

The choir has been dubbed as a "world class choir" and is considered as the first Philippine Parish Choir to venture in a world concert tour and pilgrimage.

The Cavite-based choir ranked second among 20 choirs

from seven nations during the 1996 Ressegna Corale Internazionale di Canto Popolare "Guido d' Arezzo" (International Folklorica Festival) held last Aug. 22-25 in Arezzo, Italy.

In Germany, the Philippine choir was awarded the Silver Diploma in the Folkloric Category and the Bronze Diploma in the Mixed Choir category during the 1st Mendelssohn Bartholdy International Choir Competition held in Essen, Germany last July

17-21.

The Marian Choir competed among 81 choirs from 20 nations and was the only choir that was given a standing ovation during the Concert of Nations in Germany.

The choir was also cited as the "Most Outstanding Choir for Spontaneous Musical Performance" during the 8th International Competition of Chamber Choirs Choarus Camera 1996 held in Rynchnov and Knezou,

Czech Republic, last June 28 to July 2.

The Czech media cited the Marian choir for earning the respect of the people of Ryachnov, dubbing it as the darling of the crowd.

The Filipino choir also performed before Pope John Paul II in the Vatican last Aug. 7 and was featured in the Vatican News Channel twice all over Italy.

The Marian Choir also received several awards during their appearances and competitions abroad for six months.

By LOUIE PEREZ