



PHILDOM

MAY
2017

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE DOMINICAN PROVINCE OF THE PHILIPPINES

A MISSIONARY OPTION TO THE PERIPHERIES + SPIRIT OF ITINERANCY + DEEPER FRATERNAL INTEGRATION + QUALITY FORMATION

Fostering the Intellectual Mission...



Photo by Sem. Nathaniel Pagalan



Calendar of the Prior Provincial

- 4 June - Installation of Br. Giuseppe Pietro Arsciwals, OP, as Prior of the Convent of St. Albert the Great
- 5 June - 401st Provincial Council Meeting
- 6-9 June - Canonical Visitation to St. Antoninus House (Gen. Santos and Davao Cities)
- 10 June - Wedding at the Parish of the Hearts of Jesus and Mary
- 11-17 June - Canonical Visitation to St. Vincent Ferrer Parish (Camiguin Island Mission) and St. Bartholomew Parish (Calayan Island Mission)
- 21 June - Mass of the Holy Spirit at the Holy Rosary College, Tala, Novaliches, Quezon City
- 22 June - Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Colegio de San Juan de Letran, Calamba
- 23 June - Installation of Br. Arthur Dingel, OP, as Rector of Colegio de San Juan de Letran, Calamba
- 24 June - First Profession of 13 Incoming Student-Brothers - Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Colegio de San Juan de Letran, Manaoag
- 30 June - Solemn Investiture, UST Faculty of Medicine and Surgery

JUNE BIRTHDAY CELEBRATORS

- June 1 Br. Juan Ponce, OP
Br. Pablo Tiong, OP
- 9 Br. Edwin Lao, OP
- 18 Br. Felix delos Reyes Jr., OP
- 27 Br. Rolando de la Rosa, OP
- 29 Br. Pedro Salgado, OP

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- 4 June - Installation of Br. Giuseppe Pietro Arsciwals, OP, as Prior of the Convent of St. Albert the Great
- 5 June - 401st Provincial Council Meeting
- Meeting of the Provincial Council of Formation
- 23 June - Installation of Br. Arthur Dingel, OP, as Rector of the Colegio de San Juan de Letran, Calamba
- 24 June - First Profession of 13 Incoming Student-Brothers
- 29 June - Ordination to the Priesthood of 3 Deacons
- 29 June - Blessing of the Bldg. Jordan of Saxony Building, Angelicum College, Quezon City
- 29 June - Lolo Pete Turns 80!

BROTHERS ON FOREIGN TRIP (By reason of Office)

- ➔ 4-9 June - *Japan* - Br. Jannel Abogado, OP - Team building activities of the administrators of UST Junior High School.
- ➔ 15-25 June - *Spain* - Br. Ernest Arceo, OP - Meeting of the International Council of Universities of St. Thomas Aquinas.
- ➔ 17-21 June - *Romania* - Br. Jannel Abogado, OP - International Conference on *Religion in a Secular Society: Challenges and Perspectives*.
- ➔ 19-22 June - *South Korea* - Br. Dexter Austria, OP - Benchmarking activities of the administrators of UST Senior High School.
- ➔ 21-27 June - *Spain* - Br. Herminio Dagohoy, OP - Meeting of the International Council of Universities of St. Thomas Aquinas

REGIONAL COLLOQUIUM ON PREACHING OF THE DOMINICAN FAMILY IN ASIA-PACIFIC

THEME: "VADE, PRAEDICA!" (GO, PREACH)

10-12 OCTOBER 2017

A MISSIONARY OPTION TO THE PERIPHERIES (as a Priority of the Province)

OFF FOR TOURISM AND MISSION: MORE FUN IN CAMIGUIN NORTE

By Br. Reynor E. Munsayac, OP

What can be the motivations of the brethren who gladly offered themselves for the missions of the Province? One motivation may be the sense of volunteerism, of the sublime feeling one gets in extending a helping hand to the people in the mission areas. Or for some, they go there out of obedience because it is part of the continuing formation for the younger ordained priests to be assigned in the missions. I don't know, I could only guess. I am yet to ask our missionaries this question. But I can only speak for myself, about my own experience, who volunteered to join Rev. Fr. Joemar Sibug, OP, the Promoter of the Missions of the Dominican Province of the Philippines, and some other volunteers in a missionary journey to Camiguin Island last May 13-21, 2017.



When I asked for permission from my formators to join this expedition, I told them that I wanted to go because I would like to do some research in connection with my thesis regarding the Province's Preaching of Justice, Peace and Care of Creation. Initially, this was really my motivation for joining the mission knowing that Fr. Joemar would bring school supplies to be given to the students of the island. Clearly, this is a very concrete way of preaching charity, not only through words but also through deeds. I was allowed to go and quickly I packed my things inside my small backpack.

But I have to confess that my excuse of doing research was not the only motivation for volunteering to go to the island. The adventure-seeking part of me came into the picture. I guess my being a Bachelor of Science of Tourism graduate just keeps running in my bloodstreams. Having heard of many stories about this mysterious island, of how

difficult it is to cross the sea that lays between mainland Cagayan and Camiguin, it has become more intriguing to me and the more I desire to embark on this journey. I would like to see, I would like to go, and I would like to conquer and have a taste of how it is to be a missionary even for a short while.



Who says tourism cannot be combined with mission or the other way around? Tourism is too worldly. It connotes pleasure and relaxation while mission is all too spiritual. They are Albigensian-esque contradictions – a body-soul dissection. What is surprising is that the word *tourism* is derived from a Hebrew word, *Torah* – does it ring a bell? It is the same word that speaks of the Jewish bible. But in the context of tourism, it means studying, learning, or searching. The connections between tourism and missions are still glaring. Just read the Bible and one will find that the first ever tourist was Noah, together with his family, who built and boarded a humongous cruise ship (which we know as “the ark”) bearing the mission coming from God to preserve the human race after the disastrous flood. And in the ancient times, tourism had two purposes: for economic (trade) and religious purpose. People travelled for business and for pilgrimage.

Tourism as a means for studying, learning and searching can be applied also to mission. Going to unfamiliar territory for the purpose of mission requires in-depth studies of the place, people and culture. One cannot just go to a place and declare it a mission area without knowing the background of that place. It entails careful searching and whole-hearted learning. And motivation plays a major role in deciding to travel for mission. Motivation enables a person to do something. According to Zenaída L. Cruz in her book, *Principles of Tourism*, the basic travel motivators can be divided into four classes: (1) physical motivators, (2) cultural motivators, (3) interpersonal motivators, and (4) status and prestige motivators. Let me discuss these things one by one basing on my personal experience during this Camiguin mission expedition.

Physical motivators include those related to physical rest, sports participation, beach recreation, relaxing entertainment and other motivations directly connected with health. Going to mission, especially here in Camiguin

Island, is a form of escape from the stresses of city living. The breeze of the sea, the warmth of sun, the softness of the sand, and the picturesque island landscape give comfort and relief from all the tensions one acquires in the fast-paced urban life. The kindness and hospitality of the people of Camiguin bring joy to my soul. The long-stretch and peaceful beach of Naguilian is a dose of tranquillizer for my fidgety emotions. The freshly-caught-from-the-sea fish and crustaceans are delight to my palate. For a while, I was spared from the pressures and stresses which are the major culprits for hypertension.



Cultural motivators include the desire to know about other countries (places) – their music, art, folklore, dances, paintings and religion. We were treated with a glimpse of some religious and cultural treasures of Camiguin when we went to a barrio fiesta in Barangay Minabel. We witnessed the procession in honor of the town’s patron, San Isidro Labrador. The procession ended at the chapel’s lawn where the town folks performed a ritual – a recitation of a long prayer in their native dialect *Ilocano*. What amazed me were the prayer leaders who uttered the prayer without reading any prayer booklet. They know the prayer by heart! After which, Fr. Joemar celebrated the holy Eucharist and presided over the sacrament of Baptism. After the sacraments were administered, the locals performed traditional practices in this part of the country. First of which was a dance ceremony called *Kutiprong* which was performed by some of the young girls of the town. I asked the people from this place for the meaning of *Kutiprong* and its symbolism. Unfortunately, no one could give me a definitive answer. They could only say that this has been practised for generations, even before the elders of the town were born. Then, we were treated again with an interesting dance performance called the *Palo-palo*. This is a warrior dance where the performers are holding hard wooden sticks which they use as weapons to hit their rival, thus the name *Palo-palo*. The last of the traditions we witnessed was a sort of play called the *Komedia*. This is a story about the war between the Christians and the Muslims. It is interesting to consider how they come to know that they have this kind of play when the island was never reached by the Muslims. And the play was directed by an elder who was reading the hand-written script from an old and dilapidated notebook that dictated

the lines to the actors. I asked the teachers of the school run by the Dominicans in the island if they were teaching these traditions to the children and they said they are now introducing these practices to their students. I hope that the people will preserve these cultural and religious practices because they make Camiguin unique from the other islands in the Philippines.

Interpersonal motivators pertain to the desire to meet other people, visit friends and relatives, escape from routine, from family and neighbours. Part and parcel of travelling is meeting people. Same can be said as true with going to mission. Life in Camiguin is so laid back – no one is in a hurry. People are relaxed and that is why they have time to converse with us and share with us the stories of their lives. People are friendly and it is safe to say that brothers who will be assigned here are assured of their safety and security. In my conversation with one of the school staff, she told me that people here are indeed grateful for the Dominican presence in the island as their companions in their spiritual growth. They also appreciate the efforts of the brethren in maintaining the school in the island. This journey also gave me the opportunity to meet new friends, my fellow volunteers who bravely crossed the sea in order to reach out to the people of Camiguin especially to the children. Together with the Dominican brothers (Fr. Joemar, Fray Mel and I), three other kind and brave souls joined us: Rowell Reyes of the Black Pencil Project, Richard Visco of the Juan Portrait Group, and Rona “Ineng” Bana-ag who is a teacher from Lipa, Batangas. In a short span of nine days, six of us created a great camaraderie – shared our thoughts, shared our experiences in life, laughed together, listened to Fray Mel’s playlist together, ate together, did mission together – nine days of happy memories. We also had the opportunity to go to Morol, another barangay of the island. We had to take a two-hour boat ride and another forty-five minutes hike to reach the school of the barangay. We brought school bags, school supplies and rubber slippers for the children there. The teachers of the school opened to us their experiences in teaching in this school located in a very isolated part of the island. They shared to us their hopes and dreams for the children.












Status and prestige motivators *concern ego needs and personal development*. In Maslow's Theory of Hierarchy of Needs, self-actualization and self-esteem are found on the top of the hierarchy as determinants of behaviour. Personally, these two needs were achieved when I took part in this mission. This expedition did not only satisfy my need to travel – to meet new people and see new places, but more deeply, it boosted my confidence that when the time comes that I will be sent to a new frontier, I will be able to take it with an open heart and mind, as part of my Dominican training in itinerancy. More than status and prestige, travelling for mission widens up my perspective which humbles me, showing me that the world does not revolve around me. In reality, doing mission is not bringing God to the place because for all we know, God is already there waiting for us. This is the part where mission is a means for studying, learning, and searching.

It is comforting to find connections of what I have studied in college and the thing that I will be doing in the future. There are so many elements in tourism that can be incorporated to the missions. As a tourism graduate, I am promoting the beauty of the island and the people of Camiguin Norte. As a Dominican brother, I am promoting the beauty of being a missionary. Include Camiguin Norte in your travel and mission bucket list...

ITINERANCY (as a Priority of the Province)

ELECTIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND ASSIGNATIONS

-  Br. Victor C. Calvo Jr., OP, is elected Prior of the Convent of St. John Lateran, Manila and is installed to the Office on May 16, 2017.
-  Br. Giuseppe Pietro V. Arsciwals, OP, is elected Prior of the Convent of St. Albert the Great, Calamba is installed to the Office on June 4, 2017.
-  Br. Filemon dela Cruz Jr., OP, is appointed Superior of Rumah Santo Tomas Aquino in Surabaya, Indonesia.
-  Br. Boyd R. Sulpico, OP, is appointed Provincial Syndic and is assigned to Bahay Dominiko, Quezon City on May 24, 2017.
-  Br. Jerry R. Manlangit, OP, is appointed as Head of the Committee on Bioethics of Cardinal Santos Medical Center.
-  Br. Paul Lovell G. Javier, OP, is assigned to the Convent of St. John Lateran, Manila on May 24, 2017.
-  Br. Roger C. Quirao, OP, is assigned to St. Antoninus House, Gen. Santos City on May 31, 2017.
-  Br. Raymundo H. Bayaras, OP, is assigned to Sto. Domingo Convent on June 1, 2017.
-  Br. Norberto Castillo, OP, is assigned to the Priory of Our Lady of the Rosary on June 8, 2017.

DEEPER FRATERNAL INTEGRATION

(as a Priority of the Province)

FEATURED BATCH



In the course of their Dominican formation, these three brothers shared something in common together:

Entrance to the Novitiate: **10 May 1985**

Simple Profession: **13 May 1986**

We pray as they journey together in heeding God's call!



First Name: **FERDINAND**
Middle Name: **LEYVA**
Surname: **BAUTISTA**
Nickname: "Fr. Ferdie"
Birthday: 28 Oct 1964
DPP ID No.: 198601
Solemn Profession: 12 May 1989
Date of Ordination: 25 Apr 1994
Assignment: Sto. Domingo Convent, Quezon City



First Name: **RAMON**
Middle Name: **TAHIL**
Surname: **SALIBAY**
Nickname: "Fr. Ching"
Birthday: 21 Jan 1965
DPP ID No.: 198602
Solemn Profession: 11 May 1990
Date of Ordination: 25 Apr 1994
Assignment: Sto. Domingo Convent, Quezon City



First Name: **ROBERTO JR.**
Middle Name: **LOPEZ**
Surname: **LUANZON**
Nickname: "Fr. Boy"
Birthday: 11 Oct 1965
DPP ID No.: 198603
Solemn Profession: 10 May 1990
Date of Ordination: 25 Apr 1994
Assignment: Priory of St. Thomas Aquinas, Manila

QUALITY FORMATION (as a Priority of the Province)

STUDENTATE SUMMER EXPOSURE 2017

By: Br. Arden Xerxes Driz Dacuma, OP

The last week of May, and the months of June and July are the designated periods for the different exposures and summer programs of the Dominican student-brothers. In line with the pastoral formation of the Dominican Studentate, these exposures aim to acquaint the student brothers regarding the different priorities of the province, namely: Theological Reflection; Evangelization through Education and Social Communication; Justice, Peace and Care for Creation; and Missions. For this year, the student brothers will be sent to different places where they will have a foretaste of these four priorities.



Psycho-Spiritual Integration (PSI). There will be eight student-brothers who will be involved in this program. This will be held in Caleruega Retreat House in Nasugbu, Batangas on May 29 – June 12, 2017.

Theological Reflection Exposure. This exposure will not only focus on theological reflection but also on mission exposure. Six student-brothers will be sent to Palawan to facilitate basic catechetical instructions to one or two parishes on May 30 – June 26, 2017.

Educational and Mission Exposures. On June 1 – 25, 2017, four student-brothers will be sent to Calayan Island, and another six to Camiguin Island, both in Cagayan province. Aside from being exposed to the two of mission areas of the province, they will also get the opportunity to assist the present missionaries in their respective educational apostolate in those islands.

Justice and Peace. Twelve student-brothers will work in a factory in Guiguinto, Bulacan on May 28 – June 25, 2017. This exposure will allow these student-brothers to experience the life of those people who are working inside a factory.

Teaching Exposure in Vietnam. Upon the request of Fr. Paul Quy, OP, the assistant Master of Students of the

Province of the Queen of Martyrs, three student-brothers will be sent to Vietnam on June 2 – 28, 2017 to teach Theology and Catechetical courses in English to Vietnamese student-brothers. Similarly, another three student brothers will be sent to Vietnam to experience the same exposure on July 2 – 31, 2017.

Asia-Pacific Common Study 2017. Four student-brothers will be sent to South Korea to join the Asia-Pacific Common Study. This program is an annual gathering/conference of student-brothers and newly ordained clerics coming from the different provinces and vice-province of the Order located in the Asia-Pacific Region to have a communal study about Dominican life.



In addition to the apostolates which they are already involved in [within the academic year], these exposures aim to provide more learning opportunities for these student-brothers so that they are suitably prepared and equipped to live the life and fulfill the mission of the province.

COUNTING WITH JESUS

By Br. Agustinus Hermawan, OP

And Philip answered Jesus, "Two hundred pennyworth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may take a little." (John 6:7)

Philip's answer was my worries as well, while I was discerning my desire to enter the religious life. As an accountant like Philip the Apostle, I could somehow relate everything with money, or reality. I would not believe easily, unless I have seen the real evidence or witnessed those experiences. Maybe, I could be so rationalistic or too logical. But what was clear to my mind was simply, 'I want to love God more and serve Him as a priest'. Therefore, before entering the seminary, many times I would question myself; "Am I worthy enough to become a priest?" "Do I have sufficient capability to be a Dominican?" "Can I....?"

Now, being a Dominican brother for 7 years onwards, I realize that God is so merciful to me. Indeed, His mercy is beyond my weaknesses and limitations. So, I am here not because I am worthy or good enough, but because He raises me up every time and every day. I can only ask God to please help me and let the Holy Spirit enlighten me.

In the same way that I am sinful during my vestition, simple and solemn profession, I ask nothing, but simply: "God's mercy and yours!" And, God continues to extend His mercy to me through my brothers in the community, who have passion to accept me as I am. Finally, I thank God, because in every stage of Dominican formation, I am always under the patronage of Our Blessed Mother (Our Lady of Manaoag and Our Lady of La Naval). I am so blessed so much that there is nothing that I shall be worried about, for she would always intercede for my prayers!

PDCIS-IP SOLEMN INVESTITURE 2017

By: Br. Mark S. Buenaventura, OP

"...to contemplate and to share the fruits of contemplation."

Last May 26, 2017, the Philippine Dominican Center of Institutional Studies (PDCIS) and the Institute of Preaching (IP) had their Solemn Investiture at Aula Pio of San Pio V Building in Santo Domingo, Quezon City that marked the culmination of the Academic Year 2016-2017. The gathering started with a Baccalaureate Mass presided by Br. Napoleon Sipalay Jr., OP, Prior Provincial of the Dominican Province of the Philippines and co-celebrated by Br. Jannel Abogado, OP, the Moderator of PDCIS and Regent of Studies, Br. Winston Ferdinand Roman I F. Cabading, OP, Director of the Institute of Preaching, Br. Ramon Salibay, OP, Master of Students, Br. Marcelino Saria, OP, Assistant Master of Students for Pastoral Formation and Br. Rudolf Steven Seño, OP, Assistant Master of Students.

The graduation rites followed after the Mass. The Prior Provincial conferred the Degree of Bachelor of Arts Major in Philosophy to four Student-Brothers namely; Br. Siddharta Chiong, OP, Br. Ian Melendres, OP, Br. Wilhelm



Boñon, OP, and Br. Marc de la Pena, OP, who all garnered with flying colors of *magna cum laude*. Afterwards, together with some lay graduates, the Certificate in Preaching was conferred to Br. Mark Philip Goroza, OP and Br. Francis Borre, OP.



In the valedictory speech of Br. Chiong, OP, he said that every Dominican's success is a community of brothers. Fr. Napoleon Sipalay Jr., OP, reminded all the graduates especially the brethren according to the Order's constitution that the primary aim of their studies is that they may be of use to the souls of their neighbors and for the salvation of souls. He encouraged them to go out to the common people and share the fruits of their contemplation with eagerness and humility. The program was concluded by the singing of the Studium Hymn, followed by a sumptuous meal served at the Sto. Domingo Parish Hall.

UST- ECCLESIASTICAL FACULTIES SOLEMN INVESTITURE 2017

By Br. Rocky Niño L. Manire, OP

The Dominican Province of the Philippines is blessed with an abundant number of graduates as the UST Ecclesiastical Faculties culminated the academic year 2016-2017 with a Solemn Investiture held on 20th of May at the Santisimo Rosario Parish. Four student-brothers obtained their Bachelor's Degree in Sacred Theology. They are: Br. Reginald Zamora, OP (Angat, Bulacan); Br.



Photo by Sem. Nathaniel Pagalan

Ariel Adolfo, OP (Cabuyao, Laguna); Br. Rambang Ngawan, OP (Indonesia); and Br. Jaymar Capalaran, OP (Camiguin Island). All of them graduated with Latin honors.

In the Licentiate Program, Br. Christopher Garinganao, OP, (Sampaloc, Manila) and Br. Felix Delos Reyes, OP, (Plaridel, Bulacan) both deacons, finished the second cycle of their studies and obtained a Licentiate Degree in Philosophy with the honor, *summa cum laude*, while five brothers (3 deacons and 2 student-brothers) also completed their requirements and obtained a Licentiate Degree in Sacred Theology. They are: Br. Stephen Mari La Ja, OP (Myanmar); Br. Carlo Rey Canto, OP (Ilocos Sur); Br. Mingdry Hanafi Tjipto, OP (Indonesia); Br. Don Dominique Marco Antonio Go, OP (Pasig City); and Br. Hilario Sicat, Jr., OP (Capas, Tarlac). All of them also finished the academic year with Latin honors.



Photo by Sem. Nathaniel Pagalan

Br. Canto, OP and Br. Garinganao, OP delivered the Address of Petition and Address of Thanksgiving respectively. In his address, Br. Canto elaborated the thrilling stories of their journey in the ecclesiastical faculties while facing the demands and challenges of studies. These challenges led them to reap what they had sown. Afterwards, he petitioned the Vice Chancellor of the University of Santo Tomas, Rev. Fr. Napoleon Sipalay, Jr., OP, in behalf of the candidates for graduation, to confer on them the respective degrees. Br. Garinganao, aside from expressing his deep gratitude to everyone who became part of his academic endeavor, stressed in his address the importance of accepting failures, because these failures help people to cultivate and nurture their learning and wisdom.

Congrats, graduates!

🌿 GENERAL NEWS 🌿

CENTENNIAL BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF FR. PABLO FERNANDEZ, OP

By Sr. Ruderina Suello, OP

Members of the Congregations of the Dominican Sisters of St. Joseph, Dominican Daughters of the Immaculate Mother, and Daughters of St. Dominic gathered

in the University of Santo Tomas (UST) Central Seminary Gymnasium last May 8, 2017, to celebrate in advance the 100th Birth Anniversary (June 7, 2017) of their revered Founder, Rev. Fr. Pablo Villarroel Fernandez, OP. The memorable event began with a Eucharistic Celebration presided by the Prior Provincial of the Dominican Province of the Philippines, Rev. Fr. Napoleon B. Sipalay Jr., OP, with concelebrating priest, Rev. Fr. Jesus Prol, OP, Vicar Provincial of Our Lady of the Rosary Province. An audio-visual presentation entitled “*La Vida y Las Obras del Padre Pablo*” was shown featuring the story of the life and legacy left by the renowned Dominican historian and prolific writer, and how he has influenced people during and beyond his lifetime. Then Fr. Prol, OP, gave his message and blessing.



Joining the three Congregations in their celebration were members of the Company of St. Dominic and the Tarlac-based JHS Chaplet Association, groups inspired and guided by Fr. Fernandez, OP. Also present were some of his religious and lay spiritual children.

In the afternoon, following the hour of socialization and games, a testimony was shared by former Pasig RTC Judge, Atty. Harriet Demetriou, a spiritual daughter of Fr. Pablo, who spoke about how it was having Fr. Fernandez as confessor and spiritual guide. Later, the former Prior of Fr. Fernandez in the Priory of St. Thomas Aquinas (UST), Rev. Fr. Franklin Beltran, OP, gave his own sharing of his experiences, emphasizing on the humility and generosity of this holy Spanish friar. To conclude this noteworthy affair, and in celebration of the 100th Anniversary of her



Apparition at Fatima, Portugal (May 13, 2017), a tribute was given to the Blessed Mother. This was highlighted by the recitation of the Renewal of the Act of Consecration of the Dominican Order to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, since May 8 is the celebration of the Patronage of the Blessed Virgin Mary over the entire Order of Preachers. Finally, a message and blessing were given by the Rector of UST Central Seminary, Rev. Fr. Quirico Pedregosa Jr., OP, who closed the meaningful whole-day celebration.

INSTITUTE OF PREACHING PRACTICUM IN INDONESIA

By Br. Mark Philip R Goroza, OP



One of the thrusts of the recent 11th Provincial Chapter was to have a deeper fraternal integration with the different institutions and branches of the Dominican Family. With this in mind, the students of the Institute of Preaching with the approval of its Director Rev. Fr. Winston Cabading, OP, held their practicum in preaching from the 7th to 14th of May in Surabaya Indonesia, one of our mission territories.

Rumah Santo Tomas Aquino, our community in Surabaya, Indonesia with Fr. Joseto Berandas, Jr., OP, and Fr. Adrian Adiredjo, OP, joyfully and warmly welcomed



the students of the Institute of Preaching as their own brothers and sisters. Different activities were prepared to hone the preaching skills of the students and also to expose them to the ministries that the community in Surabaya engage themselves into.

The practicum in Surabaya Indonesia was indeed fruitful to the Students of the Institute of Preaching and especially to the brothers since they were able to have a glimpse of the mission and experience the ministries that the brothers are doing. And we are hoping that integrations or collaborations like these would continue, so that, as what is said in the prologue of the recent Provincial Chapter we can become, *“a fraternity that is preaching in itself”*.

MOLO SISTERS: 25TH, 50TH, 60TH PROFESSION ANNIVERSARY

By Br. Paul Reagan O. Talavera, OP

The Dominican Sisters of the Most Holy Rosary of the Philippines celebrated last May 31, 2017 the anniversary of religious profession of 11 sisters. Diamond Jubilee of Sr. Ma. Salome Fullon Hallegado, OP, Golden Jubilee of Sr. Ma. Edgarda Catolico Labtang, OP, Sr. Ma. Michaela Aceña Suresca, OP, Sr. Ma. Agapita Billon Saloma, OP, Sr. Ma. Modesta Fernandez Sucaldito, OP, Sr. Ma. Marcella Pineda Hontanar, OP, and Silver Jubilee of Sr. Ma. Edith Mana-ay Baron, OP, Sr. Ma. Alma Debitong Aguirre, OP, Sr. Ma. Josephine Alicante Talde, OP, Sr. Ma. Ana Pontijos Ramos, OP. The Mass was held at the Holy Rosary Chapel Dominican Sisters' Motherhouse in Molo, Iloilo City. The Eucharistic celebration was presided by Most Rev. Jose Romeo O. Lazo, DD, Bishop of San Jose de Antique and was concelebrated by priests from the different dioceses like Baguio, Marbel, Capiz, San Jose de Antique, Jaro, Manila & Chicago. The Archbishop of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia Most Rev. Julian Leow Beng Kim also graced the event. Since it was the feast of the Visitation, Bishop Lazo highlighted in his homily the importance of bringing Jesus to people and places we visit. People should be happy to welcome our visits and not perceive them as “bwisit”, which entails an annoying presence, bringing depression instead of inspiration. The gathering ended with lunch shared for fellowship.



ANGELICUM SCHOOL HOSTS 1ST CITY VICARIATES JOINT YOUTH DAY

By: Gabrielle Fran C. Domingo

"Pamatan-on: paglaum sang parokya, paglaum sang katilingban" (The Youth: The Hope of the Parish and of the Community) - this is the theme of the very first Vicariates of Saints Peter and Paul Youth Day last May 29, 2017, at the Angelicum School Iloilo. It was organized by the youth from the vicariates within the city.



The event aims to unite the youth from the two city vicariates in faith, fun, and friendship. This would also initiate future joint city vicariate activities. The gathering started with a grand walk from the Jaro Cathedral to Angelicum School. More than 300 youth members from the 20 city parishes joined in this activity. Arriving at the Angelicum School gymnasium, they presented their cheers and yells per parish. The delegation was welcomed by Rev. Fr. Charles Jiscel Sta. Cruz, the Vicariate of Saint Peter Youth Director. After which, they were assigned into their mission stations or groups, and then, the socialization began. There were two series of talks focused on the mission of the youth in becoming evangelizers to Millennials and becoming agents of communion in the community. The first talk, entitled "#SentToServe: Millennials for Evangelization", was given by Rev. Fr. Raymundo Edsel Alcayaga O.S.A., the Parish Priest of San Jose Placer Parish and, at the same time, youth director



of the Vicariate of Saint Paul. He highlighted the ways on how the youth could be effective evangelizers to others through words, love, and simply, through our actions and the life that we have. In these ways, we can bless and teach others by the grace of the Holy Spirit. The final talk entitled, "#YouthHope: Youth as Agents of Communion, The Core of the Christian Community", was delivered by Rev. Fr. Paul Reagan Talavera O.P., Principal of the Angelicum School. Before he began the session, he welcomed the participants in behalf of the whole Angelicum and Dominican community and thanked the efforts of the vicariates to include consecrated and religious communities in this gathering. He said that this activity was faithful to the goal of the CBCP for the Year of the Parish as Communion of Communities on "How communities of consecrated life may be more integrated into the life and mission of the parish." He highlighted that communion does not mean uniformity but rather appreciating the beauty in diversity; likewise, to have that sense of commitment in doing the specific roles which were entrusted to us, to be generous, fruitful, joyful, zealous, and humble in serving God and the Church.



There were also praise and worship animations, games, and liturgies that made impact to the spiritual essence of the activity. The communal penitential service and giving absolution were officiated by Rev. Fr. Alcayaga O.S.A., who was assisted by Rev. Fr. Sta. Cruz and Rev Fr. Talavera O.P. The day ended with the celebration of the Holy Mass celebrated by Most Rev. Angel Lagdameo, DD, Archbishop of Jaro with concelebrating priests from the diocese and consecrated men from the Archdiocese which included Dominicans, Augustinians, Carmelites, Vincentians, and PACEM. During the homily Archbishop Lagdameo highlighted three key points based on the readings which were read during the Solemn Pontifical Mass; confidence, confession, and communion. He said that we need to have confidence in Jesus, which can only be possible if we ask for the grace of the Holy Spirit. Confession, because it bridges our gap with God, and through it we acknowledge how Jesus suffered for us for the remission of our sins.

Communion, after having confessed, we are able to receive Jesus again in the Holy Eucharist which would enable us to return to our community, the Church. He also urged young people to be evangelizers in unity, love, and cooperation, most especially in the different aspects of our life.



In conclusion, the youth day is a testimony that the youth can really do something for the Church in our contemporary times. Through this initiative, they were able to unify young people from all walks of life and from different parish and community spirituality. UT UNUM SINT - That they may be one. Let us continue to pray for our young people; for truly, aside from being the “Hope and Future of the Church”, they are already the “Present of the Church” for through them, the Church has been more vibrant in the mission of Christ to “Go forth” in making disciples of all nations!

ARCHBISHOP KIM OF KUALA LUMPUR VISITS ANGELICUM SCHOOL

By Ms. Rory Arenas

Most Reverend Julian Leow Beng Kim, DD, the Archbishop of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia is in town purposely to join in the Eucharistic Con-celebration on the Anniversary of Religious Profession, held in the Holy Rosary Chapel (Dominican Sisters Motherhouse) which was presided by the Most Reverend Jose Romeo O. Lazo on



the 31st of May 2017. He specially came for his friend, Sr. Ma. Josephine Alicante Talde, OP, whom he met in Rome, Italy, a silver jubilarian in her religious profession, .

The Archbishop then proceeded to Angelicum School for a brief visit in the school art gallery, *Et Nos*, the Lizares Mansion and the School Principal’s office. The Bishop was served with a variety of Ilonggo delicacies and grabbed a few bites with gusto to the delight of some Dominican Sisters, a guest and Fr. Paul Reagan Talavera, OP, the Principal of Angelicum School.



The humble and witty young Archbishop at 53 leaves Iloilo on June 2.

ARCHDIOCESAN IMAGE OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA VISITS ANGELICUM SCHOOL

By: Remun Rubin Ramos

The Pilgrim Image of Our Lady of Fatima enshrined at Diocesan Shrine and Parish of Our Lady of Fatima in the Archdiocese of Jaro is an image made in the 1950’s by sculptor Avelino Moreira Vinhas. She is made of brazilian cedar and is gilded in 24k gold leaf standing at 31 inches and painted in oils. The image was originally placed in a parish in Germany, unfortunately because of the collapsing population of the Catholic community, the parish where she was enthroned closed. By God’s grace, a Filipino priest was able to acquire the image and decided to place her in the Diocesan Shrine and Parish of Our Lady of Fatima in Jaro, Iloilo where she is now the pilgrim image. In celebration of the 100 years of the apparitions of our Lady, her first pilrgimage was with the youth of the



City of Iloilo starting with a procession from the National Shrine of Our Lady of Candles (Jaro Cathedral) going to Angelicum School. It was truly meaningful as our Lady appeared to 3 shepherd children, she now chose to take part in a wide youth gathering. Most of all, Angelicum School being run by the Dominicans (Order of Preachers) was the best venue for the image of our Lady of Fatima as her home. On October 13, 1917 on the final apparition, she did reveal herself to Lucia and the now 2 new Saints Jacinta and Francisco in these very words “I am the Lady of the Rosary.”

June in DPP History

(Culled from the Archives of the Province)

- ☞ **1975 June 1** – The Province accepted the apostolate in Mindanao. Br. Amador Ambat, OP was the parish priest in Mati, Davao Oriental.
- ☞ **1976 June 30** – The first graduation ceremony of Angelicum School Iran was held. Angelicum-Iran was established by the Province on September 30, 1957 in response to the repeated requests of the families of Filipino technicians in Tehran, Iran for a Catholic school. Angelicum-Iran is the international branch of the Angelicum School in Quezon City. The school was located in the St. Abraham’s Church and Convent of the Dominican Irish Fathers in the center of the city of Tehran, capital of Iran. Br. Rogelio Alarcon, OP, Prior Provincial at that time, was the Director of the school with Br. Jose Rizal Dimapilis, OP, as Assistant Director in residence.
- ☞ **1979 June 13** – Colegio de San Juan de Letrán-Calamba was inaugurated. It started as an extension campus of Letrán-Intramuros in the Province of Laguna. It is located on an eleven-hectare lot donated by Philippine Sugar Estates Development Corporation,¹ in Bucal, Calamba City. The opening of this extension campus was a response of the Dominican Province of the Philippines (DPP) to the program of the government to decongest Metro Manila.² It was also in line with the expansion plan of the Province.³ The school was the first institution of higher education that the DPP had established. On August 7, 1986, Letrán-Calamba was granted autonomy from the mother-school, Letrán-Intramuros. Fr. Tamerlane Lana, OP, was installed as the first Rector and President of Letrán-Calamba.⁴ Recently, the Colegio had embarked on a strategic roadmap, detailing the 5-year plan of the institution for AY 2015-2020. This strategic roadmap dares to envision the Colegio as a regional center in the religious Development; regional Center in the Socio-Economic Development; and a Higher Educational Institution with an Autonomous Status granted by the CHED.⁵

- ☞ **1988 June 19** – Vincent Liem de la Paz and companion martyrs were canonized in Rome.
- ☞ **1996 June 7** – Br. Jose Salazar, OP, was installed Bishop Prelate of Batanes-Babuyan. He replaced Msgr. Mario Baltazar, OP.
- ☞ **2006 June 3** – First mission sending ceremony of the Dominican Province of the Philippines was held. 12 Filipino Dominicans were sent to Ethiopia, Indonesia and Sri Lanka.

¹ Acts of the Provincial Chapter of the Dominican Province of the Philippines (APCDPP), 1979-1980, no. 51.
² APCDPP, 1979-1980, no. 50.
³ Faculty Handbook (2012-2015), Colegio de San Juan de Letrán Calamba, p. 15.
⁴ APCDPP, 1988, no. 21.
⁵ See Rector’s Report, AY 2014-2015, Colegio de San Juan de Letrán Calamba, pp. 38-41.

PC Notes...

Notes from the 400th Provincial Council Meeting
on 2 May 2017

- ☞ Br. Jose Boyd Sulpico, OP, was approved to be the Syndic of the Province as a replacement for Br. Paul Lovell Javier, OP.
- ☞ Br. Filemon dela Cruz, Jr, OP, was appointed as the new House Superior for Rumah Santo Tomas Aquino (Surabaya, Indonesia).
- ☞ The new Provincial Syndic is directed to develop a Target Income as part of his economic report/strategy.
- ☞ The book of Br. Pedro Salgado, OP, on “Metaphysics” is approved for publication.
- ☞ The Pontianak Group (deputed by Archbishop Agus of Pontianak, Indonesia) presented a bird’s eye view of the rationale for their visit to the Philippines: to meet the Provincial Council and to learn what expectations, pieces of advice the Council has in the making of a feasibility of study in their desire for the establishment of a Catholic institution in Pontianak, Indonesia.
 In turn, the Provincial Council tacitly allows the Pontianak group in entering the domain of the identified Dominican institutions and be assisted by the Dominican institutions in view of their formulation of feasibility/developmental study. In the end, the Pontianak Group is asked to present before the Provincial Council the output of their work in the form of a Feasibility/Developmental Study.

Canonical Visit of the Master of the Order

September 17 to October 1, 2017

SPECIAL GUESTS VISIT BAHAY DOMINIKO!



With Fr. Dominic Ip, OP, and the students of the General Vicariate of the Queen of China (Taiwan), 22 May 2017.



With our Dominican brothers from the Province of the Queen of Martyrs (Vietnam), 22 May 2017.



With the officials of the Congregation of the Daughters of St. Dominic, 3 June 2017.

DEATH IN THE FAMILY

We pray for the eternal repose of the soul of:

- † **Sr. MA. FLORA LABIANA PORILLO, OP**, of the Dominican Sisters of the Most Holy Rosary of the Philippines (Molo), who passed on May 19, 2017.
- † **Sr. LAURENCIA FABILE DALWATAN, OP**, of the Congregation of Dominican Sisters of St. Catherine of Siena, Philippines, who passed away on May 20, 2017.

FOR OUR DECEASED BROTHERS

Per mandate by the Eleventh Provincial Chapter Statute 26, V, we kindly request all communities to include in the intentions of their Conventual Mass and Evening Prayer our deceased brothers during the anniversary of their death in the month of June.

- June 3 + Br. Edmundo Espinas, OP
- 12 + Br. Romeo P. Asuzano, OP
- 16 + Br. Eduardo Negrete, OP
- 29 + Br. Bonifacio Mergal, OP

TRIVIA QUESTIONS TO THE PERSONNEL OF THE PROVINCIALATE

(Editor's note: We are running a series of introduction of our personnel at the Provincialate for the brethren to know them.)



First Name: **MARIA CARMENCITA**
Nickname: "Menchie"
Middle Name: **DELA CRUZ**
Surname: **CRUZ**
Birthday: 30 Sep 1970
Civil Status: Married
Hometown: Quezon City
Date of Employment in the Provincialate: 1 Jun 1998
Current Position: Office Staff

Milestone/Highlight of being with the Province: Visiting different places here in the Philippines and also abroad.



Left to right: My sons, Duke Martin and Duane Matthew, and husband, Danilo.



Installation of Br. Victor C. Calvo Jr., OP, as Prior of the Convent of St. John Lateran, Intramuros, Manila on 16 May 2017.



Installation of Br. Giuseppe Pietro V. Arsciwals, OP, as Prior of the Convent of St. Albert the Great, Calamba on 4 June 2017.





The Brethren of the Dominican Province of the Philippines and The Aureada Family The Bombase Family The Marra Family

cordially invite you to witness in gratitude and to celebrate in joy the 40th Jubilee Year of Profession of Fr. Antonio E. Aureada, O.P., Fr. Gallardo A. Bombase, O.P. and Fr. Conrado "Bogs" Marra, O.P. in a Eucharistic Celebration to be held on Wednesday, May 24, 2017 at 5:00 pm at the Colegio de San Juan de Letran Chapel, Intramuros, Manila. Fraternal Agape follows after the Mass.

"I have made vows to you, God, with offerings I will fulfill them." Psalm 56:13



Photo from Facebook account of Davy Chioa, OP

Celebration of the 40th Anniversary of Profession of Br. Jose Antonio E. Aureada, OP, Br. Gallardo A. Bombase Jr., OP, and Br. Conrado N. Marra, OP. 24 May 2017, Colegio de San Juan de Letran Chapel, Intramuros, Manila.



The Brethren of the the Dominican Province of the Philippines cordially invite you to the celebration of

Silver Anniversary of Profession

of

REV. FR. ALLAN V. LOPEZ, O.P.
REV. FR. RICHARD G. ANG, O.P.
REV. FR. ALLEN S. DE GUZMAN, O.P.

on
May 14, 2017 (Sunday)

at the Minor Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary of Manaoag
Manaoag, Pangasinan

4:00 P.M. Eucharistic Celebration and
Renewal of Vows

5:30 P.M. Dinner - Pilgrims' Center
7:00 P.M. - Thanksgiving Concert

- Caleruega Chorus and Children's Choir
- Our Lady of Manaoag Grand Choir













Photo from Facebook account of Br. Bienvenido Trinilla Jr., OP

Celebration of the 25th Anniversary of Profession of Br. Allan V. Lopez, OP, Br. Richard G. Ang, OP, and Br. Allen S. de Guzman, OP.

14 May 2017, Minor Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary of Manaoag, Manaoag, Pangasinan.

ADDRESS OF THANKS

UST Ecclesiastical Faculties, Solemn Investiture for Class 2017

May 20, 2017, Santisimo Rosario Parish Church, University of Santo Tomas

Delivered by Br. Christopher P. Garinganao, OP, PhL (*summa cum laude*)



Father Rector, Deans of Faculties, Fathers, brothers and sisters, good afternoon.

Thirteen years ago, Fr. Richard Ang, OP was part of the screening committee for academics, when I applied to the Dominican Order. One of the requirements was to present to him my transcript of records. And I have to admit my transcript of records was very artistic, it was full of curves. There were a lot of threes and fives. Five, meaning a failing mark. I just sat in front of him, as he looked at my transcript of records; after a while he put it aside and said "Ok!" And I was admitted. At that moment, the Dominican Order, has just admitted a failure. When I

look back at that experience, I can safely say, that we are here, not because of our credentials, not because of our strength, but because, besides God, there were a lot of people who chose us, and make choices for us.

This afternoon's graduation rites, if put in proper perspective, is an antidote to pride. Anyone who is tempted to say and sing the song "I did it my way" will make a very dangerous religious and leader of a community. And we know that by experience. For we do not study to raise our status in life, we study to deepen our understanding of reality; to understand reality is to understand God's work in our lives.

As a personal message to all of you, especially to our families, friends and benefactors, after these ceremonies, we will be absent and we will not always be there. So allow us to pay you back, by paying forward. Whatever good and kindness we have received from you, allow us to pay you back by paying forward to the least fortunate, to the oppressed, to the less educated, and to those who need to hear the Gospel of Christ. With that, see our works as acts of thanksgiving.

Personally, I would like to greet and congratulate all the graduates, their families, communities and friends *Muchas gracias! Maraming salamat po.*

HE WHO EATS JESUS WILL LIVE FOREVER First Homily of Rev. Stephen Mari La Ja, OP (Deacon)

Sto. Domingo Church, 5 May 2017, 6:00 AM Conventual Mass

John 6:52-59



Br. Stephen Mari La Ja, OP

There is a saying that we become with what we eat. It follows that if we eat chicken every day in our lives, we will become like chicken; if we eat pancake every day then we will look like pancake; if we eat pork every day, we will surely look like pigs (*parang baboy*). In today's gospel, Jesus Christ is telling us that unless we eat

the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, we have no life in us and unless we eat His flesh and drink His blood, we have no eternal life, meaning to say that unless we eat the body and blood of Christ, we cannot be like Him. Now, look at your seatmates, do they look like Jesus Christ or they look like chickens, pancakes or pigs? We all know that it is easy to build our bodies to

be like pigs than to look like Jesus Christ. Eat and drink, go to parties every day, everywhere, without any exercise for years then we will certainly look like pigs. But why is it so difficult to be like Jesus Christ even though we have been receiving the Body of Christ for many years in our lives?

I would like to share with you a story about a dog and an elephant. You know, a female elephant is pregnant for two years because the animal is so big and it takes more time for that baby elephant to grow and develop. Elephant typically gives birth to only one baby per pregnancy. On the other hand, a dog is pregnant for just sixty two days. After two months, a dog can give birth to so many puppies. A dog can give birth up to 17 puppies all in one pregnancy. Well, imagine that the dog and the elephant have a conversation. The dog says, I don't think you are pregnant, I give birth every two months, something is wrong with you. The dog is pregnant again and again, gives birth every several months. To nearly two years later, the dog came

back and said to the elephant, I am really sure that you are not pregnant. Because I am giving birth multiple times and you are not. Out of irritation, the elephant replied. Here are the differences, the reason you are giving birth many times and I am still pregnant is because what inside me is not a puppy, it is an elephant. What I am carrying is not an ordinary animal, you don't see it very often. I am carrying something big, something special. That's why, it is taking longer.

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, the people around us may look very successful in a very short time, they see their dreams come true very often. Be happy for them. But the reason it takes longer for us to achieve our dream is because, like that elephant, what we are carrying is something extra-ordinary; what we are going to give

birth is something bigger, more rewarding, more fulfilling, more special than we ever dream of. Because what we are dreaming of is not to be like chicken, pancake, pig and dog but to be like Jesus, who is crucified on the Cross, died, buried and on the third day resurrected from death and ascended into heaven and to be with God the Father in heaven. Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters in Christ, when we feel so tired of doing our works, our ministries, tired of studying, tired of praying, tired of going to Mass and receiving the Body of Jesus Christ every day in our lives, remember that what we are dreaming of, carrying and going to give birth is something extra-ordinary, it is something enormous, more valuable, more perfect than we have ever dreamed of, that is to be with God, to live with God in heaven forever. Amen.

First Homily of Rev. Christopher P. Garinganao, OP (Deacon)

Santo Domingo Church, 8 May 2017, 6:00 AM Conventual Mass

John 10:11-18



Br. Christopher P.
Garinganao, OP

Kapag naririnig natin ang katagang “Tanggapin mo ang katotohanan.” Iniisip natin may masamang nangyari. Ang salitang realidad ngayon ay kasama ng hindi magandang pagtingin sa buhay: na parang ang kondisyon ng buhay natin ay napakasama. Kapag sinabi nating kondisyon, ito yung pag-unawa natin sa

ating buhay. At dahil yun ang pag-unawa natin, doon nakatuntong yung mga desisyon natin sa araw-araw, doon nakatuntong yung pagtingin natin sa buhay.

Ang Ebanghelyong binasa natin ngayon, ay taliwas sa laganap na masamang pagtingin sa buhay. Kaya nga *Good News* ang ibig sabihin ng Ebanghelyo, sapagkat may sinasabi ang Ebanghelyo tungkol sa kondisyon natin, sa realidad natin, sa pagkatao natin.

Ayon sa mabuting balita sa araw na ito, sinasabi sa atin ng ating Panginoon na mahal tayo ng ating Ama. At inilarawan ng ating Panginoon kung gaano kasidhi ang pag-ibig na ito, sa pamamagitan ng paglalarawan niya sa kanyang sarili, bilang isang mabuting pastol. Siya'y hindi ordinaryong pastol. Bilang isang pastol, handa niyang itaya ang kanyang buhay - dahil mahal niya tayo. Handa niyang itaya ang buhay niya, hindi dahil binayaran siya, hindi dahil napilitan siya, kundi dahil mahal niya tayo. At sinasabi ng ating Panginoon, na ito ang kondisyon ng buhay mo, at ito ang kondisyon ng buhay ko, ito ang

kondisyon ng mga pulubing nabubuhay sa lansangan. May nagmamahal sa atin. Bumaba ang Diyos sa lupa, upang sabihin sa atin, ang katotohanang iyon.

Noong pumunta si San Lorenzo Ruiz sa Japan kasama ang ibang paring Dominiko, isa sa mga tanong sa Tribunal, ay kung ano ang pakay nila pagpunta sa bansang Hapon. Sapagkat hindi naman lingid sa kanilang kaalaman na kamatayan ang parusa kung ikaw ay magpapalaganap ng pananampalatayang Katoliko. Ang sagot ng isang paring Dominiko, hindi kami naparito sa bansang Hapon, upang mamatay. Narito kami upang ipahayag ang Magandang Balita. Ang Balita na may Diyos na nagmamahal sa atin. Ito ang katotohanan tungkol sa pagkatao ng mga Kastila at Pilipinong namatay sa Japan. Ito din ang katotohanan na binabahagi ng mga misyonero sa mga Hapon: na sila'y mahal ng Diyos. Na kahit na patayin sina San Lorenzo at kanyang mga kasamahan ay di nila kayang talikuran ang katotohanan tungkol sa pagkatao ng lahat.

Mga kapatid, ang puno't dulo ng ating buhay, ay pag-ibig. Ang realidad ng ating buhay ay hindi masama. Doon sa pag-ibig na iyon nakatuntong ang ating buhay, at sa bawat desisyon na gagawin natin mula ngayon, nawa'y baguhin ng Ebanghelyo ang masamang pagtingin sa buhay, at palitan ng pag-asa at pag-ibig. Ang katotohanan ng ating pagkatao ay hindi kayang baguhin ng politika, kapangyarihan at dahas. Sa pag-uwi natin sa ating bahay, pagpasok sa opisina tratuhin natin ang ating kasambahay at ka-opisina ayon sa Ebanghelyo na nagmula sa Diyos.

First Homily of Rev. Carlo Rey C. Canto, OP (Deacon)

Sto. Domingo Church, 12 May 2017, 6:00 AM Conventual Mass

John 14:1-6



Br. Carlo Rey C. Canto, OP

Perhaps the thirty-something and above still recognize the television ad of a certain real estate developer years ago...

"Bulilit, bulilit... sanay sa masikip; kung kumilos, kumilos... ang liit liit!"

If coupled by the aid of visuals, it would be easier to recall. Nevertheless, this commercial ad talks about a little kid who was used to a small area so much that her movements were so restrained and *"bulilit"* like her despite having moved to a spacious house. Well, limited space, literally and figuratively speaking, could really limit our movements or actions, our growth as persons, and even the realization of our potentials. *Kung kaya't kahit sa magkasintahan, kung minsan may nakapagsasabi: "I need some space..." Mangiyak-ngiyak pa yan. Kasi naman nakasasalak din ang walang "espasyong" magalawan.* But it would be a lot worse if we do not have any space at all. *Yung' tipong walang malugaran at isinisiksik natin ang ating mga sarili sa espasyong hindi naman sa atin.*

However, in today's Gospel, Jesus reminds us to not be troubled – *na huwag tayong mabagabag* – since He has prepared a place for us in the Father's house. *Kung sa ating paglalakbay sa mundong ito ay hindi natin mahanap ang ating sariling lugar, o 'di kaya'y hindi tayo nawawalan*

ng mga alalahanin sa buhay, o 'di kaya'y pakiramdam natin kung minsan ay kakambal na natin ang mga problema sa buhay – huwag daw tayong mabahala sabi ng ating Panginoon. Sapagkat hindi lang sa Siya mismo ang naghahanda ng ating tahanan kasama ng Ama, kundi Siya din mismo ang mag-aakay sa atin papunta sa kanyang piling.

And when the Lord promises, He fulfils it – as attested in our first reading with the preaching of the Apostle Paul in Antioch that God has fulfilled his promise by raising Jesus from the dead. *Hindi uso sa ating Panginoon ang kasabihang: "Promises are meant to be broken."* *Sapagkat ang Diyos, kapag nangako, buo at hindi napapako. Hindi Siya katulad ng iba na ang pangako ay kasingdali ng pagdighay – pagkatapos pakawalan ay hindi na pinanghahawakan.*

Kung kaya't sa araw na ito, maalala sana natin ang pangako ng Panginoong Hesus na may lugar na nakalaan sa atin at daldalhin Niya tayo sa Kanyang piling. But then may we also remember, to provide Him a space in our life by letting Him be present through us by opening our hands to reach out to those in need or by opening our ears to listen to those who are seldom heard. Or it could be as simple as flexing our zygomaticus muscles in the presence of others. *Yun po ang muscles na nababangat sa ating bawat pagngiti.*

Nangako ang Panginoon ng espasyo sa Kanyang piling. Ang tanong naman Niya ngayon sa atin... "Psssst... Sa puso mo ba, ako'y may lugar din?"

First Homily of Rev. Mingdry Hanafi Tjipto, OP (Deacon)

Santo Domingo Church, Memorial of St. Isidore, 15 May 2017, 6:00 AM Conventual Mass

John 14:21-26



Br. Mingdry Hanafi Tjipto, OP

Love and Truth are inseparable, because God is essentially Love and Truth. Jesus is the manifestation of the Love and the Truth of the Father. And the Holy Spirit is the love between Father and Son, who teaches the Truth. The Trinitarian aspect of truth shows that truth is essentially divine and no human beings can totally grasp it without the help of the Holy Spirit. Moreover, the Holy Spirit teaches that truth is inclusive. The word of truth belongs to everyone and is not hoarded as a private property or

even to any exclusive group. The inspiration from the Holy Spirit must be shared to all or it dies within us. Just as the Father's word, as Jesus said, "is not mine" but is "to instruct you in everything," so the word we receive in our hearts must continuously flow through us to inspire new life in others.

When we try to separate or divide between love and truth, we fall into radicalism or terrorism. The radicals believe that they own the truth and that they need to protect it with their life so that they will receive rewards from God. Moreover, they hold their truth forcefully, unwilling to listen to other people. They believe that they are true and exclude others by condemning others as wrong or infidel or even evil. The radicals put themselves or their own interests first to pursue the truth and not

the truth itself. They fight for their truth because of the heavenly reward and they do it by excluding people, discriminating the minority and persecuting the infidel. Indeed, these happen when we separate truth and love and put self-interest at front.

On the other hand, truth that is being manifested by Jesus Christ and taught by the Holy Spirit is always inclusive because it is moved by Love. Love always offers peace, joy and freedom. It allows people to contribute rather than to suffocate them with false truths. It brings people towards the fullness of life by dwelling in the home of mercy, unity and communion. People who act with love will acknowledge God as the source of Truth and not to any human beings. "Not to us O Lord, but to your name give the glory." The apostles Barnabas and Paul gave credit to God and not to themselves by reminding the people, "Friends, why are you doing this? We are mortals just like you, and we bring you good news, that you should turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them.

Consequently, God dwells in the hearts of those who seek him sincerely just like St. Isidore who was a diligent farmer and a sincere devotee:

1. He does the command of God that is to love God and to love his neighbor as Himself. This is the Truth that we believe and share to promote peace and harmony.

2. He listens to the Holy Spirit who teaches the Truth of the Father. The Spirit inspires our life for prayer, love and helpfulness. The Spirit also helps us to be instruments of love that reveal the life-giving presence of God.

3. He seeks God as Love and Truth so that they can promote forgiveness, peace, service, and joy. It is true enough that those who practice love give us a profound peace and it is a great joy that they succeed to live and bear together pain and suffering.

Sisters and brothers, **do we follow the way of the apostles and saints who seek the truth and love together or do we follow the way of the radicals who separate truth and love for our selfish interest?**

A GUIDING LIGHT: ON BEING A KNIGHT, A DOMINICAN AND A FATHER

By Mr. Alvin I. Bautista (Father of Br. John Andrew S. Bautista, OP)



Mr. Alvin I. Bautista and Br. John Andrew S. Bautista, OP

The most cherished memories of my childhood would be growing up as a Letranite, within the hallowed halls of Muralla, in Intramuros, Manila. There I learned to face up to the challenges of an exacting but uplifting academic life, where my talents were nurtured by dutiful mentors and my faith enlivened by ceremonial and liturgical tradition. We were raised as Pages, Squires and proudly as Knights, imbued with the devotion to the Holy Rosary and Our Lady of La Naval, inspired by the nationalism of illustrious

alumni in the service of God and Country (Deus, Patria). Above all, the friendships that were built over those years, still strong and sentimental, would be akin to a brotherhood unlike any other I have encountered.

It is with filial pride when I brought my firstborn son to study at the same venerable High School and see him graduate from Letran. Continuing the august tradition, the University of Santo Tomas was, of course, the logical choice, where Allen was to acquire a degree in Psychology from the College of Science. It would also be because his mother was also a Thomasian, obtaining the same degree, without having been the only criteria for such. We had thought he was inclined to pursue medical studies; instead, being a debater, he turned to the study of law.

I will admit that I had always kept that prayer that I would have a son, who would be in the service of the faith, of being a priest. Above all this, I had hoped, like my devout wife, he would be a Dominican. At Letran, these brilliant men in white robes, with black rosaries hanging from their sides, were a prevailing presence. Some had inspired me in one way or the other: as an aspiring school paper writer, as an awkward and reluctant Dramatics Club aspirant given a life-changing role, as a Peer Counselor who opted to continue as an educator and helping professional.

When the time came for a momentous decision for our second son, John Andrew aka Andrei, for his expressed lifelong inclination and vocation to be made, my wife and

I fully encouraged him to consider being a Dominican, in the venerable company of the Order of Preachers. Growing up in Imus, he was also nurtured by his godfather, my wife's first cousin, Monsignor Josefino Ramirez, also a Thomasian, who never failed to provide him the insights and encouragement for his choice.

It must be said though, that while I will admit to being a dutiful father, I also accepted the reality that I should not be that sturdy anchor to hold my son back, nor the wind blown sail to take him to venture into the horizon. I have learned, as my own father had raised me well, and as my Dominican upbringing prepared me in the role, that I should be instead a guiding light, a guiding light whose love would show the way. He would have to follow it in his own time, in his own pace and with his own strength.

Andrei had always been like me in some respects. He writes with such passion and heartfelt sincerity that we have truly valued his personally inscribed gifts. A cherished remembrance is an enlarged photograph he gifted us from his Vestition, a sublime and uplifting chapter of his path for his vocation, held at St. Albert the Great Convent, in Letran Calamba, Laguna. He wrote of the photograph, carrying his future vestments: *"As I miss my home, I always look back on the many words of encouragement that my mom and dad have told."* He then quotes a line from Scripture, drawn from his Journal, *Memoirs of a Novice: My Novitiate Journey.*

I thank Our Lord and His Blessed Mother, Our Lady of the Rosary of La Naval, that I was to return to the august Santo Domingo Church April of this year. Growing up as

Letranites, we trooped to this Quezon City landmark, which used to be within the Walled City, to celebrate the feasts of St. Dominic, St. Thomas Aquinas, and of course, for La Naval. We joined with the rest of the Dominican Community in the procession, and in some years, I was in the choir loft with my fellow exuberant youths singing for Our Lady.

In this year's rites on the Feast of St. Mark the Evangelist, I was truly blessed to be with Brother John Andrew Bautista, O.P., accompanied also by his sibling, Dominican and Letran Knight, Jonathan Allen, as we led him to the altar for his Solemn Profession of Vows.

As a guiding light, I am humbled, thankful and exceedingly joyful. With his mother, and our family, we share in his own vocation, as we have also walked in the footsteps which our Dominican son is taking. Of course, Brother Andrei's journey was even more blessed as he joined his fellow Young Dominicans in actually walking in the footsteps of the Divine Master, Dominic de Guzman, last year at Caleruega, Toulouse, Florence, Bologna and Rome. It was an unexpected but fulfilling experience for him, marked by solemn and deeply personal encounters he will carry for the rest of his life.

We will continue to offer our prayers for him, his vocation, as well as for the other stalwart young men I have come to consider my own sons, his fellow travellers on this journey. Inspired by no less than St. Dominic, in face of all obstacles, triumphs or tragedies, we need to remember to *"Arm ourselves with prayer, rather than a sword; wear humility rather than fine clothes."*

**ADDRESS OF BR. NAPOLEON B. SIPALAY JR., OP,
PRIOR PROVINCIAL OF THE DOMINICAN PROVINCE OF THE PHILIPPINES
AND VICE CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS,
DURING THE SOLEMN INVESTITURE OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL FACULTIES
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS**

20 May 2017, Santissimo Rosario Parish Church, University of Santo Tomas, Manila

I. Introduction

It is a privilege for me to be with you today on your Solemn Investiture of the candidates for the degrees of the Faculties of Ecclesiastical Studies. This is the culmination and your commencement for the life you have been preparing all these years in your study in the Ecclesiastical Faculties of the University of Santo Tomas.



published the *Ratio Fundamentalis Institutionis Sacerdotalis* in the document entitled "The Gift of Priestly Vocation." In the Dominican Order after the 800th Jubilee Year, two documents were also issued: *Ratio Formationis Generalis* for Formation and *Ratio Studiorum Generalis* for Study. These documents are concrete signs of the desire of the Church and our religious institute to continually present to us the needed updating in our discipleship, configuration to Christ and the realistic on-going response to pastoral needs of our time. Our formation in discipleship is integral in carrying out the desire of the Church for the spiritual, human, intellectual and pastoral formation. Today, we highlight the important passage in this discipleship: the culmination and the commencement of the role you have in your intellectual formation. The demand of an ordained minister and those in consecrated life calls for a critical

II. Where are we now in our "journey" of our formation?

On December 8, 2016, on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, the Congregation for the Clergy

mind in order to dialogue with the questions of our time. The different perspectives we encounter in our ministry, the pluralism, discoveries in science and technology call for us to respond based on the seamless connectivity of all we learned in philosophy, theology and canon law and other disciplines in our studies.

Pastors in formation and ongoing formation

This intellectual dimension of formation, “...provides the rational tools needed in order to understand the values that belong to being a pastor to make them incarnate in daily life, and to transmit the content of the faith appropriately...” (The Gift of the Priestly Vocation [GPV] #89)

Gaudium et Spes of the Second Vatican Council highlights that “the knowledge of philosophy and theology helps us to hear, distinguish and interpret the many voices of our age, and to judge them in the light of the revealed truth, so that revealed truth can always be more deeply penetrated, better understood and set forth to greater advantage.” (GPV #116 quoting *Gaudium et Spes* n. 44)

I remember very well Fr. Enrico Gonzales OP when I was studying Philosophy that he continually reminded us his students that we need to have a form of mind in order to respond to the needs of our times. The organic and serious study of philosophy, theology and canon law are the most suitable means of acquiring that *forma mentis* that enables one to address the questions and challenges that are encountered in the exercise of the sacred ministry, and to interpret them in the light of faith. Study is important *vis-à-vis* the integral formation in the preparation for priesthood and in our general context religious life which calls for a deeper understanding of ones commitment in publicly proclaiming ones profession of the evangelical counsels.

We believe that “... the Most Holy Trinity shapes every candidate in the journey of discipleship (in this case the seminarians, religious in temporary vows, or priest and religious in perpetual vows for their ongoing formation) according to the plan of the Father, both through the presence of Christ in His Word in the sacraments and in the brothers and sisters of the community and through the many actions of the Holy Spirit. In the formation of those whom Christ calls and in vocational discernment, the primacy of the working of the Holy Spirit calls for a **reciprocal listening** and **cooperation** between the members of the ecclesial community, priests, deacons, consecrated persons and laity.” (GPV 125)

In the reciprocity to the action of the spirit the persons of the **seminarians, priests, consecrated persons** are the **protagonists in their formation**. The journey of ongoing growth in response to the integral formation, in our case in this intellectual formation, is a primary responsibility of each seminarian, religious and priest. The call is to always assess once formation that is consistent to the values of the Gospel (cf. GPV 130).

Whenever I pray the Christian prayer, a commentary before the psalm always strikes as it is written, “apply what you learn and you will live.” A disciple in the journey to configure oneself to Christ is called to know who Christ is and to internalize the authentic life of Christ before one demonstrate it in external behavior (cf GPV 131).

We thank all those responsible for your present journey for reaching this far: the Diocesan Bishop, presbyterate, seminarians, the community of formators, specialists, your family, consecrated persons, your parishes, all the laity and all those agents of your formation.



FR. PEDRO “PETE” V. SALGADO, OP

By Br. Marvin R. Obedo, OP

“Mga anak, kapag ako ay namatay at inilibing, lutuan ninyo yung parish priest natin ng pinakamasarap na spaghetti.” (My children, when I die and be buried, I hope you’ll cook the most delicious spaghetti for our parish priest.)

Father Pedro Villasin Salgado, known as Fr. Pete, a native of Bantayan Island, Cebu was born on June 29, 1937. He was the eldest of the four siblings of Salvacion Villasin and Pedro Salgado. Both parents of Fr. Pete were teachers and they belonged to the distinguished citizens of the populace. His parent’s line belonged to the political power of the island of Bantayan. Fr. Pete had his education in the Elementary School of Bantayan Island. He spent his secondary education in the minor seminary in Cebu City. Then being handpicked by the Bishop, he continued his studies in the UST Central Seminary.

After his Philosophy in the UST Central Seminary, he entered the Order as a novice. As the young Pedro continued his journey, he studied rigorously the Thomistic philosophy. Later on, he met his teacher in the Analytical Philosophy who taught him the ways to be sharp and be ready to the difficult questions of the future. With all these, he pondered that his parents, teachers, and friends were forming him a lot to do what is right and good. However, it was not specified as to what good he would do.



Fr. Pedro "Pete" V. Salgado, OP

The specification of what good to do brought Fr. Pete to hungrily search for it. During his early years of being a priest, he usually went out with the rich to play golf. But Fr. Pete’s heart was still aching to find the specification of the good action he needed to do. Nevertheless, when he was able to come across with the leader of the Free Farmers Association, he saw the initial misery and the cries of the voiceless poor, his life was changed; and the emptiness was changed into fulfillment. This fulfillment was translated to love and the determination for



Br. Marvin R. Obedo, OP, and Fr. Pete, OP

the poor. Since then, the empty heart of Fr. has gone way beyond fruition.

In his 53 years of being a priest, Fr. Pete has already gathered so many realizations. Perhaps one reflection that had been chiseled into my very core was the thought that the heart searches for happiness. This context was profoundly explained by Fr. Pete. When the heart is not able to achieve the happiness it desires in the good, then inevitably it will find in the bad. This heart for Fr. Pete is so important since this determines the person’s success. On the part of the priest, his celibacy will only succeed if the heart is so attuned with the good. For Fr. Pete, this good is the determination to do good for the poor so that their lives may be better off. Even on the larger scale, it is necessary to have the heart for the poor. However, this heart for the poor is translated into various forms not simply by having pity, giving material goods and the like. Many of the ways to help alleviate the lives of the poor are lacking according to Fr. Pete since if we simply give a thousand cavans of rice to the poor, then the poor will just be as poor as before once the goods are consumed. What he proposed is the concept of revolution which will attack the root of the oppressive system which burdens the poor.

The characteristic of a revolution according to Fr. Pete is the empowerment of all the people. In other words, equality of the people in the destruction of the oppressive governmental system. Fr. Pete for his part made his contribution to the empowerment of the people by choosing to educate the poor than educating the rich which makes them richer than before, then also by

choosing to do ministry in the rural areas instead of urban areas. After hearing him about the empowerment of the people, I captured his eyes getting swollen in tears then followed a story which broke my heart.

When he was a parish priest in one of the rural areas he had been assigned to, he usually received a monthly amount of 15,000 pesos meager to run the entire parish. Then being so active a parish priest, he went to all his parishioners and befriended them as they unfolded their respective stories. One of the parishioners, a mother of four, who was very active in the church was struck with a tumor. This disease devastated her family since they are poor. Feeling sorry for the situation of the single mother, Fr. Pete helped her by recommending her to the doctor to be free of charge from the physician's fee; yet the medicine still had to be paid for. Inasmuch as Fr. Pete wanted to help that much, and he had an amount insufficient even to the parish needs, he felt helpless. That is why, when the patient was advised by the doctor to be operated, Fr. Pete could not anymore carry the financial problem of her parishioner.

Fr. Pete saw how the poor parishioner died. At her deathbed, she said to her children to cook the most delicious spaghetti for the parish priest. This instance made Fr. Pete resolved to give his life for the poor than

ever. Hence, one can now fathom how the revolution is so important to him. This may be understood by others as something radical but one cannot judge the tears, miseries, and the deafening injustices that Fr. Pete has seen in more than half a century of his being a priest. Moreover, his piece of advice to the young Dominicans is that they need to do good for God and for the people especially the poor and to be positive to the things that come along.

We may agree or not toward the ways of Fr. Pete regarding revolution, but it is just the same, he has a legacy to tell, that is, he has given his all to uplift the dire condition of the poor. After my encounter with Fr. Pete, I guess there are voices in my heart which make me feel nervous such as, *"Have you done something for the poor? Have you identified yourself with them? Have you given your all (in the formation, and the like) to make the condition of the poor better off?"* These voices make me realize that richness consists by becoming of help to the poor, and I am poorer when I do not serve my purpose in becoming of help to the poor.

Only time can tell whether Fr. Pete is a legend; but one of the characteristics that makes a legend, legendary I guess, is that it has the power to stir renewal in the deepest recesses of our being; to give our all for the service of God and the people whom God loves.



"I am with you until the end"
 Digital Art (Adobe Sketch)
 Br. Joseph Conrad V. Salenga, OP
 First Year Student Brother



By Br. Isidro C. Abaño, OP
 Art-Colorist
(a person who adds color to the illustrations prepared by other artists)
 Ordained priest on 30 August 1985



Minor Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary of Manaog
 Photo taken: 1 June 2017, 3:30 pm
 By Br. Bienvenido S. Trinilla Jr., OP
 Ordained priest on 30 April 1983

We in the secretariat will do our best to publish the PHILDOM newsletter monthly for all the readers. We apologize for any inadvertent mistake in the content of this newsletter.

Help us by sending your:

- » **Creative comments**
- » **Articles and news**
- » **Thoughts to ponder**
- » **Suggestions for improvement**

Fax to: 732-4652 or
e-mail to: opphil@phils.op.org

All articles sent to the Secretariat/Phildom shall be given due consideration. Due to some limit in space however, we may not be able to print them all at once. It may come out at the forthcoming issues. Just the same we are grateful for the articles and newsbits. Please continue sending them; they will be most welcome.