



PHILDOM

JUNE
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

Serving God Joyfully...



Photo by Br. Mark Philip R. Goroza, OP

BROTHERS ON FOREIGN TRIP (By reason of Office)

- ➔ 23 June-4 July - *USA* - Br. Edwin Lao, OP - To attend the 2017 International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) Conference and Exposition
- ➔ 25 June-8 July - *Hong Kong* - Br. Rudolf Steven Seño, OP - To attend the conference: "Reality, Transformation and Excellence: Explorations in Thomas Aquinas' Philosophy" to be held at Hong Kong Baptist University.
- ➔ 30 June-3 July - *Thailand* - Br. Rodel Aligan, OP - To join in the UST Faculty of Arts and Letters Academic Planning Workshop
- ➔ 28 June-1 July - *Singapore* - Br. Jesus Miranda Jr., OP - To join in the benchmarking activities of the Office of Public Affairs of UST.
- ➔ 1-5 July - *Canada* - Br. Herminio Dagohoy, OP - To attend the annual gathering of the UST Alumni Association of America
- ➔ 3-15 July - *Philippines* - Br. Joseto Bernadas Jr., OP, - To attend the Formation Summit in Calamba

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Calendar of the Prior Provincial

- 3 July - 402nd Provincial Council Meeting
- 7-9 July - Canonical Visit to Manaog
- 10-21 July - Retreat OP Misioneras in Guam
- 22 July - Celebration of the 22nd Foundation Anniversary of Caleruega Philippines
- 22-26 July - Bahay Dominiko Annual Retreat
- 23 July - Retreat talk with Student-Brothers
- 27 July - Board of Trustees Meeting, Aquinas University Legazpi
- 29 July - Wedding at Manaog
- 31 July - Departure for Canonical Visit to Sri Lanka (August 1-6, 2017)

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- 3 July - 402nd Provincial Council Meeting
- Thanksgiving Mass of Br. Art Vincent Pangan, OP, in Camiling, Tarlac
- 3-6 July - Formation Summit in Calamba, Laguna
- 3-31 July - Asia-Pacific Dominican Common Study in Seoul, S. Korea
- 22 July - Thanksgiving Mass of Br. Felix delos Reyes Jr., OP, in Plaridel, Bulacan
- 22 July - 22nd Anniversary of Caleruega Philippines
- 22-26 July - Annual Retreat of Bahay Dominiko Community in St. Joseph Sanctuary, Gourmet Farm, Silang, Cavite
- 31 July - Thanksgiving Mass of Br. Rommel Olivar, OP, in Balaoan, La Union

JULY BIRTHDAY CELEBRATORS

- July 3 Br. Edmund Nantes, OP
- Br. Siddharta Chiong, OP
- 4 Br. Junel Pedroso, OP
- 6 Br. Roberto Reyes, OP
- 8 Br. Herminio Dagohoy, Op
- Br. Raul Obsioma, OP
- 9 Br. Roger Quirao, OP
- 14 Br. Hector Mariñas, OP
- Br. Ariel Adolfo, OP
- 15 Br. Jaime Alamillo, OP
- 18 Br. Allan Lopez, OP
- 19 Br. Rupinus Kehi, OP
- Br. Vince Stanley Iñigo, OP
- 23 Br. Ernesto Arceo, OP
- Br. Eugenio Cabillon, OP

REGIONAL COLLOQUIUM ON DOMINICAN PREACHING IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
THEME: "VADE, PRAEDICA!" (GO, PREACH)
10-12 OCTOBER 2017, UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS, MANILA

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

“SEND HUGS TO CHILDREN OF MARAWI”

By Br. Jose Martin L. Sibug, OP

The Commissions on Missions and Justice, Peace and Care of Creation recently launched a project to send help for children of Marawi who are displaced by the ongoing war between the government forces and the Maute group. In support of Black Pencil Project’s “Send Hugs to Children of Marawi” campaign, members of the Dominican Family in the Philippines are enjoined to donate new or pre-loved stuffed toys and school supplies. Black Pencil Project (BPP) is a civilian volunteer organization that promotes and supports the education of children in remote and indigenous communities in the Philippines. BPP has been a partner of our mission stations in Babuyan Islands, in General Santos City and Davao.



In the past, BPP has launched a campaign called 1000 Bearhugs. They have spearheaded the collection and distribution of stuffed toys to children affected by natural and man-made disasters like Typhoons Sendong, Yolanda and Pablo and the siege in Zamboanga. To children, stuffed toys like bears are more than just toys. They are imaginary friends who are effective comfort givers in times of extreme stress and fear; helping them heal from trauma or tragedy.

Last June 22, 2017, Br. Oscar Novem Enjaynes, OP, superior of St. Antoninus House in Davao City, transported the first batch of school supplies and stuffed toys from Bahay Dominiko to Davao City. He will be joining a group of volunteers organized by Silsilah Forum of Davao to bring the supplies to children in the evacuation centers in Iligan City.

TOY GUIDELINES

1000Bearhugs accept new and preloved stuffed toys like teddy bears and plushies.

As a guideline, let’s ensure toys are

- ✓ Adorably cute and in good condition
- ✓ Huggable size (min 6”, maxi of 24”)
- ✓ Clean and ready for distribution

Please avoid sending toys that are

- ✗ Non-stuffed toys
- ✗ Scary-looking
- ✗ Pigs or wild animal replicas
- ✗ Weapon-like
- ✗ Battery-operated
- ✗ Damaged or soiled

“Send Hugs To Children of Marawi” is still on-going. Donations of school supplies and stuffed toys may be brought to the Information Center of Sto. Domingo Convent. For inquiries, please contact 743-7762 or 63.

ABOUT THE TOY DRIVE

1000 Bearhugs is a special reach out to kids by kids put the spotlight to children displaced by disaster and conflict.

To children, teddy bears and stuffed toys are imaginary friends who are effective comfort givers in times of extreme stress and fear, helping them heal from trauma or tragedy.

The heartwarming toydrive brought over 30,000 stuffed toys to children survivors of big natural calamities like Sendong, Pablo, Negros, Bohol Quake, Zamboanga Siege and Yolanda.

For inquiries, please contact

Mon Corpuz - Black Pencil Project
Fr. Joemar Sibug OP - Dominican Missions
Nini Sacro - Climb Against Cancer
Cathy Sanchez Babao

ITINERANCY (as a Priority of the Province)

ASSIGNATIONS

- 🏠 Br. Rolando B. Granada, OP, is assigned to the Priory of Our Lady of the Rosary, Manaoag on June 15, 2017.
- 🏠 Br. Romulo Q. Angeles, OP, is assigned to the Priory of Our Lady of the Rosary, Manaoag on June 17, 2017.
- 🏠 Br. Jeremy Realubit, OP, is appointed Syndic of the Convent of St. Albert the Great on June 21, 2017.
- 🏠 Br. Joseph Nguyen Huu Thap, OP, son of the Province of the Queen of Martyrs (Vietnam), is assigned, *ratione studiorum*, to the Priory of St. Thomas Aquinas, UST Manila on July 1, 2017.
- 🏠 Br. Joseph Dinh Tien Hung, OP, son of the Province of the Queen of Martyrs (Vietnam), is assigned, *ratione*

studiorum, to the Priory of St. Thomas Aquinas, UST Manila on July 1, 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: **11 May 1984**

Simple Profession: **13 May 1985**

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



First Name: **ISAIAS**
Middle Name: **DABU**
Surname: **TIONGCO**
Nickname: "Fr. Sai"
Birthday: 29 Nov 1957
DPP ID No.: 198501
Solemn Profession: 12 May 1989
Date of Ordination: 25 Mar 1993
Assignment: Priory of St. Thomas Aquinas, UST Manila



First Name: **JOSE MARTIN**
Middle Name: **LORENZO**
Surname: **SIBUG**
Nickname: "Fr. Joemar"
Birthday: 30 Jan 1964
DPP ID No.: 198502
Solemn Profession: 12 May 1989
Date of Ordination: 25 Mar 1993
Assignment: Bahay Dominiko, Quezon City



First Name: **GREG**
Middle Name: **FABILA**
Surname: **GREGORY**
Nickname: "Fr. Greg"
Birthday: 18 Mar 1965
DPP ID No.: 198503
Solemn Profession: 12 May 1989
Date of Ordination: 25 Mar 1993
Assignment: St. Antoninus House, Davao City

QUALITY FORMATION

(as a Priority of the Province)

ORDINATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD

By Br. Jayson R. Gonzales, OP

On June 29, 2017, 3:00 PM, on the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, three deacons were ordained to the Order of the Priesthood by His Excellency Most Rev. Socrates B. Villegas, DD, Archbishop of Lingayen-Dagupan. The Dominican Province of the Philippines and the Convent of Santo Domingo rejoiced at this momentous occasion of Fr. Rommel P. Olivar, OP, Fr. Felix delos Reyes, Jr., OP and Fr. Art Vincent Pangan, OP. Archbishop Villegas, in his



homily, added three questions to the series of questions in the rite of ordination. These were good points to be reflected by the newly ordained priests and those who attended the ordination. However, these questions could not be answered simply by yes or no, but by the sincerity of one's heart. Where is your heart? Where is your joy? Who really are you? He answered that their hearts should always be in God and with the people. Their perfect joy is in the cross. They are sinners but are loved by God. Fr. delos Reyes towards the end of the Eucharistic celebration gave the word of thanks. He acknowledged that it takes a Christian community to make a priest and expressed his





gratitude for all the people who have supported them in their vocation. A simple gathering followed at the UST-Angelicum Gymnasium.

SIMPLE PROFESSION

By Br. Eugene Dominic V. Aboy, OP

Thirteen brothers took their first profession last June 24, 2017, Solemnity of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist, at the Minor Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary of Manaoag, Pangasinan. They were (*a maioribus*): Johnny Luntungan, OP (Manado, Indonesia), Simon Peter d.L. Ramos, OP (Bulakan, Bulacan), Jaypee B. Añonuevo, OP (Legazpi, Albay), Leonito F. Mateo, OP (Hagonoy, Bulacan), Robertus Adi Nugroho, OP (Jakarta, Indonesia), Lukas Sabdaningrat, OP (Bekasi, Indonesia), Michael John A. Pinuela, OP (Zaraga, Iloilo) John Michael S. Cruz, OP (Pulilan, Bulacan), Mark Christopher C. Biscocho, OP (Davao City), Nico Paolo P.



Moron, OP (Tulunan, North Cotabato), Ace B. Villaruel, OP (Quiapo, Manila), Eugene Dominic V. Aboy, OP (Pulilan, Bulacan) and Joseph Gabriel S. Lopez, OP (Baliuag, Bulacan).

The Eucharistic Celebration was presided over by Rev. Fr. Napoleon B. Sipalay, Jr., OP, the Prior Provincial of the Dominican Province of the Philippines. In his homily, he focused on the evangelical counsels and explained how one could love more perfectly by practising chastity, give more generously by practicing poverty and live more freely by promising obedience. In professing the vows, one removes his self-will in order to give one's self totally. He told the brothers not to be afraid of affective relationships yet to observe proper boundaries. He also gave emphasis on the missionary character of the Order and encouraged the brothers to trust in Divine Providence. After the Mass, a reception was held at the Pilgrim's Center.

NEW POSTULANTS ATTEND ORIENTATION PROGRAMME

By Br. Melencio P. Garcia, OP

The Office of the Provincial Promoter of Vocations formed an Orientation Programme for the incoming Postulants. Out of 13 expected postulants, the programme was attended by 5 new postulants with their family and friends. It was held last June 17, 2017 in the Fr. Lomboy Auditorium at the Studentate assisted by the student brothers of the PST group. The activity started at 8:30 in the morning. Fr. Norman Quilaquil, OP, the Postulants' Director, gave an overview of the Pre-Novitiate program; Fr. Tereso Campillo, OP, on Community life of the Order; Fr. Marcelino Saria, OP, on Apostolic life; Fr. Jannel Abogado, OP, on Intellectual life; and Rev. Stephen La Ja, OP, on Spiritual life.



Filipino Postulants for the Formation Year 2017-2018 together with the Promoter of Vocations, Br. Melencio Garcia, OP (there is another postulant not present in this photo). Three Indonesian Postulants from Rumah Formasi Santo Tomas Aquino (Surabaya) are expected to arrive soon to join in the postulancy program at St. Albert Pre-Novitiate House in Calamba.

After lunch, the 5 postulants left for Calamba together with their Director. During the evening, they toured around the Pre-novitiate with some of their families and friends who joined and visited the place. The Community of St. Albert the Great with their prior

Fr. Giuseppe Arsciwals, OP, welcomed the new postulants during dinner.

The new postulants who attended the Orientation Programme are:

1. DOMINIC VICTOR C. DE ALBAN

De Alban St. Brgy 4, Tumawini, Isabela

Birthdate: October 14, 1990 *Age:* 26

Sports: Basketball/ Table tennis/
Badminton

Hobbies: books/Movies-Fantasy

Family Background: Youngest

Education:

Elementary: St. Mary's College,
Maycauayan

Secondary: Regional Science High School, Region II

College: UST-AB Philo

Post Graduate: UST-Civil Law

Work Experiences:

Practicing-Lawyer/ Part-time Instructor(UST)/
Government Service



2. GIAN LINARDO MARI TORRES ESTRELLA

427 Tambobong, Bocaue, Bulacan

Birthdate: 26 August 1992 *Age:* 24

Family Background: He is the eldest brother (has 1 brother), Parents are working in the farm and school employee

Education:

Elementary: St. Paul College

Secondary: St. Paul College

College: UST-BS Accountancy

Work Experiences:

Staff of Ecclesiastical Faculty, Auditor of SGV & Company,
Accounting Operations Associate at Nestle Buss.
Services



3. MARLON AERON S. SALVADOR

Address: 12-A Sto. Cristo St.,
Balintawak Quezon City

Birthdate: August 6, 1994 *Age:* 22

Sports: Badminton, table tennis

Hobbies: reading books esp. about
Pope Francis

Talents: public speaking

Family Background:

Only child

Father: Allan D. Salvador (deceased)

Mother: Marian S. Sanchez (Retired Registered Nurse)

Education:

Elementary: Notre Dame of Greater Manila

Secondary: Notre Dame of Greater Manila

College: UST-BS Ed-Religious Education



4. ARGENE A. CLASARA

836 J Cherry Orchard Suites, 4
Saturn St. Congressional Subd.,
Quezon City

Birthdate: 28 June 1995 *Age:* 21

Sports: Table tennis

Hobbies: reading books/Korean
Dramas

Family Background:

Second in the family (2 brothers)

Youngest brother is 3rd year undergraduate student

Education:

Elementary: San Jose Elementary School 2009

Secondary: Center for Positive Futures 2013

College: UST-AB History 2017



5. JULIUS ALBERT A. GRAJO

P5-620, Sunrise Subd., Washington
Drive, Legazpi City, Albay (4500)

Birthdate: July 1, 1995 *Age:* 21

Sports: Volleyball

Hobbies: Video-games, Wikipedia

Talents: public speaking

Family Background:

Eldest (1 brother)

Father: Julian S. Grajo (Deceased)

Mother: Carolina L. Areola (School Teacher-DepEd)

Education:

Elementary: Albay Elementary School

Secondary: Our Lady of Peñafrancia Seminary

College: Bicol University

Work Experiences:

Project Support-Globe Telecom, Manila



DESPEDIDA DE SOLTERO

By Br. Arden Xerxes Driz Dacuma, OP

Despedida de Soltero is the Dominican Studentate's tradition of celebrating a student-brother's departure from his institutional formation as he is bound for ordination to the Priesthood for his eventual assignation to another community of the Province. Although the Spanish term



is a misnomer to the clerical life, and to the religious life for that matter, since he who is to be ordained remains single even after his ordination, the party still serves as a momentous occasion when the Studentate community gives tribute and bids farewell to a student-brother who is soon-to-be-priest.

Last June 27, 2017, the Dominican Studentate celebrated the *Despedida de Soltero* (or *de los Solteros*) for Rev. Rommel Olivar, OP, Rev. Felix De Los Reyes, OP and Rev. Art Vincent Pangan, OP. The *despedida*, which was organized by Batch 2009, started with the Evening Prayer, and followed by a simple dinner. Hosted by Br. Jaymar Godalle, OP, the event included songs, video presentations, interviews, and “fast talks” regarding some memorable experiences during the formative years of the three deacons.

The parents of the three deacons also gave their heartfelt messages to their sons *via* phone call. In addition, the Master of Students and his assistant also gave their fraternal pieces of advice to the honourees.

The *despedida* concluded with a procession to the Our Lady of the Rosary of La Naval de Manila. With the singing of the Dominican Blessing, the entire Dominican Studentate, with arms outstretched, gave their blessing to the three deacons.



WHAT A JOURNEY IT HAS BEEN!

By Br. Vince Stanley B. Iñigo, OP

*“And the Word was made flesh,
and dwelt among us.”
(John 1: 14)*

Justice, Peace and Care for Creation. Yes, that was the three-in-one package or reason for our summer exposure in Bulacan. We have been taught about the concept of “justice” as philosophy students since our pre-novitiate days. In fact, it was the most evident thing in our work as factory workers for one month. We learned how a bar of soap and packages of cosmetics were made before consumers get the ultimate satisfaction of these. And thanks to the factory workers, they toil for it rain or shine and we had a taste of their everyday experience. That was



how justice was within reach for me. That, to appreciate our sisters and brothers by showing them and making them feel that they really are in our prayers by being in solidarity with the poor and the needy. It must have been a journey for me though on finding the answers how were we able to bring “peace” and to “care for creation” as we were travelling back to Sto. Domingo, Quezon City.

It may sound big deal, or nevertheless a hard pill to swallow, on my part because on the contrary “peace” and “care for creation” seem so easy to be defined or to be understood by others. Well, not on my watch. Why I was there was more than definitions and concepts which I left to my academic courses. I felt that God was opening my eyes to the reality of people’s lives as a Dominican.

As we were packing our things for our departure last May 25, 2017, I loaded a tickler in my baggage because I know that there might come a time that I would desire writing few memorable moments while I was there in Guiguinto, Bulacan. I find it more effective to write journal entries (which were, sad to say, not written on a daily basis) because emotions are truly at its best. Maybe a few stories will not eat up much of everyone’s time reading these:

*May 30, 2017
(Around 6:00 PM)*

This must be one of the silent hours so far. Everybody else is resting and some are sticking to their hobbies – gadgets.

We just ended our second day at work. We are waiting for the dinner to be served that is why I am able to write here for a while. I don’t know if we’re already complete because [a brother] went out to use the internet at a nearby café.

So, how’s the day, my friends? If you’d ask me, all I can say is that people have stories to tell. Sometimes we just thought that just because they are working in the factory they become mechanical. No. Maybe that would be at an extreme and inhumane level. They’re not robots. The people inside the factory we are working with right now have their own tastes of laughter and tears (or if I may

add...romance.) The bottom line is, in the midst of our achievements and accomplishments have we thought of the hours we had wasted for nonsense while majority of the world are working in the industry? Have we imagined ourselves receiving a minimum wage to support our own family's needs? Have we thought of a mother working for days just to buy her son a new pair of socks? ...

...I am learning from experience [and about experience] and I hope that I'd be able to have courage to become the voice of the voiceless.

Please do not get me wrong. That is just one side of the coin. The employees there at the factory, including those who are superiors or in the offices, are very much affectionate towards the workers. It was a marvelous site to gaze on because they treated one another as brothers and sisters. It must also be the fruit of their president's prayers. Mike Plana, indeed, taught his employees the Dominican motto of "*contemplare et contemplata aliis tradere*" (to contemplate and to share to them the fruits of contemplation) by setting the example himself. I asked myself that time, "Would I be able to do the same to the people of God?" As I was sharing stories with this joyful [ex-]friar, I learned more that generosity was one of the ways in which we can really achieve happiness in life. When we were aspirants, my batch mates and I were reminded that "Not all successful persons are happy persons, but all happy persons are successful persons." No words can define what I am feeling right now as I reminisce the friends I made in that place. And speaking of friends, I think I can name a few who were also given a space in my journal entry:

*June 7, 2017
(Around 8:30 PM)*

Hello everyone! The smell of the Efficascent Oil surrounds the whole house. For your information [a brother] asked [another brother] to massage him to relieve himself from body pain due to factory works.

I have plenty of experiences today especially in almost being caught as a seminarian which my brothers and I are trying to hide because of a protocol to hide our identity.

The factory is filled with people who inspire me to be dedicated to my studies for priesthood. I am so speechless as of now but I really don't want to forget the names of ate Calai, ate Jasmin, ate Luna, ate Cindy, ate Angie, ate Marie, ate Lanie, sir Jhombie, sir Ibyn, ma'am Mercy, nanay Rina (especially her laughter), nanay Rona, kuya Gerald, tatay Fernan, kuya Elmer, ma'am Gina, ma'am Julie and many more. They are just a few workers of Biosoap whom I would like to give honor.

Some names were not written anymore but I thank Gwen, Charm, Krizelle, Jelay, Steph, Shai, Love, and Anton who are students of Central Philippine University, Iloilo

who became close to us as well. At Refinette, I was able to acquaint myself with Bonbon, Ma'am Rona, Ma'am Lorie, ate Faith, kuya Russel, kuya Rovi, kuya Lovi, kuya Dave, kuya Patrick, kuya Rey, ate Grace, Charles, Sarven, Princess (OJT from La Consolacion) and Jayson (OJT from Bulacan State University).

It will be difficult for me to narrate what happened each day but the weekends are quite awesome too. I was able to pray at different churches. Whether that was in Guiguinto, Bocaue, Malolos or Plaridel, I think only death would stop us just to cherish peace as Masses were being said by Bulaceño priests whom I salute because they can touch the lives of the people in their homilies.

I would like to ask myself once more. Was I able to reach my goal as I journey on to understand "peace" and "care for creation"? Well, God has always been by my side to help me achieve that. I believe it was the verse in the Scriptures found in John 1: 14 that reverberated all throughout our stay in Bulacan. "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us." I know that I am not Jesus or the "Word made flesh". I was just His instrument and I wholeheartedly accept it not with pride but [as much as I can and tried] with humility. It was not easy but He Himself opened avenues for us to preach to the people by making them realize that God's servants are present. Maybe the identity as religious was hidden because we were not wearing our habits for a month but so far as I have observed in some of my brothers, they were carrying with them their profession especially when we had to say our prayers in secret (literally). At first I thought that we were the only ones who were bringing Christ to the people. I did not expect that they would also bring us closer to the Lord. Yes, I achieved peace as I was caring for God's most perfect of all creation – man, regardless of origin or race or life's achievements. God unfolded to me that philosophy subjects are nothing if I will not open my eyes (and my heart) to the reality that men are created equal. There may be plenty of things that I can do which they cannot do but there are also plenty of things that they can do which I cannot do. I was surprised how thin young men would carry drums loaded with raw materials and equipment as heavy as one-third sack of rice. They are simply amazing. It was a realization of limitations. I did not expect that we would re-enact David defeating Goliath.

I learned plenty of things in the factory like coding, stamping, filling, compounding, dispensing, packing and most importantly making friends. But as I listened to God's voice at prayer, I was reminded that there was more to life than just that institution. I was working at and for the kingdom of our Creator. We just ended our final examinations for the year when we started our summer exposure. It was a great surprise for me that the bigger tests would come. We were left on our own and we had to live on our own. We had to manage our allowance and resources as brothers. We had to smoothen one another's



rough edges as each one of us revealed our “rough” personalities. We had to prove ourselves mature in making decisions. We had to remember that God must be seen in us whether we keep our identities as religious or not. We had to understand how our sisters and brothers make things meaningful in this quite chaotic world. We had to help bring justice, peace and care for creation. All those happened within one month and I thank the Lord [and my formators] for sending me there.

*“What a journey it has been
And the end is not in sight
But the stars are out tonight
And they’re bound to guide my way.”*

JPCC EXPERIENCE

By Br. Gary A. Ni-og, OP

One of the four priorities of the Province is the promotion of Justice, Peace and Care for Creation (JPCC). As a response, the Dominican Studentate Pastoral Board prepared a program for the student-brothers to acquaint them regarding the said priority. This summer, the batch 2016 (twelve student-brothers) worked in a factory in Guiguinto, Bulacan last May 28- June 25, 2017. This summer exposure allowed the student-brothers to experience the life of working inside a factory. There were two factories; BSII (Biosoap Industry Incorporated) and RCI (Refinette Cosmetics Industry) owned by Mr. Michael O. Plana who is an ex-corista.



They were assigned in the production area where they experienced how to make soap, lotion, and cosmetic products. Their religious identity was incognito to avoid the possible different treatment except by some personnel who processed their documents for their employment. They were the 9th batch who had their summer exposure in the same factory since 2008. Luckily, they were able to join the company outing last June 24, at Morong, Bataan.

This month-long factory experience helped the student-brothers realize the reality of difficulty in earning for a living. They were able to know different life stories as they worked and hopefully this would help them in their future ministry to be effective in promoting justice, peace and care for creation.

SENT TO PREACH: BATCH 2013 GOES TO PALAWAN!

By Br. Rocky Nino L. Maire, OP

Our Exposure on Mission and Higher Theological Reflection was very timely, since the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of the Philippines declared this year as the Year of the Parish, with the theme, “Communion of Communities.” Realizing its importance to our formation, we decided to design a program which will fit in the CBCP’s theme, and so we agreed to go to Taytay, Palawan to extend our assistance to the parish priest. At the back of our minds, we could hit two birds in one stone: we could fulfil the objectives of our pastoral exposure and we could experience the paradise of Palawan.



We were divided into two groups: Bobby, Andrei and Paulo were sent to Biton Island, while Jerone, Mervin and I were sent to a much farther island – Paly Island. We were delegated by the Parish Priest to be the Ministers of these two islands. We were tasked to Celebrate the Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion, to preach the Good News, to encourage the people to be renewed once again in their Catholic faith and, if possible, to form and organize Basic Ecclesial Communities in the island. The Parish Priest



wanted us to do these things in his place, since he was alone serving the parish.

We had the Celebration of the Word with Communion every Wednesday and Friday at 5 o'clock in the afternoon and on Sundays at 5 o'clock in the morning. We also went to Paly National High School, a one hour walk from the barrio to celebrate the Word with them in view of the beginning of the School Year 2017-2018. In addition to the Celebration of the Word with Holy Communion, which we did three times a week, we drafted a 3-day program for those laity who wished to renew their dedication to serve the Church on June 9-11, 2017. This program, which we aptly entitled Life in Christ Renewal Experience, was done for three days from 5 o'clock in the evening until seven o'clock in the evening. It was arranged primarily to give way to their household works, and the other obligations in the barangay with due consideration in the capacity of the generator to be used since electricity provided by the government is still lacking in the island. The Life in Christ Renewal Experience became our jumping board to organize Basic Ecclesial Communities in Paly Island. Those who attended the seminar served as the leaders of the BECs. Aside from the seminar, we also carried out block rosary per *purok*. After praying the rosary, we had a procession while the brother-in-charge blessed their houses with Holy Water. We were not able to finish the blessing of houses until the last *purok*, since the island is composed of around 2,000 households. Another pastoral work that we did in Paly was a recollection for the Youth. It was held on June 17, 2017 Saturday from 9 o'clock in the morning until 3 o'clock in the afternoon.



After we completed our 20 days of ministry, the Pastoral Council of Paly Island surprised us with a Despedida Party which was attended by the Catholic Faithful (students who attended the recollection and kids who played with us during our stay in their island). We went back to the mainland on the 21st of June and wrapped up our pastoral exposure on Mission and Higher Theological Reflection. The culminating activity was sponsored by the Parish Priest and Pastoral Council.

MOLDING THE HEART OF A MISSIONARY IN ME

By Br. Wilhelm Boñon, OP

I've heard a lot of stories about the missions. Different perspectives. Different stories. Different persons telling their own experiences. I have known and listened to many great missionaries in our province. They were so eager to tell their stories and they would usually end up inviting us to be part of the missions. They would usually say, "We are really needed in the missions!" Then, inspired by their stories, I would imagine the experience of being there in the missions. But now, thankful to God, I can now have my own experience of the missions although only for a couple of weeks. Now, I can at least tell something of my own experience about the missions.



After a half day of travel by bus, we were then welcomed by the splash of waves in our *lampitaw*. We arrived after a 5 hour trip from Aparri to the beautiful island of Calayan. We literally experienced a very warm welcome in Calayan! The weather was sweltering but of course the warm welcome of the people of Calayan was more fervent than the weather. The food was definitely overwhelming (as the brothers and fathers can witness with the effect on our summer bodies upon coming home from mission exposure!). The people, the food and definitely the place were all splendid! We roamed around the island and saw the beautiful sceneries and beaches! But of course, those things I have said earlier are just tips of the iceberg and are just the bonus part of being a missionary in Calayan. The true missionary experience is to see the Dominican

Fathers doing their apostolate. It was really inspiring to a simple professed brother like me. As I saw the Fathers riding a *kuliglig*, motorcycle or a *lampitaw* just to celebrate Mass and the sacraments in the far areas of the island, I admired the life of our brothers and I remembered the call of Jesus Christ to preach the Gospel to all peoples. People were longing for the sacraments, they were longing for Christ in the Eucharist! Here, I also realized the need for more missionaries and for more priests! (PERSEVERE dear brothers!)

Besides the observation and seeing the apostolate of the Fathers, we also helped in giving Catecheses and talks to the Church groups in the Parish and every afternoon we talked about the Sacraments to the young members of the Legion of Mary. We gave a talk to the parish volunteers, Eucharistic ministers, lectors and CWL members. They were so eager to learn more about our faith that after we gave our prepared talk they asked us to extend and to give more talks about the Eucharist! These were the people that helped us in our mission in Calayan; they were the ones that helped us reach the areas that the Dominican Fathers could not regularly visit due to the difficulty of



travel.

Indeed, missionary life is exciting! Of course, counting the perks of being a missionary in that beautiful island and also the experience of seeing the happiness and excitement of the people to attend Mass and to receive the sacraments, I can say it is worth the sacrifice of our missionaries in Calayan. Life in the mission seems to be fun and easy when you stay there for two weeks, just as we did, but thinking of it now as I write this article, it makes me realize how challenging the work of a missionary is! The life of a Dominican is a life of a missionary and we thank the people of Calayan and the Fathers there for helping us realize the beauty and fun of being a missionary of Christ! And I testify that visiting this mission station, during this early course of our formation, makes us appreciate and helps us mold our hearts into becoming a missionary. Slowly but surely, we aim to mold the heart of a missionary in us. And so, we pray for the missions and we pray for more missionaries!

✿ GENERAL NEWS ✿

BROTHERS FROM THE PHILIPPINES SHEPHERDING BROTHERS IN VIETNAM

By Br. Michael M. Sales, OP

The Dominican Studentate of the Philippines sent 6 brothers to Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam in response to the invitation of the Dominican Province of the Queen of Martyrs. The Student-brothers from the Philippines helped the student brothers in Vietnam to learn English proficiency through discussions about the Catechism of the Catholic Church, liturgy and some documents of the Church using English language. The program started last June until the end of July. The brothers were divided into



two groups. Each group had three weeks for their sessions.

The brothers from the Philippines took the opportunity to visit the formation houses and convents of the Province of Vietnam. They also went on a pilgrimage visiting churches and a convent of Dominican Sisters. Through this, they were able to meet other members of the Dominican family. It also gave the brothers an opportunity to know the history and culture of Vietnam





by visiting some of the historic places in Ho Chi Minh City and other tourist destinations.

It is indeed helpful for the brothers to connect with our brothers from another country so that there will be a deeper fraternal integration not only with our brothers from our Province but also with the other brothers from another country. It was truly a successful mission to our brothers in formation for both Provinces.



ELEVARSE ANGELICUM

By Tia Grace Buyco, YS 8- St. Vincent Ferrer learner

Angelicum School Iloilo opened once more its school year, welcoming new and old students last June 19, 2017. The school celebrated the Mass of the Holy Spirit on June 21, 2017 with Fr. Ramon Claro G. Mendez, OP, the school director, as presider and Fr. Paul Reagan O. Talavera, the school principal, as con-celebrant. The readings taken from the Solemnity of Pentecost centered on the theme of



unity in diversity, that even though we speak in different tongues, we speak of the mighty acts of God. For the first time, the school invited an alumnus, Dr. Joseph Dean Nicolo, the Medical Center Chief of Western Visayas Medical Center, for a short sharing after the Mass. He talked about his experiences in Angelicum School and how the lessons he learned helped him handle and face the challenges he had in life. He told the learners, employees, and parents that, in order to succeed in life, they have to remember three P's: Persevere, Practice, and Pray.

“UST AND ANGELICUM COLLEGE INTEGRATION MOA SIGNING AND BLESSING OF THE BLESSED JORDAN OF SAXONY BUILDING”

By Dr. Rosanni M. del Mundo

A milestone in the history of the Royal Pontifical



University of Santo Tomas (UST) and Angelicum College (AC), the pioneer of the non-graded system of education in the Philippines, happened on June 29, 2017.

UST, represented by Rector Magnificus Rev. Fr. Herminio Dagohoy, O.P.; AC, represented by Rev. Fr. Ferdinand Bautista, O.P., Ph.D.; and Rev. Fr. Napoleon B. Sipalay, Jr., O. P., the Prior Provincial of the Dominican Province of the Philippines, Vice Chancellor of the University of Santo Tomas and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Angelicum College, signed a Memorandum of Agreement for the integration of the two educational institutions. It transpired during the blessing of the newly-constructed Blessed Jordan of Saxony Building, which



Photo from the Facebook page of Angelicum College



Photo from the Facebook page of Angelicum College

will be the home of the Senior High School and College students of Angelicum College starting the Academic Year 2017-2018.

This integration, which was approved by the Board of Trustees of Angelicum College on February 23, 2017, is anchored on the provision of the 10th Provincial Chapter of the Dominican Province of the Philippines, which states in part, *“integrate all the Dominican institutions within two venerable and historical educational traditions, that of Letran, which was founded in the year 1620, and of UST, which was built in 1611.”* The integration will intensify the collaboration of UST and AC, specifically in the areas of School Leadership and Management; Courses on Religious Education and Christian Living Education; Community and Extension Services; Financial Management; Marketing and Promotion; and Research and Publication.

Present to witness this momentous event were the members of the UST Board of Trustees; members of the AC Board of Trustees; Priors of the different Convents of the Dominican Province of the Philippines (DPP); Council of Rectors; brethren of Dominican Province of the Philippines; representatives of UST academic community; UST and AC legal counsel; AC administrators, faculty, and employees; AC alumni, parents, and students; and the architect, contractor, and project manager of the Blessed Jordan of Saxony Building.

As the integration unfolds, UST and AC will hopefully strengthen the DPP’s Ministry of Evangelization through Education.

July in DPP History

(Culled from the Archives of the Province)

- ☛ **1975 July 1** – The administration of the parish of Mati was officially turned over by the Maryknoll Fathers to the Dominican Province of the Philippines. It was done within a concelebrated Mass headed by Bishop Joseph Regan, MM. The other concelebrants were: Fr. Thomas Lopez Francisco, OP, who represented the Prior Provincial, Fr. Rogelio B. Alarcon, OP; Fr. Jack Walsh, MM, the outgoing parish priest; Fr. Amador

Ambat, OP, the incoming pastor; Fr. Eduardo Flotildes, OP, assistant pastor; and the Provincials of the P.M.E., Fathers and Redemptorist Fathers.

- ☛ **1987 July 21** – 400th anniversary Mass in Sto. Domingo, Quezon City, for the arrival of the Dominicans to the Philippines.
- ☛ **2006 July 22** – Blessing of the first canonical House in Indonesia, the Rumah Santo Dominikus.

PC Notes...

Notes from the 401st Provincial Council Meeting
on 5 June 2017

- ☛ The terminal report of Br. Roger Quirao, OP, as the Prior of the Convent of St. Albert the Great from 16 June 2014 until 16 May 2017 was approved.
- ☛ In the spirit of Act 274, the Promoters are to start with something modest by sharing space, personnel and information for possible and accessible coordination. Hence, all promoters are to share office and secretary with the existing set-up in the Office of the Social Communications.
- ☛ The Provincial and the Promoter of the Missions are directed to dialogue with Mrs. Aurora Lazo the Council’s desire to retain the lot in Tumauini, Isabela in view of a project which the Province intends to zealously set up. Hence, the commitment does not have to be directed to a particular Convent or institution, but to the Province itself.
- ☛ Inasmuch as the Audit Committee is not simply on financial assessment but on the processes as well, the Council deputed the Provincial Syndic to nominate 2 persons as members of his team with expertise on financial, educational and hospital management to be presented before the Provincial Council for approval in the next meeting.
- ☛ The members of the Ad Hoc Committee for St. Dominic’s day are:
 - a. Prior of St. Domingo (convenor)
 - b. Promoter of Continuing Formation
 - c. Provincial Syndic
 - d. Master of Students
 - e. Promoter of the Missions
- ☛ The Provincial sent to Bishop David the previous copy of the Memorandum of Agreement pertinent to the San Lorenzo Ruiz Parish in Dagat-dagatan (with updated signatories) for comments.
- ☛ For information:
 - a. Request of the Province of Queen of Martyrs (Vietnam) for 6 student-brothers (2 batches of 3 brothers) to teach English and Basic catechism

on 1-29 June and 1-31 July. The Vietnam Province will take care of everything (board and lodging and transportation) for the duration of their stay.

- b. Practicum for the program of the Institute of Preaching by 3 student-brothers and 2 lay people in Surabaya, Indonesia last 7-14 May 2017
- c. Invitation for the Major Superiors of the Dominican Family in Asia-Pacific, with the theme: Vade, Praedica! on 10-12 October 2017 to be held in the Philippines.
- d. Canonical visit of the Master
The canonical visit is from 17 September until 1 October 2017. The visitators will be the Master of the Order, Br. Vivian and the Socius for Intellectual Life. Details of the visit are still in progress.
- e. Call for Help for the Marawi Children.
The Justice and Peace and Care for Creation Commission and the Promoter of the Missions in cooperation with the Dominican Family and other external agencies will spearhead a rehabilitation program (psycho-spiritual therapy) for the children of Marawi City. Part of the project is also the collection of stuffed toys that will serve as tools for therapeutic purposes for the children of Marawi.

DEATH IN THE FAMILY

We pray for the eternal repose of the souls of:

- † **Most Rev. RODOLFO F. BELTRAN**, Bishop of the Diocese of San Fernando de La Union, who passed away on 17 June 2017. He is a member of the Priestly Fraternities of St. Dominic and the brother of our Br. Franklin F. Beltran, OP.
- † **Sr. VIRGINIA CASTALONE, OP**, of the Congregacion de Religiosas Misioneras de Santo Domingo, who passed away on June 30, 2017.
- † **MA. ESTELA A. BOMBASE**, the mother of our Br. Gallardo Bombase Jr., OP, who passed away on June 25, 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 July.

- July 3 + Br. Jephte Lucena
- 6 + Br. Gregorio Hontomin, OP
- 9 + Msgr. Mario Baltazar, OP
- 18 + Br. Rodolfo Atienza, OP

BROTHERS ON FOREIGN TRIP (By reason of Office)

... continued from page 1

- ➔ 3-31 July – S. Korea – Br. Junel Pedroso, OP, Br. Reynor Munsayac, OP, Br. Valentinus Bayuhadi Ruseno, OP, and Br. Glen Mar Gamboa, OP – To attend the annual Asia-Pacific Dominican Common Study.
- ➔ 7-15 July – Vietnam – Br. Herminio Dagohoy, OP – To attend the 7th International Conference of the South and Southeast Asia Association for the Study of Culture and Religion
- ➔ 7-21 July – Sri Lanka – Br. Melencio Garcia, OP – To finish the financial reports as the former syndic of St. Dominic's House in Sri Lanka.
- ➔ 8-15 July – S. Korea – Br. Enrico Gonzales, OP – To serve as one of the lecturers for the Asia-Pacific Dominican Common Study.
- ➔ 9-16 July – Vietnam – Br. Hermel Pama, OP – To attend the 7th International Conference of the South and Southeast Asian Association for the Study of Culture and Religion
- ➔ 24-28 July – S. Korea – Members of the Priory of St. Thomas Aquinas – Fraternal outing of the community
- ➔ 28-30 July – S. Korea – Br. Delfo Canceran, OP – To attend a conference of the Inter-Asia Cultural Studies

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: **ROBERTO**
 Nickname: "Rudy"
 Middle Name: **VILLORDON**
 Surname: **CARCUEVAS**
 Birthday: 26 Mar 1962
 Civil Status: Married
 Hometown: Aloguinsan, Cebu
 Date of Employment in the Provincialate: 1 Nov 1998
 Current Position: Driver/Staff/
 Delivery Crew
 Milestone/Highlight of being with the Province: I was able to

send my four children to school and finished their college degrees.



Standing from left to right: Chester, John Joshua, my wife Imelda, myself, and Jerome. Sitting in the center is my only daughter Lovely Ann.

Solemn Investiture of Br. Arthur B. Dingel, OP, as the 9th Rector and President of Colegio de San Juan de Letran - Calamba.

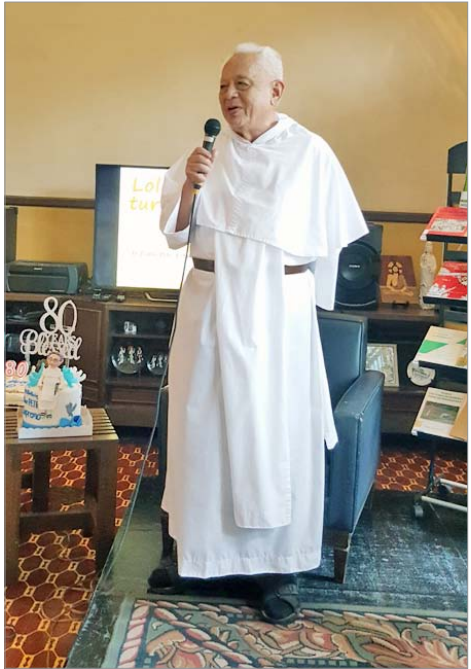
23 June 2017, Fra Angelico New Gymnasium, Colegio de San Juan de Letran, Calamba, Laguna.



Lolo Pete turns 80!

A Birthday Celebration of Fr. Pedro "Pete" Salgado, OP.

29 June 2017, Holy Eucharist at Sto. Domingo Church followed by lunch at the Studentate Community Room, Santo Domingo Convent, Quezon City.





Student-Brothers' Camiguin Mission Exposure 2017 5-26 June 2017, Camiguin Islands, Calayan, Cagayan



ANNOUNCEMENT



"Vade, Praedica", A Regional Colloquium on Dominican Preaching in Asia and the Pacific 10-12 October 2017, University of Santo Tomas, Manila

THE DOMINICAN PROVINCE OF THE PHILIPPINES,
THE INSTITUTE OF PREACHING,
& THE DOMINICAN FAMILY IN THE PHILIPPINES
INVITE YOU TO

VADE, PRAEDICA

"GO, PREACH"
A regional colloquium on Dominican Preaching in Asia and the Pacific

OCTOBER 10-12, 2017
Buena Ventura Garcia Paredes OP Bldg.
University of Santo Tomas, Manila, Philippines

Aquinas | STYPPING INSTITUTE FOR PASTORAL MINISTRY | UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS

SCHEDULE

DAY ONE: 10 OCTOBER, TUESDAY
delegates are expected to arrive by Monday/Tuesday

4:00 pm Registration

6:00 pm Vespers (with preaching)
President: Rev. Fr. Winston Cabading, OP
Director of the Institute of Preaching

Formal Opening
Rev. Fr. Herminio V. Dagohoy, OP
*Rector Magnificus
University of Santo Tomas, Manila*

7:00 pm Welcome Dinner

DAY TWO: 11 OCTOBER, WEDNESDAY

8:30 am Lauds & Holy Eucharist
President: Rev. Fr. Napoleon Sipalay, Jr., OP
*Prior Provincial
Dominican Province of the Philippines*

10:00 am Snacks

10:30 am Keynote
"On the Preaching of the Dominican Sisters in the Asia-Pacific Region"
Sr. Bernadette Kiley, OP
*Coordinator for Asia-Pacific,
Dominican Sisters International*

Open Forum

12:00 nn Lunch

1:30 pm "The Dominican Missions as Preaching"
Rev. Fr. Jose Martin Sibug, OP
Promoter for the Missions, DPP

3:00 pm Snacks

3:30 pm Simultaneous Preaching Presentations
"Dominican Preaching and the Great Religions of Asia-Pacific"

6:00 pm Vespers (with preaching)

6:30 pm Dinner & Socials

DAY THREE: 12 OCTOBER, THURSDAY

8:30 am Lauds (with preaching)

9:30 am Snacks

10:00 am Keynote
"On the Preaching of the Dominican Brothers in the Asia-Pacific Region"
Rev. Fr. Gerard Timoner, III, OP
*Assistant to the Master of the Order, Asia Pacific
Member, International Theological Commission*

Open Forum

12:00 nn Lunch

1:30 pm Cultural Performance

3:00 pm Snacks

3:30 pm Simultaneous Preaching Presentations
"New Frontiers of Dominican Preaching"

5:00 pm Concluding Holy Eucharist

DAY FOUR: 13 OCTOBER, FRIDAY

Morning Cultural Tour/Excursion

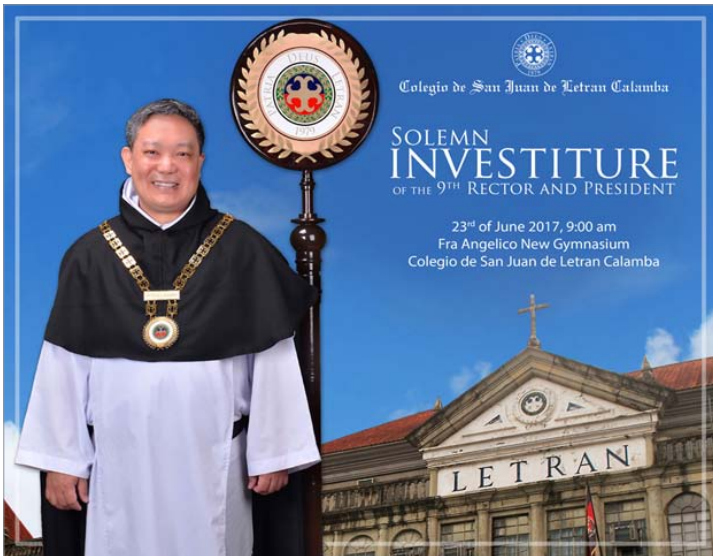
TO FURTHER THE CONVERSATION ON DOMINICAN PREACHING IN THE CONTEXT OF ASIA-PACIFIC REALITIES AND CHALLENGES

TO BRING INTO DISCOURSE THE EXPERIENCES AND REFLECTIONS OF DOMINICAN FRIARS, SISTERS AND LAY PEOPLE, ARISING FROM THEIR PREACHING MISSION, IN THE MIDST OF THE GREAT RELIGIOUS CULTURES OF ASIA-PACIFIC (HINDUISM, BUDDHISM, ISLAM, ETC.)

TO OFFER A VENUE FOR EMERGENT AND DIVERGENT VOICES OF DOMINICAN PREACHERS IN ASIA-PACIFIC (YOUTH, FILM, NEW/SOCIAL MEDIA, INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, ETC.)

Inaugural Speech of Br. Arthur B. Dingel, OP, during his Solemn Investiture as the 9th Rector and President of the Colegio de San Juan de Letran-Calamba

23 June 2017, Fra Angelico New Gymnasium, Colegio de San Juan de Letran, Calamba, Laguna



In 1994, I was assigned to Letran Intramuros... and was eventually promoted as Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and Dean of the College of Business Administration and Accountancy. Fresh from my formal studies in Philosophy and Theology, having no knowledge of school management whatsoever, I had only sheer desire to help our then rector, Fr. Ramon Cercado in any way I could.

Under his tutelage I learned so much about the interesting science of school administration. He clarified in details the contributions as well as the functions and processes of the Human Resource Development office, the office of the Registrar, the Library, the Guidance, the Alumni, the offices of the Financial Affairs, the Student Affairs, the External Affairs, etc. in completing the school's academic targets. For Fr. Cercado, aside from the religious division of the school, the academic unit must always take precedence in importance. Everything else is a support. Indeed, for more than two decades now, I always subscribe to this school management mantra.

In 2002, I was assigned to Aquinas University of Legazpi... and was consequently appointed as Vice Rector for Academic Affairs by the then Rector, Fr. Ramon Claro Mendez, OP. Fresh from my focus on the academic unit as the be-all-and-all in school management, I was just delighted to contribute to the academic upliftment of the University. However, Fr. Mendez showed me that Culture and the Arts and Community Extension are divisions very valuable to the formation of the student. From him I learned so much about how philosophy and poetry can actually jive with the practical science of school administration.

In 2006, I was assigned to UST... and was immediately assigned as Regent of Engineering by the then Rector, Fr. Ernesto Arceo, OP. Fresh from the lessons I learned on the importance of Culture, the Arts and Community Extension as active partners in the total education of the students, I was so lucky to have witnessed firsthand how Fr. Arceo initiated the unprecedented management steps toward the regularization of committed individuals who had been working in the University for a long time but had remained non-regulars. These individuals have shown unparalleled commitment to their work and were vital in the operation of the university. However, for one valid reason or another, they were never promoted to becoming regular employees.

Fr. Arceo was determined to offer equal opportunities to workers within the walls of the university. For him, they should be the first recipients of the university's community service. From him I learned so much about how development programs should not only be limited to students and facilities... but should be extended to all workers of all types and of all conditions. Because they too are educators in their own right.

In 2007, I was appointed by the then Rector of UST, Fr. Rolando dela Rosa, OP, to direct the Planning, Development and Quality Management Office. Fresh from the inputs on social and economic justice as championed by the previous Rector, Fr. dela Rosa insisted that I produce and report management studies, action researches and scientific surveys to aid the policy-making sections of the university. He was convinced that the decisions of the Council of Regents, the Economic Council, the Academic Senate, the Board of Trustees, and the Office of the Rector have to be aided and even based on knowledge and information objectively and statistically analyzed by a third party. From him I learned so much about how inevitable in-depth management studies are in the professionalization of educational administration and decision-making.

I have no doubt that I would have learned much under the current Rector of UST, Fr. Herminio Dagohoy, OP, had I stayed longer in the said university.

To Dr. Emmylou Yanga, Director IV, of Commission on Higher Education, to Dr. Diosdado M. San Antonio, Regional Director, of the Department of Education, to Fr. Clarence Marquez, rector and president of Letran, Intramuros, to Fr. Anthony Eudela, director and president of Letran Manaoag, to Fr. Ferdinand Bautista, rector and president of Angelicum College, to Ms Fe Medina of the Lyceum of the

Philippines, to Engr. Dodgie Campo of Malayan Colleges, to Drs. Jolie Alson, Josephine Maningas and Ferdinand Somido of the University of Perpetual Help System of Dalta and Junelta, to Dr. Marya Camacho of the University of Asia and the Pacific, to Dr. Livia Perilla of Calamba Institute, to Srs. Angelita Dimaculangan and Marisse Quano of Canossa Academy, to Dr. Saturnino Belen of First Asia Institute of Technology and Humanities, to Dom. Clement Roque of San Beda College, to Dr. Ma. Socorro Eala of San Pablo Colleges, to Drs. Ma. Lourdes Domingo-Maglinao, Marilu Madrunio, Leonardo Canoy, and Aleth Therese Dacanay of UST, to Drs. Nina Cabral, Vi Rosas, and Lucita Villegas of Letran, to the presidents and directors of Catholic and dominican schools, to the deans and principals of private and state academic institutions, to all individuals here directly involved in the vocation of educating the young and the old, and to all those in the management of the educational institutions... my heartfelt thanks for gracing this occasion.

I hope that in my term as Rector, as Head Educational Manager of this promising institution, I can add value to the very science of which all of us are duty bound to professionally apply and enrich. I pray that the management lessons I learned from those who painstakingly mentored me will bear needed fruits here in Letran.

From 1983 to the present, I have faced many strangers who became acquaintances. Not so few of them continued as my close friends. Some ended up as my brothers and sisters in faith.

Through the years, I have shared theories (and meals) with my subordinates and with my staff. They have listened to me intently. They have worked with me, even actively taking part in my seemingly unworkable strategies. Thus, I cannot but listen to them too and be supportive of their needs. Ours were reciprocal relationships founded on mutual respect and the anticipation to fill up and fill in the needs of the other.

In all the academic institutions I have been to, I always discuss lengthily my plans with my co-teachers and co-administrators. Even when my proposed programs, projects and goals looked unbelievable and impossible to achieve, they have supported me through and through. I, in turn, cannot but provide my personal services even when not directly requested. Ours is an understanding based on the pristine belief on each other and in wanting to see the other be successful.

I have dealt with my Dominican superiors and brothers throughout my religious life. I have been a regular recipient of their forgiveness as well as their hope. My adventures and misadventures in all my administrative and pastoral assignments were directly received with compassion and understanding. I always succumb to their unmatched kindness. I cannot but match it with

hard work and faithful living. Ours is a fraternity based on charity, obedience and unity, and on believing that Dominic the preacher is incarnated in each and every one of us... and that Christ has redeemed us all.

To Hon. Ramil Hernandez, governor of Laguna, to Hon. Joaquin Chipeco, Jr., Congressman of the 2nd district of Laguna, to Hon. Timmy Chipeco, Mayor of Calamba... to Atty Peter Bantilan, to Mr. Frankie Borcelis of LECPA, to Monsignor Jerry Bitoon of the Catholic Hierarchy of the Diocese of San Pablo, Fr. Gabriel Delfino, parish priest of Holy Trinity Parish, to the branch managers of our partner banks, to the representatives of government and private institutions, social and cultural organizations and and companies in which Letran has official linkage and is a part of, to my friends and colleagues in UST, in UST Hospital, in Sto. Domingo Parish, in Letran Intramuros, in Aquinas University, in all the convents I was assigned, I am indeed grateful that you have shared your precious time with us.

To my community, Fr. Giuseppe Pietro Archiwals, Fr. Jeremy Realubit, Fr. Benjamin San Juan, Fr. Jessie Yap, Fr. Norman Quilaquil, Fr. Honorato Castigador, Fr. John Stephen Besa, and Fr. Vladimir Magboo, to Fr. Jannel, Fr. Jun, Fr. Nap, Fr. Aceron, Fr. Art, Fr. Larry, Fr. Rodel, Fr. Ching, Fr. Dennis,... to our Fr. Provincial, Fr. Napoleon Sipalay, our Provincial Syndic, Fr. Boyd Sulpico, Fr. Roy, Bro. Mel, Fr. Joemar, Fr. Ogie, Bro. Raul, my sincerest gratitude to you for your presence and for celebrating the Holy Mass with us.

As a fellow superior with subordinates, a fellow leader with followers, a fellow planner with implementers, and as a dutiful public and religious servant to those who are in most need, I hope that in my term as Rector of this hallowed institution, I can at least match the unquestionable and selfless dedication of the public leaders, the religious pastors, managers, the deans and presidents I have mentioned above.

I pray that I can also humanize and simplify the complex principles of the science of managing so that the fear of its full practice and/or malpractice maybe avoided.

From 1994 to 2011, from Letran Intramuros to the Philippine Dominican Center of Institutional Studies to Aquinas University of Legazpi to the University of Santo Tomas, I was given the profound opportunity to teach philosophy, theology and management subjects to students of various programs.

I will remember Letran Intramuros because of the close relationships I developed with my very energetic students in political science, mass communication, psychology, and in computer management. From them I learned the real meaning of the school being a haven after their homes... of schoolmates legitimately considered as brothers and sisters because they share the spirit of the Arriba... of classmates willing to aid and even to stand as shield to protect their batchmates, especially during the NCAA.

I will remember Aquinas University because of the scholarly students who became my advisers... they who supported me, they who guided me, they who inspired me in the many academic ventures I undertook under the shadow of the beautiful Mayon Volcano. From them I learned the real meaning of extended education. Indeed, life-long lessons and sought-after dreams are also crafted in corridors, in the canteens, in the open fields and even during outings.

I will remember the University of Santo Tomas because of the highly competitive students who sacrificed much and helped me in completing the researches requested to me by the Office of the Rector. It was because of the numerous feasibility studies that we made that sealed my interest in action research. From them I learned the simple truth that surely, teachers can learn much from their students and that students have more to offer than meets the eye.

To my former students who are here today, to Fritz, Oliver, Jun, Dels, Lito, Nancy, Maby, Tina, Gary, Agie, Badette, Al, shiela, Albeth, Vanessa, Nina, Cons, Gwen, Arlene, Yves, Vic, Ja, Ed, Jas, Lau, thank you for gracing this occasion.

To the student leaders of Letran Calamba, to you, Jovee, as president of student government and to your able co-officers, I hope that in my term as Rector, I, as a teacher can educate you as I have professed, inspire you as I have vowed and teach you to the best of my abilities. I pray that I may also humbly learn from you as well as join you in your youthful enthusiasm that inevitably lead to discoveries beyond intended.

Allow me to extend my special thanks to Fr. Jigs and his committee for preparing for this event. To the choir, the altar servers, the readers, the cadets, the food committee, the physical preparation committee, etc. my sincerest thanks.

Many thanks to Fr. Honorato Castigador, OP, who leaves me a Letran any incoming Rector would be comfortable to accept.

Let me conclude with the following announcements:

Once the systems and structures are completed, we will invite current Letran teachers, professors and support staff to offer tutorial services with financial remuneration, not only to students of Letran but also to students of public and private schools nearby. This shall serve as a way of increasing their take-home pay while honing their instructional capabilities.

Letran being a consistent hoarder of medals in Robotic competitions here and abroad, plans are being finalized to put up a Robotics Academy of Letran. In the same manner, this shall be open to interested students of any school.

Preparations are being made to ensure that faculty members can legitimately provide quality and relevant professional consultancy services. The initial objective

is to build credibility and capability among the faculty in order to sustain clients. Faculty members shall be aided to produce quality researches.

I have tasked the Vice President for Research to initiate action researches which will service the industries around Region IV. One of Dr. Roberto Revilla's mandates is to ensure that through these researches added economic value is gained by our stakeholders and partner institutions.

I have talked with the Vice President for Planning and Administration and expressed my desire to work out formal discussions, as early as possible, with the union so that together we can work and focus on our target market. Aside from this, one of Mr. Johnny Tizon's mandate is to create programs that will highlight the Colegio as the best option for a tertiary education in this part of the region.

I will be discussing with the incoming Vice Presidents for Finance and REMI several studies that we can undertake and which we all can benefit - the evaluation of the seeming disparity in the compensation package, the optimization of our physical resources, the marketing of our REMI best practices in other schools, etc.

I have created a division which will further strengthen our international linkages and networking, and develop service programs with the end in view of giving wider financial, social and professional opportunities to our students, faculty, administrators and alumni. Dr. Ruel Maningas and Dean Marife Sarmiento have been appointed to this division.

I have sent three of our administrators to Indonesia to discuss with the owners and officials of three academic institutions interested in turning over to us the management, and even the ownership of those schools. We are finalizing the MOUs. Hopefully, someday, there will be a Letran Indonesia!

Last but not really last, I have asked the Vice President for Academics to assess the academic practices of the Colegio. One of Dr. Zandra Maningas' mandates is to institutionalize those working while revolutionizing those that do not. We will not anymore be doing what we have been doing if it has not been doing well.

She will be leading all the academic officials, Dean Dinah Araneta, Dean Doris Bayugo, Dean Maria Cristina Caymo, Dean Alex Macario Cecilio, Dean Loriemel Ferrera, Dean Evangeline Passion, Dean Corazon Rebong, Principal Simplicio Alba and Principal Floricon Encabo to engage proactively towards quality education. Dr. Zandra and all the academic heads will be at the forefront of the Colegio as a "100% university."

We will have a monthly faculty performance evaluation.

The chairs will evaluate the faculty once every week. The chair will regularly visit classes, will check the

teacher's records, will examine the syllabi, will inspect the modules, etc.

We will have daily student academic quizzes.

Request for rehabilitating physical facilities will have quicker response time.

The Union President, Sir Nic Cumaya, will have an open line of communication with me.

Jovee, representing the student government will have a regular scheduled meeting with me.

To the Letran community, I say: No one will shield me from you. I will make myself available for a fruitful exchange of ideas.

But always remember that a lively exchange of ideas with the Rector does not mean "final decision."

For those who have initially misunderstood our drive for academic excellence, for a 100% passing percentage, for a level IV accreditation, I must confess that it will not be easy. It will not be immediate. It will take time. But it will happen. We will make it happen.

Allow me to end with this slogan, which, in cooperation with the student government, we will adopt:

"Hindi sasalain upang matira ang matibay, kundi sasanayin upang maging matibay."

Letran! Matibay ka!



REFLECTIONS

By Br. Marvin R. Obedo, OP

Habang pinapanood ko yung dating video recordings ng aming banda. Napaluha ako at napagtanto ko na namiss ko ang great company nila.

Siguro sa buhay natin, may mga bagay na mamimiss natin. Kapag namimiss natin ang mga ito, gusto natin ulit ibalik ang experience. Pero alam natin na di na ito maibabalik.

Kaya sa aking pagninilay, naisip ko na ang pagka miss ay possibleng palatandaan na sa isang punto sa buhay natin, nabahaginan din tayo ng kabutihan. Nawa, ang kabutihang ito ay maibahagi rin sa iba.



Siguro nga kasama ang distansya sa mga bagay na dapat pagtuunan ng pansin. Lalo na siguro ang relasyon.

Noong nagsisimba ako kanina sa may Plaridel, Bulacan, nadama ko na ang hirap pala pag malayo. Hindi ka makapokus, konting galaw ng mga bata, windang ka na.

Siguro ganoon din yung relasyon natin kay Lord; kapag malayo tayo sa kanya, madali tayong matutukso sa panandaliang aliw.

Nawa'y mabatid natin ang importansya ng pagiging malapit natin kay Lord.



Habang nasa Walter Mart ako, napansin ko ang mag-anak na umorder ng pagkain. Marami sila at marami rin ang pagkain.

Tapos napansin ko ang yakap ng mag-Anak. At batid ng aking kalooban na ang nagpasarap sa pagkain ay hindi yung nasa hapag, bagkus, yung pag-ibig na pinagsasaluhan nila.

Siguro nga ito yung tunay na kalayaan: Kalayaang magmahal at tumanggap ng pagmamahal. Nawa'y maramdaman din natin kung gaano tayo minahal ng ating mga bayani.

INSPIRATIONAL SPEECH OF AN ANGELICAN

(Speech delivered after the Holy Spirit Mass of the Angelicum School Iloilo)

*By Joseph Dean L. Nicolo, MD, FPCS, FPSGS, MPA
Medical Center Chief of Western Visayas Medical Center*



First and foremost, I appreciate this invitation from Fr. Paul Reagan Talavera, OP, thru Miss Rory Arenas, the former Miss Angelicum 1983. To the facilitators and staff of Angelicum School and of course, to the parents who are present here, thank you for the invitation.

It was in 2004 graduation ceremony that I was here as the commencement speaker. Today, I am here again to be the commencement

speaker. Since commencement means “the time when something begins.” I was told by Rory that I will talk about my Angelicum Experience, how the system helped me in my career and how it molded me to become what I am today. I will not talk about our “kadungulan” during our time, but, the knowledge and values we had learned from the system.

To give you a broader picture about me, I will just give you a background about myself. (2 hours). I am the youngest of five siblings (three girls and two boys). My father was a government employee and a part-time teacher while my mother was a full-time teacher. When I was one year old, I was afflicted with Poliomyelitis. When my mother brought me to the hospital, the nurse declared me as DOA (dead on arrival). My mother did not easily give up, but, went to the doctors’ quarters and literally dragged the doctor to the emergency room. I was resuscitated, but with right-sided paralysis. I survived. When my mother told me of that story, it was then that I decided to become a doctor to be able to help others to live. Ever since in elementary at Central Philippine University (CPU), my ambition in life that was written in the year book until college was “To be a successful doctor”.

My physical defect did not stop me from joining some physical activities. During my elementary days, I played football and when I was in high school, table tennis. As an independent student under the Angelicum System, I learned to compete not with my classmates, but, against myself. Learners learned that competition is within their selves, and that their capabilities were not measured by

others. We learned by asking yourself “why.” We were given certain skills to finish at a certain time, and when we have accomplished the skills way ahead, then we had more time to review for our other subjects. We did finish our skills on time, but, what was important was what we have learned upon accomplishing the skills and their applications. The non-graded system, learners’ academic achievements are not measured by grades or by any numerical equivalents but, by the level of mastery the learners have achieved in a given set of skills.

This is a non-graded system, and all of you will graduate as Valedictorians. I had high grades when I applied at the West Visayas State University and was placed in Section 1, with my classmates being salutatorians and valedictorians from other schools. But, I was not insecure, because as an independent student of Angelicum School, I knew I had an advantage. We all read the same books. I survived.

The open-classroom system in Angelicum helped us make more friends in school and, of course, we were able to see our “crushes”. It was also of one way of training us with our concentration on a subject matter discussed, even when the other classes were noisy.

I only had reached my 2nd Year BS Biology at WVSU, because of some financial problems. My brother had to enroll first. I worked for 2 years as a merchandiser of a company, specifically the Surf Laundry Soap. We did bonding with our products. When my brother graduated, I transferred to CPU to take up Medical Technology. But, the Dean of CPU discouraged me because he said it would take me 3 years to finish, however if I continued my BS BIO it would only take me 2 years.

I took the National Medical Admission Test (NMAT), and only 3 passed the exam from CPU. I did not apply to other medical schools, only at WVSU-COM, since it was subsidized by the government and



the tuition fee was less. I was not accepted in the College of Medicine; my next plan was to enter the seminary... joke.

Luckily, I was accepted at WVSU-COM, but the problem did not end there. My mother at that time was sickly and my father had just retired from the government service and that was when the financial problem came in. I was able to buy only two second-hand books and the rest were photo-copied. Many times I would stay at the library during break hours. I survived. But, these days, students carry their tablets, iPads and CP's.

During the internship, my plan was to be a Cardiologist, however, during my rotation in the Department of Surgery, I was amazed of the skills of the surgeons that I had assisted and was inspired to become one.

After passing the board exam, which was announced on my birthday, I was hired as a Medical Health Officer in Dueñas for a month. Then, I worked as a contractual doctor at the Iloilo City Health Center for 2 years. Since, I wanted to become a surgeon, I went looking for a hospital which could hone my skills and offer a big salary. I heard that there was an opening in the Bacolod Doctors Hospital and I worked there for a year. The program in the hospital was not accredited by the Philippine College of Surgeons. I applied at WVMC, only to be rejected, since, the training officer at that time once said, "How can he survive with only one foot?" The following year, I applied again and once more was rejected. I did not give up easily. The following year, I applied again; this time the training officer was Dr. Max Nadala, and he was one of the surgeons who I assisted during my internship and encouraged me to become a surgeon. There were only plantilla (permanent position) and there were only three of us as applicants. We took the exams and underwent interview, but at the end of the day, Dr. Max Nadala informed me that the decision on who would be chosen depended on the decision of the Chief of the Medical Center. The next day, I was called to report and was told that I was not hired for a plantilla position, but, instead was offered fellowship training without pay. I accepted the offer since I wanted to be trained at the West Visayas Medical Center. When I was already a fourth year resident, I was browsing some documents. I discovered the results of the entrance examination and interview; I was actually number one in the list. I did not complain.

During my residency training in surgery, I represented WVMC in a Research Study Contest. I got the first prize defeating all the residency trainees all over the Philippines. Yes, I was given recognition by WVMC; the one they rejected, and yet, has given honor to the institution. And now the rejected one is the head of the institution. That is why, all the applicants during my term, will be given the chance to prove themselves worth for the position as long as they are qualified. After finishing my training in surgery, I worked at Salazar Memorial Hospital

in Antique, and was also studying for my Specialty Board Examination. Fortunately, I passed the written and oral examinations and was conferred as a Fellow of Philippine College of Surgeons. I stayed for a year and a half in Antique and decided to transfer here in Iloilo. I heard that there was an opening as Medical Specialist at DISMMCEH. I applied for the position and I was accepted in 2003. When the former chief director was transferred to Mindanao last 2006, I was assigned as the OIC until 2014, when I was given the Chief of Hospital plantilla. In 2016, the Medical Center Chief of WVMC retired and I also applied. It took almost a year for me to be appointed due to political problems.

Before my appointment, there were some personalities who did not want me to be the next MCC for whatever reasons they had. They even said "Ambisyoso nga piang." They thought that they had friends; what they did not know was that, I had many good friends.

I am the Medical Center Chief II at WVMC for four months now, and the Department of Health has many plans for the hospital. We are now on our way of creating a Heart Institute and Cancer Center probably within the year. A new infrastructure is in its planning stage which will be competitive with other private hospitals with the state of the art equipment for the benefit of our indigent/poor patients.

I had met and worked with some alumni of Angelicum School and they, too, are successful in their chosen careers. For you, students of the Angelicum System, take pride of our school wherever you are. Grab the opportunity to train yourself to be independent on your studies. There are many trials and tribulations on your way to success. But, always believe in yourself and pray to God for guidance.

There are only three things that I want you to remember in order to be successful: 1) Persevere – let your goal or vision in life be your guide, and whatever obstacle you encounter take it as a challenge to improve yourself; 2) Practice what you learn – apply the principles you have learned in your daily life activities. Practice makes perfect; and 3) Pray – always ask God's guidance, your plan may be different from God's plan.

Time is an essence in our life, we cannot turn back the time. It is now time for you to decide, on who you want to be in the future. I appreciate the time you had given me. It is time for me to go. And I thank you for your time.



13th Sunday of Ordinary Time
“HOSPITALITY OF JESUS”

By Br. Melencio P. Garcia, OP



Br. Melencio P. Garcia, OP

In the First Reading on the 2nd book of Kings, according to some commentaries “The theme that binds these two triads of relationship into a unit is **“welcoming,”** which is at the heart of every relationship in these verses. Jesus is not merely pointing in a general way to the importance of welcoming or hospitality, already an important value among the communities in which he ministered.”

In the first reading, Elisha was urged to dine with a woman and the husband knew that Elisha is a holy man of God. They prepared room for Elisha every time he passed through their place. And because of their hospitality they were promised that they would be fondling a baby son. **Hospitality** always has corresponding blessings.

Other commentary says that, “These are the basics of Christian hospitality, no surprises, nothing fancy, just an active awareness that all these “little ones” are our guests of honor, the honor of Christ.”

Furthermore, in the letter to the Romans, St. Paul talks about the baptism which primarily includes Christ and his disciples. One commented that baptism is right at the place where Christians are reminded of the beginning of their Christianity. For we have become Christians through baptism. Christ has entrusted his disciples to make all peoples into disciples.

It then shows that our **Christian hospitality** comes from the sacrament of baptism in which by accepting Christ as our guest we receive the love of God, for we are

his Children.

In the Gospel, Jesus told to his apostles about love and reward. But how would the reward be received? By the **hospitality of one’s mind and heart**, we have to **listen** to whoever is calling or knocking and we have to **feel** the needs and pure intentions of the One who calls and knocks. **Listening and feeling** are the best partners for hospitality. According to a Jewish Proverb, “Hospitality is one form of worship.” As Mother Theresa puts it, “Some people come in your life as blessing and some come in your life as lesson.” God comes in our lives as a blessing and someone’s action as a lesson.

The Marawi Siege is one good example. Hundreds of civilians are victims of war. For almost one month of experiencing fear, hunger, trauma, worries, and anxieties, the people remain in need. Lots of relief goods and other things donated by our countrymen are being brought to Iligan City by military cargo. What are our contributions to this scenario? Of course, Fr. Joemar initiated a Hug for Marawi victims through the donation of Teddy Bears or stuffed toys. That through this project, it will ease the fear and worries of children. What else can we do to answer the needs of Marawi victims?

That is the challenge for us, lest we simply read and hear the news of Marawi.

The Gospel reminds us to always welcome God not only in our minds but also in our hearts. That is the value of hospitality. As what Mother Teresa of Calcutta said, “Let anyone who comes to you go away feeling better and happier. Everyone should see goodness in your face, in your eyes, in your smile. Joy is shown from the eyes. It appears when we speak and walk; it cannot be kept closed inside us. It reacts outside. Joy is very infectious.”



Bro. Oscar L. Manlapas, OP “Fray Oscar”

By Br. Siddharta B. Chiong, OP



Fray Oscar L. Manlapas, OP

“When you desire something, all the universe conspires in helping you achieve it,” writes Paulo Coelo. But we need not go to Latin America to learn this. In our Province, I have encountered a friar who has experienced this age old wisdom in his own life.

Fray Osacar Manlapas, OP is a fondly familiar face in the corridors of Sto. Domingo Church. A native of Masbate, Fray Oscar is the 12th child of 15 siblings (speaking of the command to go and multiply). He was raised in the idyllic simplicity of a farm life. To help his family, he ventured to earn a living in Manila. He worked in a Carmelite monastery where his life revolved around vegetables, fluttering chickens, and veiled, virginal nuns.

Recognizing his industry and dedication, a certain Sr. Lorenza persuaded him to try the life of a *hermano*, and this he did. Fray Oscar never imagined himself in a habit, so he applied more out of youthful exploration than pious motives. The first congregation he applied to, took along while before they gave their response (to their own loss). By the time they sent him a letter of acceptance, Fray Oscar was already embraced by the Order of Preachers. A new phase of his life had begun.

His early formation involved a lot of adjustments: brothers from different regions; Spaniards with their own peculiarities; and a life totally foreign to him.

Fray Oscar shared how a special girl way back in high school visited him in Sto. Domingo. “*Talagang hinabol ka hanggang sa kumbento?*” I teased him. That meeting was like a crossroad between his puppy love and what would later be his true Love. We all know Who he chose.

Fray Oscar deeply fell in love with the religious life. His new love life might be uneventful- none of the cheesy sweetness of his former one- but it bespeaks of a love too deep, too subjective for words or actions to express. “Prayers and the Holy Mass,” are his special moments with his Divine Beloved. He dedicated himself to a life of self-giving that concretized itself in a loving surrender to the promptings of his Beloved.

There were many events that challenged his surrender: a difficult brother, an absurd assignment, or an insufferable superior. But through them all, Fray Oscar learned to bend his will to the will of his Beloved,

which he discerned in the events of his life. He admitted that as a young man, he had his share of impetuosity and rashness, but through them all, he discovered many of his realizations in life.

Whenever he was given difficult assignments, he would accept them trusting in God’s providence. He always gave his best, and tried to be contented with every result: good or bad. He chose to spare himself of unnecessary stress by focusing on the positive things in life. He learned not to impose his will, but to flow with life as it unfolds before him; and what a relief, what freedom he felt! He is a friar with a simple heart so attuned to accept God’s will as it unveils itself. And for those who know how to cooperate with God’s will, they cannot but discover how meaningful and happy life is: “*Walang dahilan kung bakit hindi siya magtagumpay at makaranas ng masaya at masaganang*



Fray Oscar L. Manlapas, OP, and Br. Siddharta Chiong, OP (left).



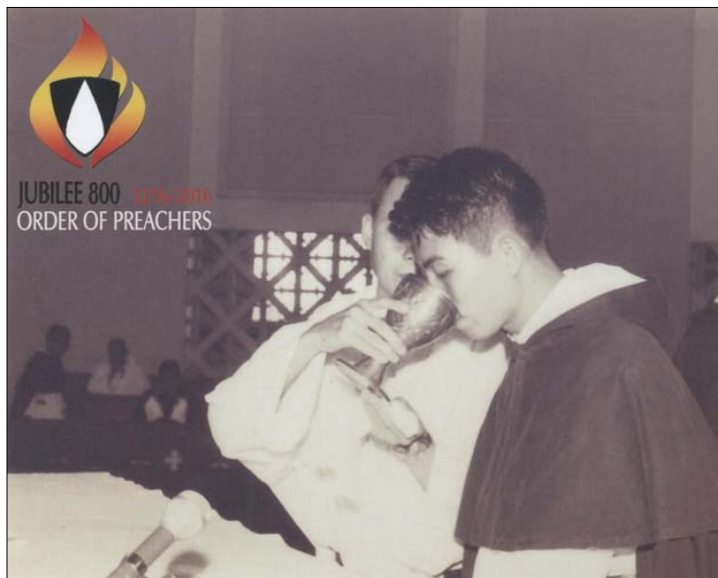
buhay na puspos ng kapayapaan." I guess this is his secret: letting go of useless struggles, and enjoying life as it is.

As he looks back at his journey, he admits that he is still amazed how simple, unforeseen events have led him to the life he now cherishes. "*Parang may hindi nakikitang Lakas o Isipan na nagtutugma-tugma sa mga tao, bagay at mga pangyayari upong maganap ang pinakamabuti para sa bawat tao.*"

Life is like a long, winding river with countless flotsams of driftwood, leaves, or a lost slipper gushing downstream. They seem insignificant in themselves, but they are propelled towards an eternal and boundless sea. Once you embark upon life, it is difficult to escape that force that moves each unit in the human swarm towards a harmony that is eternally destined. This is the image formed in my mind as I listened to the reflections of Fray Oscar.

I would describe Fray Oscar as a *simple* friar. But it is not an adjective to be taken lightly; it is one of the attributes of God. As he shared his stories, I saw a Dominican without pretense, and this honesty has helped him pierce into the deepest secrets of a happy life.

While listening to him, I felt a gentle admiration, not excited by achievements and honors, but evoked by a life lived in contented surrender to God. Now, that is a life I dream of living myself.



My Consolation

Watercolor, June 29, 2017
 Br. Luigi Christian R. Bracamonte, OP
 First Year Student Brother

Insight on the artwork:

My Consolation

Going on in life is like walking in a field of uncertainty. In which, with every path I take comes with a decision that I will have to take responsibility for. And most of the time I make the wrong decisions, and it is mostly out of desperation and fear. Even though I make the effort to make the right decisions most of the time, it turns out to be the opposite. And it leaves me frustrated and anxious, so much so that I feel I could burst from anger or disappointment. Yet in all these frustrations and disappointments, I find a kind of comfort. It's the comfort of being able learn from my countless failures and finally able to make the right decisions. And this comfort comes from the knowledge that Christ has always been with me. It is knowing that in every step of the way, He is ever there supporting me and giving me a helping hand. His mere presence in my heart gives me an assurance that even if all seems lost, there will be a light at the end of the tunnel. It is because of this consolation that I am still able to have hope to continue walking in the uncertain field of life.



*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.

Thanks to our Brothers and friends who contributed articles and pictures for Phildom.



Jesus Christ, the Face of the Father's Mercy

Acrylic on canvas, 24 June 2017
 Br. Joseph Conrad V. Salenga, OP
 First Year Student Brother