

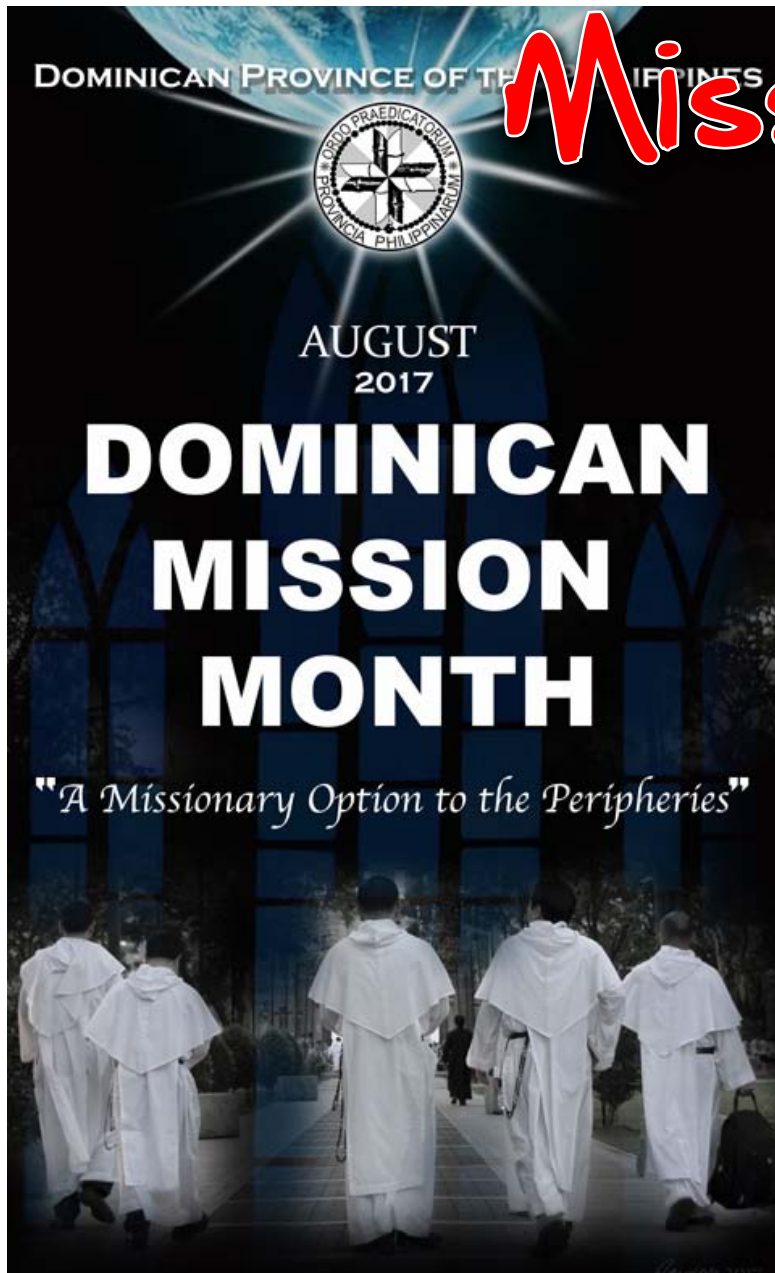


PHILDOM

AUGUST
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



Mission Month

Calendar of the Prior Provincial

- 1-4 Sep - Canonical Visit to Sto. Domingo Convent
- 4 Sep - 404th Provincial Council Meeting
- 6 Sep - Canonical Visit to Bahay Dominiko
- 7-8 Sep - Canonical Visit to House of the Most Holy Rosary, Iloilo
- 9 Sep - Board of Trustees Meeting, Angelicum School
- 11 Sep - Canonical Visit to the Convent of Saint John Lateran
- 12 Sep - Mass at San Carlos Seminary
- 13 Sep - Board of Trustees Meeting, UST Angelicum
- 15 Sep - Board of Trustees Meeting, Letran Manila
- 18 Sep - Meeting of the Council of Regents, UST
- 24 Sep - Mass at San Lorenzo Ruiz and Companion Martyrs Parish

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY CELEBRATORS

- Sept 1 Br. Delfo Canceran, OP
- 2 Br. Orlando Acheron, OP
- 4 Br. Samuel Sonny Gunawan, OP
- 5 Br. Gerard Zabala, OP
- Br. John Andrew Bautista, OP
- 10 Br. Mingdry Hanafi Tjipto, OP
- 13 Br. Manoj Rasanjana Angodage Don, OP
- 17 Br. Francisco Mendoza, OP
- 19 Br. Alfredo Fernandez Jr., OP
- 22 Br. Roland Mactal, OP
- 23 Br. Jeffrey Pagaduan, OP
- 25 Br. Angel Aparicio, OP
- 26 Br. Joseph Conrad Salenga, OP
- 28 Br. Arturo Pestin, OP

BROTHERS ON FOREIGN TRIP (By reason of Office)

- ➔ 24-27 Aug - *Thailand* - Br. Richard Ang, OP - To attend the 25th ASEACCU Seminar in Bangkok
- ➔ 23 Sep-9 Oct - *USA* - Br. Julius Paul Factora, OP - To attend the annual alumni homecoming of the University of Santo Tomas - Nurses Association International in San Antonio, Texas
- ➔ 26 Sep-6 Oct - *Switzerland* - Br. Gallardo Bombase Jr., OP - To participate in the 36th Session of the UN Human Rights Council at Geneva and to attend the annual meeting of the IDCJP at Estavayer-le-Lac

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- 4 Sep - 404th Provincial Council Meeting
- 8 Sep - TradTalk
- 17-30 Sep - Canonical Visit of the Master of the Order, Br. Bruno Cadore, OP
- 24 Sep - KAPATID Exhibit
- 28 Sep - Our Lady of La Naval Enthronement
- Concert of Tiples de Sto. Domingo and UST Singers

**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)

DOMINICANS IN THE PERIPHERIES: A FUNDAMENTAL OPTION

By Br. Paulo S. Sillonar, OP

The Order of Preachers was founded by St. Dominic de Guzman in the thirteenth century basically in order to halt the proliferation and spread of heresy in Southern France. St. Dominic wanted the people to be freed from heresy so that their soul would be saved. Hence, the primary task of a Dominican as a preacher is to preach the Word of God, the Truth, in order to save the souls of all.

The Dominican Province of the Philippines is not blind and unaware of this great task entrusted to the members of the Order of Preachers. Hence, as a response to this call and challenge, it established mission areas where its members can preach the Good News to the peripheries: to places, ideals, experiences, cultures and life situations where the people are at the edge of the center which is the Gospel.

On the 8th day of August 2017, the great feast of its Holy Founder, Dominic de Guzman, the representatives of each mission areas of the Province shared their experiences and their apostolates to the members of the Dominican Province of the Philippines. The event started with an opening prayer and followed by the Opening Remarks given by Br. Jose Martin Sibug, OP, the Promoter of the Missions of the Province. In his message, Br. Sibug encouraged the members of the Province to listen to the sharings of the representatives to be able for them to understand and feel the situation of our brothers and hopefully, through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, they would be inspired to devote their time in our mission areas, too.

The sharing commenced with the Calayan Missions. Since the weather was not favorable and the waves were big, the representative of this mission area did not make it. In the absence of the Calayan group representative, Br. Sibug read to the brethren the report sent to him by Br. Noel Castor, OP, the assigned priest in Calayan together with Br. Ramiro de Belen, OP. In the report, Br. Castor shared that they catered to the sacramental needs of the Parish of St. Bartholomew and the newly instituted St. Bartholomew Catechetical Center. Furthermore, since the Province had a piece of land in the island, it supplies the needs of the priests assigned in the area and at the same time the *Bigasan ni Tolome*, which sells rice at an affordable price.

Br. Joseto Bernadas, Jr., OP, who is assigned in Rumah Santo Tomas Aquino, Surabaya, Indonesia was the next person to share. Br. Bernadas shared four points to the brethren which encapsulated his experience in being

a shepherd in Indonesia. First, he shared that their presence in the Catholic University in Surabaya is a good starting point where they can start planting the seeds of the Gospel. The second point that he highlighted was their presence in the Redemptor Mundi Parish. Their presence in the Parish fortifies their presence in Surabaya since they can administer the sacraments to groups of people. The third point that he highlighted was the good number of vocation that they have in Indonesia. But instead of being proud about it, Br. Bernadas said that it is a challenge to them since they need to sustain the seed that they sow. The fourth point that he highlighted was the presence of the Dominican Laity who helped not only the Parish but also the Dominican seminarians. The Surabaya mission is hopeful that after some years, a formation house would be established and a Shrine dedicated to Our Lady of Manaoag would be built.

Br. Alfred Fernandez, OP, the next sharer, was the representative of St. Antoninus House in Mindanao. The House has two domiciles: in the cities of Davao and General Santos. The brothers assigned in General Santos City have their apostolate mostly at the Chapel of Our Lady of Manaoag and the St. Michael Parish, the Parish where the House belongs. They have a daily Mass in the chapel and on Sundays, they help the Parish in their Masses. Their ministry constituted blessings, confessions and counselling in the Chapel of Our Lady of Manaoag through a case to case basis. They also helped the clergy of Marbel through the various expertise that they have. As a matter of fact, some of them were elected and appointed as officers.

The set-up in Davao area is a little different in the sense that they do not have a chapel to administer. The brothers assigned to this area mostly addressed the sacramental needs of the students of San Pedro College both in the College and Basic Education campus. They also administer to the sacramental needs of the Dominican Sisters of the Trinity and they likewise help in the Parish where they belong. Aside from these forms of apostolate, the brothers are also involved in the dialogue with the natives and the Moslems.

The Camiguin group also shared their experiences to the brethren. Br. John Stephen Besa, OP, principal of the Lyceum of Camiguin, shared their ministries and apostolate in the Island as they administer the St. Vincent Ferrer Parish and the Lyceum of Camiguin. They also acknowledged the legacy and all the things that their predecessors had done. In the end, Br. Besa shared that their main concern is the deepening of the faith of the faithful in the area. Br. Cyr Stephen Magbanua, OP, the Parish Priest shared their ministry and apostolate in the Parish.

Br. Edmund Nantes, OP, who is assigned in Rumah Santo Dominikus also shared their apostolate in Pontianak, Indonesia. They take care in the formation of

the seminarians of the Diocese. They also help the Diocese in their various ministries and apostolate. They also promote Dominican vocation in the place with a special emphasis on the uniqueness of the culture and traditions of the people. Their preaching and ministry are incorporated in the culture and traditions of the people.

Br. Jaime Alamillo, OP, assigned in St. Dominic's House in Sri Lanka shared to the group the status of our mission there. He shared that the situation in Sri Lanka is both good but challenging: good in a sense that we have a house and seminary in the area but challenging since we have few vocations. Sri Lankan mission is still hopeful that it can attract more vocations and the priests assigned to the area are thinking of ways on how to attract more candidates to the Dominican vocation. The priests assigned in Sri Lanka helped in administering the sacramental and spiritual needs of the people both Filipinos and Sri Lankans.

Br. Patrick Hiwatig, OP, Superior of the House of San Lorenzo Ruiz and Companion Martyrs, shared his experiences as a priest assigned in Dagat-dagatan, Navotas City, Metro Manila. He shared to the brethren that the apostolate is a challenging one but then it becomes meaningful and somehow light because there are some groups that helped in uplifting the lives of the people.

The sharing ended with a closing message by Br. Napoleon Sipalay Jr., OP, Prior Provincial of the Dominican Province of the Philippines.

CANONICAL VISIT, 1-4 AUGUST 2017 ST. DOMINIC'S HOUSE, SRI LANKA

By Br. Jaime Alamillo, OP

The House of St. Dominic in Sri Lanka welcomed with joy and in anticipation the canonical visit of the Provincial, Br. Napoleon B. Sipalay Jr., OP, in the first week of August, 2017. He was accompanied by Br. Jose Martin L. Sibug, OP, the Mission Promoter of the Province. They were accommodated in the newly built Holy Rosary Seminary at 290 Kaluwarippuwa West, Katana.

Upon his arrival on 1st August, immediately the Provincial convened the community members as he declared officially the intent of his coming and that "the continuity of the previous Visit of Br. Gerard (the former



Provincial) is the basis for the current Visit." He asked the superior to hand him over the House records and other relevant documents for his perusal during the Visit.

Individual consultation/interview with the three members of the community, namely: Br. Clifford Perera, OP, Br. Jayalath Balagalla, OP, and Br. Jaime Alamillo, OP, was conducted on the second day at the seat of the St. Dominic House in Ketawala, Leula (around Kandy area). As for Bro. Manoj Rasanjana, OP and Hasitha Prabodha Samarakoon, an aspirant, they had their chance for conversation in the morning of 3rd August at Holy Rosary Seminary in Katana.



By evening of the same day, after a three-hour Chapter meeting, the Visit was brought to a close. Some highlights among others during the meeting were cited: assignation of Br. Juan Ponce, OP; focus on formation and education apostolate; members to be faithful in communal practices; vocation promotion is every members' task/responsibility; etc.

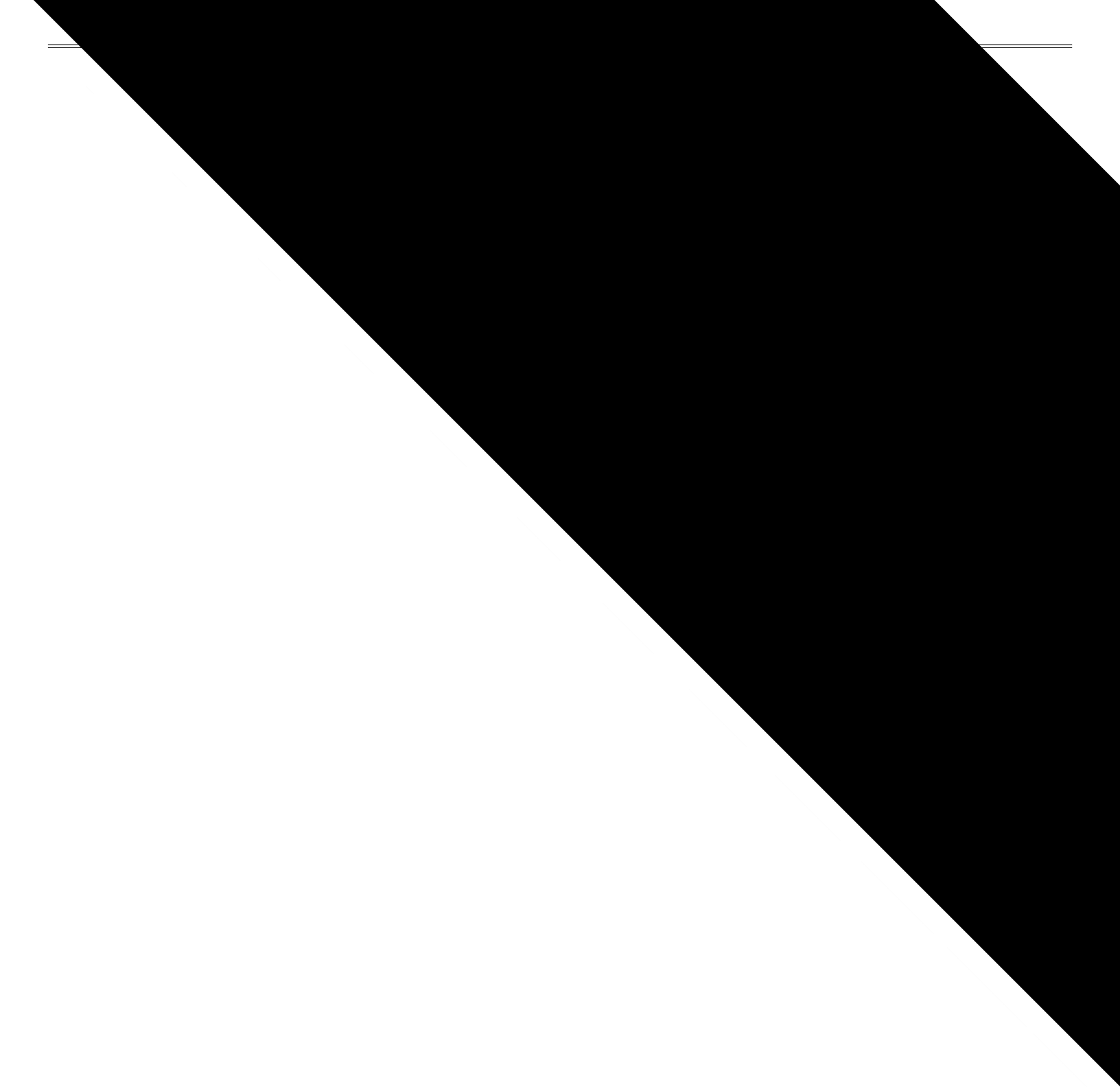
The last two days of their stay were spent in meeting all other members of the Dominican Family in Sri Lanka.

KATANA SEMINARY BLESSING

By Br. Uswatte Liyanage John Clifford Jayantha Perera, OP

The Katana Our Lady of the Rosary Dominican Seminary was blessed on the 5th of August 2017 by the Episcopal Vicar, Very Rev. Fr. Sam Quintus Perera of the





devotions is the *malasakit* Father James showed to the people of Calayan. This farmer said, "*Naramdaman po namin na mayroon siyang malasakit sa mga taga-Calayan.*"

Now, *malasakit*, Felipe Landa Jocano said, is the Filipino term for a person's sincere concern for and selfless service to others. It is a combination of the two Filipino words *sakit* and *malasin*. *Sakit* pertains to any physical, emotional, or mental pain or disease while *malasin* means to notice or to look at intently. Anyone who has *malasakit* towards others, then, is one who worries over somebody else's sorrow, grief and pain and does something to take them away. This person has this sense of responsibility towards others.

Now, when does a person begin to have *malasakit* towards others? He begins to have *malasakit* when he begins to identify himself with others and set aside his own personal interests for the sake of others. Father James, for example, had *malasakit* towards the people of Calayan because he had identified himself with them. As a result, he had known better their concerns and needs. Some of the people of Calayan told me that he did not stop in knowing their concerns and needs. He did something for them.

However, there are some instances that others do not appreciate, value or see a person's *malasakit* towards them. They misunderstand him. Worst, they even criticize him. There are some friars, for example, who had *malasakit* towards the people of Calayan and made decisions and projects for the good of Calayan and its people but were not recognized, nor appreciated, nor valued by the people. Nevertheless, these friars did what was right.

Moreover, these friars developed their sense of *malasakit* because they had experienced *malasakit* in their homes and in their convents. In the convent, for example, a friar experiences *malasakit* when someone consoles him or visits him when he is sick. A friar experiences *malasakit* when his brothers help him in his works or requirements. A friar experiences *malasakit* if his community helps him to live faithfully his vocation. There are many ways a friar may experience or may show *malasakit*. Such ways do not have to be big for even a simple tap on one's shoulder sometimes might do.

Those friars like Father James Alamillo who showed *malasakit* to others are living images of God's *malasakit*. They manifest the living presence of God's *malasakit*. They fulfill their mission as preachers of the Good News - the news of God is *malasakit* towards his people. If people, then, would develop admirations and devotions to these friars this is only fitting because these friars are truly living images of God's *malasakit*. However, these admirations and devotions are only bonuses. More importantly, if they have truly become living images of God's *malasakit* they would experience joy and fulfillment that emerges out of their faithfulness to their vocation.

9TH ANNIVERSARY OF MANAOAG DOMINICAN RADIO "MAY KASAMA KA: SI HESUS, SI MARIA AT KAMI"

By Br. Gallardo "Butch" Asor Bombase, Jr., OP

To Praise, to Bless, to Preach over the Radio
A Radio Station that talks to God and talks about God.
A Dominican Radio Station bringing blessings to every listener and participant, touching and changing lives by the power of the Word of God, Prayers, Holy Mass and Inspiring Messages and Christian Songs.

"Faith comes from hearing the message" (Rom 19:17)



Nine years ago when I became the Pastor of the Parish of Our Lady of Manaoag, my desire was to visit every barangay, house and home and every place in the area of Manaoag to share the blessings of God. My aim was to evangelize and preach to every parishioner in the convenience of their situations. Some people told me that was impossible. Some people said you could not do that, having only one body. Since I learned that impossibility is only an opinion and a negative mind-set, what I did was to listen to inspiring and challenging people telling me to use the modern means of communication like the radio. After all, radio is the economical way to reach out to people near and far. Then the dream became a reality. With the approval of the Prior and the Community of Manaoag, Manaoag Dominican Radio was set up.

Telling the people that there is an alternative radio station that puts on the air something different from other radio stations, we encourage them to tune in to Manaoag Dominican Radio in order to be blessed. A radio station that inspires, teaches, blesses and serves as a source of strength, the Manaoag Dominican Radio is a radio that gives voice to the voiceless.

It was so comforting enough when I visited the people in Manaoag listening to the Manaoag Dominican Radio. They also became evangelizers as they listened. They were joining in the recitation of the rosary and listening to the Mass.

It has already been nine years when the parishioners of Manaoag and the devotees of our Lady of Manaoag turned on their radio so that we could enter into their homes at their convenience. By switching on their radios and using smartphones, their Facebooks and Youtube, they were able to see and listen to the live and alive, real time broadcast of Manaoag Dominican Radio. They were able to join in the praying of the rosary everyday, the morning prayer, the celebration of the Holy Mass live from the Minor Basilica of Our Lady of Manaoag at the first hours of everyday. Through the station, there are the inspirational and soothing religious songs that enliven the listeners so that people may know more about the Catholic Faith, programs like Catechism of the Catholic Church. Prayers, bible sharing and reflection, and teachings and instructions are heard over this radio. To reach out to the Overseas workers living in the different countries, there are three Masses from the Minore Basilica of Our Lady of Manaoag (6 am, 11 am and 5 pm daily) broadcasted live on air. To end the day, the Evening Prayer and Office of the Readings prayed by the Dominican Community of Manaoag direct from the Minor Basilica of Our Lady of Manaoag are being put on the air live so that the people can also participate.

Manaoag Dominican Radio is a vehicle for evangelization, catechesis, sanctification and service. This radio station is a member of the Radio Preaching Network of the Dominicans in the World, that allows Dominicans who work in radio ministries to exchange ideas, build links, share programs and reflect theologically together, especially with those who work in remote areas. The Dominicans have preached on the radio for decades. One advantage of the Dominican Province of the Philippines from other Dominican Provinces working in the Media is that Manaoag Dominican Radio is owned and managed by the Dominicans themselves.

Indeed it is a blessing that the Dominican Province of the Philippines now caters to 7 radio stations:

1. *Calayan Dominican Radio Station, established in 2002*
2. *Manaoag Dominican Radio, established in 2008*
3. *UST Tiger Dominican Radio Station, established in 2010*
4. *Angelicum Dominican Radio Station, established in 2005*
5. *Letran Calamba Dominican Radio Station, established in 2009*
6. *Letran Abucay Dominican Radio Station, established in 2014*
7. *Aquinas Dominican Radio Station, established in 2015*



It is our hope and desire that all these Dominican Radio Stations become a Radio Dominican Network sharing materials, ideas, programs and other resources. Truly, these radio stations can be powerful tools for evangelization in reaching the “unchurched”, the lost, the last and the least in the peripheries. It is good for

the mission and in communicating the Good News to all people. We can make this happen. It is not so much on the resources but on the resourcefulness that matters. By becoming resourceful, we can use the team viewer to operate all the seven radio stations by simply one click of a finger. If one uses the internet for connectivity, other radio stations operate in that way, we can also do the same. Impossibility is only an opinion; decision is action. Yes, we can make this happen!

May God bless us all. Subscribe from YouTube and spread the news to everyone!

ITINERANCY
(as a Priority of the Province)

ASSIGNATIONS

-  Br. Filemon I. dela Cruz Jr., OP, is assigned to Rumah Santo Tomas Aquino, Surabaya, Indonesia on August 22, 2017
-  Br. Rafael B. Lusuegro, OP, is assigned to St. Mary Magdalene House, Batulao, Nasugbu, Batangas on August 31, 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:* **14 May 1982**
- Simple Profession:* **14 May 1983**
- Solemn Profession:* **14 May 1986**

We pray as they journey together in helping God’s call!



- First Name:* **MAXIMO**
- Middle Name:* **PETALLO**
- Surname:* **GATELA**
- Nickname:* **“Fr. Max”**
- Birthday:* **30 Oct 1960**
- Ordination:* **28 Sep 1989**
- DPP ID No.:* **198301**
- Current Assignment:* **Priory of St. Thomas Aquinas, UST Manila (since Oct 2005)**

Previous Assignments: Studies in Canada (1996-2005); Sto. Domingo Convent (1992-1996); St. Albert's House (1990-1992); and Sto. Domingo Convent (1983-1990).



First Name: **DENNIS**
Middle Name: **ESCALANTE**
Surname: **MAQUIRAYA**
Nickname: "Fr. Dennis"
Birthday: 10 May 1962
Ordination: 19 Mar 1991
DPP ID No.: 198302
Current Assignment: **Sto. Domingo Convent (since Feb 2005)**

Previous Assignments: Convent of St. Albert the Great (Mar 2001-Feb 2005); Priory of St. Thomas Aquinas (Apr 1993-Mar 2001); St. Albert's House (Jun 1991-Apr 1993); and Sto. Domingo Convent (May 1983-Jun 1991)



First Name: **ROBERTO CEFERINO**
Middle Name: **NAVARRO**
Surname: **PINTO**
Nickname: "Fr. Bobby"
Birthday: 26 Aug 1962
Ordination: 19 Mar 1991
DPP ID No.: 198303
Current Assignment: **Priory of St. Thomas Aquinas (since May 2008)**

Previous Assignments: Sto. Domingo Convent (Dec 2004-May 2008); Priory of St. Thomas Aquinas (Dec 1992-Dec 2004); and Sto. Domingo Convent (May 1983-Dec 1992)



Fr. Jaya was a diocesan priest in Sri Lanka before he entered the Order of Preachers through the Vice-Province of India in 1982. While he was taking up graduate studies in the Philippines and staying in Sto. Domingo Convent, he transfiliated from the Vice-Province of India to the Dominican Province of the Philippines in 1991

in view of the plan for the transfer of territorial jurisdiction over Sri Lanka from the Vice-Province of India to the Dominican Province of the Philippines in consideration of the prevailing political differences between Indian and Sri Lankan people during that time.

First Name: **JAYALATH ALFRED**
Middle Name: **DIAS**
Surname: **BALAGALLAGE**
Nickname: "Fr. Jaya"

Birthday: 17 Apr 1947
Novitiate: 8 Aug 1982
Simple Profession: 8 Aug 1983
Solemn Profession: 8 Aug 1987
Ordination: 7 Oct 1976
DPP ID No.: 198304

Assignments in the Philippine Province: St. Dominic's House, Sri Lanka (Sep 2001); and Sto. Domingo Convent (4 Sep 1991-Sep 2001)

QUALITY FORMATION
 (as a Priority of the Province)

9TH ASIA-PACIFIC DOMINICAN COMMON STUDY: A GIFT OF DOMINICAN VOCATION

By Br. Valentinus Bayuhadi Ruseno, OP

It is a dream of many student-brothers to come to Korea, the land of Christian martyrs, powerhouse of technological giants and home to K-drama, as well as to enjoy fresh kimchi, original bulgogi, and refreshing soju! It was just a dream for me and my brothers until it was announced that the 9th Asia-Pacific Dominican Common Study would be held in Seoul, South Korea, and our group was due for this activity. Indeed, it is a great blessing!

The event was conducted from July 5, 2017 to July 31, 2017 and held at St. Dominic's House at Suyu-dong in Gangbuk district, northern part of Seoul. The house itself was newly constructed and designed to accommodate small group of retreatants. For the Korean standard, it is a modest building, but for the participants coming from the developing countries, it is a home with five-star accommodation.

True to its name, the Common Study aims to gather young Dominicans (those who are about to be ordained, deacons and newly ordained priests) to study together about the traditions and the missions of the Order. Seventeen brothers from 4 provinces (the Holy Rosary Province, Vietnam, Philippines, India) and one vice-province (Pakistan) lived together as an international Dominican students' community, sharing their lives,



Photo from Facebook of Br. Edmund Nantes, OP

stories and aspirations. The common life hopes to ignite among Dominican brothers from different Provinces stronger collaborations in the region.

In this 9th Common Study, Br. Edmund Nantes, OP, of the Philippine Province who has been involved in the first event once again served as the Master of Students and companion to younger brothers. The program that focused on the theme “The Gift of Dominican Vocation” began with a recollection. Under the guidance of Br. Nantes, the brothers renewed their understanding as well as corrected the misconceptions on the Dominican identity, traditions and spirituality. The brothers also took the opportunity to share their Dominican vocation stories as a gift among us and to the Church.



Two Dominican brothers guided the second week. Br. Enrico Gonzales, OP, of the Philippine Province zeroed in on the basic philosophical and theological teachings of St. Thomas Aquinas. Br. Gonzales emphasized that metaphysics of St. Thomas is always “Being For” as God is for creations, so men, women and entire creatures are beings for God, while Br. Amirtha Raj, OP, of the Province of India shared his expertise on human psychological development. His discussions covered a wide range of topics like human relationship, sexuality and growth, and on how to deal with various issues and crises in religious life. He also gave us some tips on delivering the homilies. Both Br. Nantes and Br. Raj are faithful faces in the Common Study.

The third week of the Study made Justice and Peace as its highlight. Br. Mike Deeb, OP, of South African vice-province, who is the General Promoter of Justice and Peace of the Order as well as the Order’s Permanent Delegate to the United Nations, graced the event as our main resource person. He pointed to us that Jesus’ preaching is indeed preaching of Justice and Peace, and thus, Dominican preaching, patterned in the preaching of Jesus Christ cannot but make Justice and Peace its priority. He guided also in mapping various injustice issues that plague our own countries and how we in our own little ways can actively engage in this preaching of Justice and Peace. His talk was

also intensified by the sharing of Fr. Patrick Cunningham, a Columban father who led the peace movement against the militarization of Jeju Island in Southern part South Korea. As part of this Justice and Peace Week, we attended and participated in one of the persistent demonstrations in the world, the so-called the Wednesday Demonstration. Every Wednesday for more than 20 years, many groups joined in to rally in front of the Japanese embassy, demanding the formal acknowledgement and apology from the Japanese government for abuses to the Korean “comfort women”.



The last week of the program was dedicated to the Interreligious Dialogue. The first thing we did was to experience a Buddhist monk’s life. Under the guidance of the two Buddhist nuns from Hwagye Temple, we learned to do the monk’s meal, to do sitting and walking meditation, and to drink tea while in dialogue. Taking the lead in the fourth week was Fr. Santiago Sanz Gonzales, OP, of the Holy Rosary Province who once was a missionary in South Korea and Japan and is now working in East Timor. He discussed some major religions that he himself personally encountered like Shintoism in Japan, Confucianism in Korea and animism unique to the people of East Timor. We talked further about some issues like the rise of new cults in many countries. To add to the discussion, Buddhist monk Sun Up was present to enlighten us about Buddhist meditation and how it may help us in answering the big question “Who am I?”

Visiting Korea would not be complete without encountering the people and going to the places. Br. John Kim, OP, the local coordinator of this Common Study made sure of this. He and other Korean brothers organized trips to various places like Changdeokgung Palace, Cheonggyecheon stream, Seoul Tower, and affordable markets districts of Insa-dong and Namdaemun. Never forgetting Korean Catholic roots, we visited and prayed at Myeong-dong Cathedral, which was considered to be the birthplace of Catholicism in Korea; Joeldu-san, a memorial shrine of the Korean Catholic martyrs including the first priest, St. Andrew Kim-taegon, as well as the Dominican nun monastery in Baeron.

One of the greatest privileges of this Common Study was the presence of no less than Br. Bruno Cadoré, OP, the Master of the Order himself. The last days of the program

were spent with him and his socius for the Asia Pacific, Br. Gerard Francisco Timoner III, OP, as well as Dominican family in Korea. Br. Cadoré took his time in listening to each of us, our stories and aspirations. In turn, he gave his message on the importance of emotions in our religious life and the grace that becomes the source and inspiration for harmony in the Order despite differences. He also encouraged us to find new ways to preach that answers the needs of the time as St. Dominic did in his time.

Echoing the words of Br. Enrico Gonzales, OP, in his lectures that St. Thomas is a gift of God to the Order and he is the gift of the Order to the Church, so through this Common study we discover that we are gifts of God to the Order, and we continue to grow to become gifts of the Order to the Church.

DSPB GENERAL ASSEMBLY

By Br. Ian Joeffrey G. Melendres, OP

Last August 28, 2017, the Dominican Studentate Pastoral Board (DSPB) held its General Assembly at the St. Martin de Porres Hall of Sto. Domingo Parish. It was attended by the Dominican Studentate Community and a number of lay affiliates. Inspired by the theme *SEE (Sending, Engaging, and Empowering) YOU #KitaKita*, the DSPB officially launched another year for the apostolic groups of the Dominican Studentate.



At 6:00 p.m., the program started with the praying of the vespers, followed by the opening remarks of Br. Arden Xerxes D. Dacuma, OP, the DSPB Coordinator. In the program, each apostolic group presented their respective thrusts for the formation year 2017-2018. The name of the apostolic groups with their corresponding apostolates are as follows: *KAPATID (Si Kristo ang Patutungan sa Tulong ng Ina ng Diyos)* for the promotion of Marian devotion, *PST (Pagtugon sa Tawag)* for Dominican Vocations, *KADAUPAN (Katarungan ng Diyos ang Ugat ng Payapang Adhikain)* for Justice, Peace, and Care of Creation, *MUKHA AD (Masiglang Ugnayan ng mga Kabataang Hinuhubog sa Anyo ng Anak ng Diyos)* for the formation of the youth, and *DSMC (Dominican Students' Media Center)* for media evangelization.

Afterwards, a simple dinner was shared by everyone. Br. Ramon T. Salibay, OP, the Master of Students, gave a short message on the significance of the apostolates of the Student-Brothers in cooperation with some lay collaborators. Towards the end of the program, the new sets of officers of the DSPB and the apostolic groups were inducted by Br. Marcelino E. Saria, OP, the Director of Pastoral Formation, who also formally closed the program.



FORMATION ENCOUNTER 2017

By Br. Ian Joeffrey G. Melendres, OP

The Dominican Juniors and Pre-novices gathered once again for the annual Formation Encounter held on the 13th of August 2017, Sunday, with the theme *"The Dominican Proclamation of Truth in the Modern Times."* The Dominican School Manila hosted the event and Sr. Catherine Edith Cruz, OP, the head of the school, cordially welcomed the participants.

The event was graced with the presence of Br. Marcelino E. Saria, OP, and Mr. Bot Balbero as guest speakers. In the morning, Fr. Saria gave a talk and presided over the Holy Mass. In his sharing, he emphasized the value of honesty in the proclamation of the truth, while in the afternoon, Mr. Balbero enlivened the group with his usual wit reminding the Dominicans to be true witnesses of self-giving for God and for others.

Finally, as a customary practice, each formand was given a prayer partner to pray for. All in all, the brothers and sisters greatly enjoyed the event as they altogether praised, blessed, and preached God to one another by sharing their presence and vocation stories.



FEAST DAY OF ST. DOMINIC: PREFERENTIAL OPTION TO THE PERIPHERIES

By Br. Paulo S. Sillonar, OP

The Dominican Province of the Philippines (DPP) celebrated the Feast Day of its founder, St. Dominic de Guzman, last August 8, 2017 at the Santo Domingo Convent, Quezon City.

All communities of the Province were well represented during the whole day celebration. The celebration started with a morning exercise wherein the members of the Province both those who are under formation and those who are ordained loosened their joints and felt the beat and tune of the music as they followed the instructor. The morning exercise was then followed by very intense and heated parlor games. The games culminated with a jaw-dropping and suspense-filled basketball game wherein the Blue and Green Teams triumphed over the Red and Yellow Teams, respectively.

True to its thrust of deeper fraternal integration and preferential option to the peripheries, in the afternoon, the Dominican Province of the Philippines, through the Br. Napoleon Sipalay, Jr., OP (Prior Provincial), Br. Jose Marin Sibug, OP (Promoter of the Missions), and Br. Victor Calvo Jr., OP (Promoter of Justice, Peace and Care for Creation) gave a posthumous award to Br. Pedro Salgado, OP, for his contribution in the promotion of Justice and Peace and for being an epitome of a man for the poor. The award was received by the nephews and nieces of Br. Salgado. In the same event, the book of Br. Salgado, entitled “Metaphysics” was launched before the brethren of the Dominican Province of the Philippines. It was then followed by the sharing of the representatives of each mission area on the status of the mission of the Province through their apostolate mission.



The celebration culminated with the celebration of the Holy Mass with Fr. Cielito R. Almazan, OFM, the Minister Provincial of the Order of Friars Minor (OFM) Province of San Pedro Bautista as the main presider and homilist. In his homily, Fr. Almazan highlighted the connection



between the passage in Matthew, “You are the salt of the earth and light of the world” and the beatitudes. He said that in order for us to be the salt of the earth and light of the world, we must obey and follow the beatitudes. He also highlighted the important role that Dominic and Francis played in the restoration and preservation of the Church during their time. He also devoted a part of his homily in describing the ideals of Dominic and Francis on poverty and humility. He ended his homily with a challenge for the Dominicans, not only to the priests and brothers but also to all the members of the Dominican Family including the sisters and Lay people. He said that the Dominicans need to preach the truth (veritas) which is entrusted to them by God.

PDCIS-IP MASS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT 2017

By Br. Vince Stanley B. Iñigo, O.P.

August 11, 2017, Friday – Students, professors and administrators of the Philippine Dominican Center of Institutional Studies (PDCIS) and Institute of Preaching (IP) celebrated the annual Mass of the Holy Spirit. This event also marks the opening of a new academic year and serves as a welcome celebration to the new members of the Province, the Dominican pre-novices. Present were the Formators, Priest Professors, the Regent of Studies of the Province and Moderator of Studies of PDCIS (Br. Jannel Abogado, OP), Director of the Institute of Preaching (Br. Winston Cabading, OP) and the Prior Provincial (Br. Napoleon Sipalay Jr., OP) who presided over the Mass.



The First Reading was read by Ms. Dez Noelle Macasaet (PDCIS Librarian), the Responsorial Psalm was sung by Br. Luigi Bracamonte, OP, and Br. Gary Ni-og, OP, as the organist and the Second Reading was read by Br. John Paul Pamintuan, OP. The Dominican Student-Brothers led the congregation in singing.

Br. Sipalay, Jr., O.P. in his homily mentioned that the Holy Spirit is depicted as a strong driving wind, tongues of fire and breath. The Spirit as a strong, driving wind put order in the chaos during the Creation of the World. He likened this “driving wind” to one’s enthusiasm as he entered the Order, wishing that the students’ motivation will always be there to put order and to persevere in one’s studies. By the “tongues of fire”, we must have the ability to communicate the Truth without any confusions: that people must hear a preacher “in their own native tongues.” He also wished that the “fire” of the students’ vocations would always be kindled and refueled and become like the burning bush, burning but not consumed; burning and giving warmth; burning and giving life to those who are in cold situations. Last but not the least, the “breath” grants one’s knowledge to be applicable in life: that breath which gives life must make a student flexible and the institution to move as one body. He also reminded the students to see the connection of their studies to the reality of life.

Towards the end of the Mass, Br. Abogado, gave his short announcement declaring the Academic Year 2017-2018 open. The Studium hymn resounded at the Aula Pio V as the Alma Mater song was played with fervor. A sumptuous meal was served and the Dominican Family welcomed the Pre-Novices who showcased their talents at Saint Martin’s Hall at Sto. Domingo Parish after the Mass.

CLEVERNESS, INGENUITY FEATURED IN THIS YEAR’S “MR. ST. DOMINIC”

By Br. Mervin Lomague, OP

DOMINICAN STUDENTATE, SANTO DOMINGO – Last August 25, the Dominican Studentate Council (DSC) spearheaded the fraternal spree by organizing Mr. St. Dominic 2017 “Oppa Edition.” The said contest brought together five (5) candidates representing their respective apostolic groups (DSMC, MUKHA AD, KADAUPAN, PST,



and KAPATID) in order to compete for the said title. After the incredible show of creativity, talent and wit, Alexander Constantine Seño stood as the winner.



Br. Seño represented DSMC, the apostolic group which at the time has already been defending the title for five (5) consecutive years. When asked during the Q & A portion about what kind of poem he would compose to a beloved, Br. Seño seriously replied: “Kung ako ay gagawa ng isang tula, ito ay isang tula ng pamamaalam. Ito rin ay tula ng paghihintay dahil hihintayin ko siya sa altar, ngunit hindi bilang isang asawa kundi bilang isang pari.” After the night, Br. Seño emerged as the 6th Mr. St. Dominic titleholder from DSMC following Br. Aloysius Luis “Aris” Kung, a brother from Flores, Indonesia.

Mr. St. Dominic has been going on since 2009. The organizers were looking forward for the next year’s competition because it would mark the contest’s 10th year. More than the usual entertainment it brings, it is the showcase of the brothers’ talent, cleverness and ingenuity which make the competition really an anticipated event during fraternal sprees. [DSC]

INGGO 1587’S NEW ALBUM FEATURED IN LEAD ME ON FOR DOMINICAN MISSIONS

By Mr. Norberto Bana III & Br. Jose Martin Sibug, OP



Inggô 1587, the preaching band of the Dominican Province of the Philippines was featured in a dinner concert held last August 26, 2017 at the University of Santo Tomas Central Seminary Gymnasium.

Dubbed as “Lead Me On for Dominican Missions”, the concert title was based from the second song of the “Band of Fathers” 12-track album, which



was released last July in digital stores worldwide like Amazon, Deezer, Apple Music, and Spotify. It is also available in CD produced by OPMusik.

“Our first album was the self-titled *Inggô 1587*, released in 2000,” said Fr. Jepoy Arsciwals, OP, who plays the keyboards and is the band’s lead vocalist.

Completing the band are Fr. Auckhs Enjaynes, OP, on lead guitar; Fr. Joemar Sibug, OP, on rhythm guitar; Fr. Dennis Maquiraya, OP, on bass; and Fr. Deng Dela Cruz, OP, on drums.

“We started in 1998, with the desire to explore other ways of preaching to reach out to more people especially the un-churched. Thus, *Inggô 1587*’s music is not the traditional churchy sound but more of a contemporary, edgy and youthful one,” said Fr. Arsciwals, adding that “*Inggô* is a common nickname for Domingo, the name of the founder of our congregation, the Order of Preachers or Dominicans, while 1587 marks the year when the first Dominican missionaries set foot on the country.”

The other songs of “Lead Me On” are “Hanggang sa Dulo;” “Nothing Can Separate Us;” “This Is The Day;” “Faith, Hope, Love;” “Sing Hallelujah;” “Wake Up;” “Breathe On Me;” “Lamb of God;” “Tila;” “Holy, Holy, Holy;” and “Magkakapatid”.

“Since we were preparing for a reunion concert, we thought of coming up with a new album. Compared to our first, the songs now are more upbeat, contemporary and youthful—more for praise and worship gatherings,” said Fr. Arsciwals. All the songs in the album were written



and composed by Fr. Giuseppe Pietro Arsciwals, OP and arranged by Paulo Zarate. Neo Hernandez III wrote the music to one of the 12 tracks.

The Archbishop of Manila, Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle was the special guest during the concert. He sang “Go the Distance” (by Michael Bolton), to the cheers and shouts of the crowd. When the audience yelled for more, the good cardinal who said he was not prepared, but asked the audience if they have any requests in mind, obliged by singing “Lead Me Lord”. Fr. Napoleon Encarnacion, OP brought the house down, so to speak, with his own version of “To Love Somebody”. While singing the song, he went around the gymnasium, and asked the audience’s participation, by asking several individuals to sing the chorus.

Another special feature of the concert was a speed painting done by AG Saño, a mural artist and an environmental activist. While *Inggô 1587* performed their song “Lamb of God”, Saño painted something that cannot be easily recognized on a black 4 feet by 5 feet board. When the four and a half minutes song ended, Saño turned the board upside down to reveal the face of Jesus Christ with a crown of thorns.

Some Dominican Student-Brothers also participated in the concert with Br. Reginald Zamora, OP, in the percussion; Br. Rambang Ngawan, OP, in the keyboard; Br. Jaymar Capalaran, OP, on rhythm guitar; and Br. Wilhelm Boñon, OP, Br. Kenneth Villacastin, OP, Br. Mark Buenaventura, OP, and Br. Leonito Mateo, OP, as backing vocalists.

“Lead Me On for Dominican Missions”, was organized by the Office of the Promoter of the Missions headed by Fr. Jose Martin Sibug, OP, with the help of Fr. Christopher Jeffrey Aytona, OP as Executive Producer of the event. With RSL Rhythm Sound and Lights as the major sponsor, the dinner concert was for the benefit of the mission programs of the Dominican Province of the Philippines.

ASIL CELEBRATES THE SOLEMNITY OF ST. DOMINIC

By: Br. Paul Reagan O. Talavera, OP

Since the Prior Provincial, Fr. Napoleon B. Sipalay, Jr. OP, requested all our brothers from our different communities





to attend this year's celebration of the Solemnity of St. Dominic de Guzman in our provincialate house in Sto. Domingo Church in Quezon City, our community decided to advance the celebration in the house and school. It has been a tradition to host a simple lunch with the clergy and different religious men and women in the Archdiocese of Jaro every August 8. However, this year, we decided to move it to August 6, 2017 during the feast of the Transfiguration. Incidentally, it was also the 6th Presbyteral Ordination anniversary of Fr. Paul Reagan Talavera, OP. The event was attended by the diocesan clergy headed by Most Rev. Angel Lagdameo, DD, Archbishop of Jaro. Likewise the Association of Consecrated Women in Iloilo attended the event headed by their President Sr. Leticia Villalobos, MST, and the Association of Consecrated Men in the Archdiocese of Jaro led by their President Fr. Domingo Arnaiz, MHM. Members of the Dominican Family that included the Dominican Laity, Dominican Sisters of the Most Holy Rosary of the Philippines and Brothers from the *Filii Sancti Dominici* also graced the occasion.

The Angelicum School Community had its celebration on August 7, 2017 which started with a Mass with our learners, learning facilitators, employees and parents. Semi-dependent learners had their poster making contest while independent learners had a quiz bee which centered on the life and works of St. Dominic de Guzman. Prizes for the event were sponsored by our brothers from *Filii Sancti Dominici* Panay Chapter as coordinated by Fray Ruben



Carbo. A simple lunch was then served for our learning facilitators and employees.

DOMINICAN LAITY PROMOTER GENERAL VISITS VIETNAM

Rev. Fr. Rui Carlos Antunes e Almeida Lopes, OP, Promoter General of Dominican Laity, visited Bui Chu and Thai Binh dioceses in Hanoi on August 07, 2017 on the celebration of the Feast of St. Dominic. The Asia-Pacific Coordinator of Lay Dominicans on the International



Council, Belen Lorezca-Tangco, OP was with him in addressing some 15 thousands of Lay Dominicans gathered in the Bui Chu Cathedral and open areas where the procession of the image of St. Dominic took place. The bishop, vicar of the bishop and the Diocesan Promoter welcomed them. In Thai Binh diocese, the bishop presided over the Eucharistic Celebration attended by five thousand Lay Dominicans. The Dominican Fathers hosted them at the Dominican residence. Rev. Fr. Vincent Lu Ha, OP, who served as Socius to the Master for Asia-Pacific, graciously interpreted talks for Fr. Rui and Dr. Belen before thousands of Lay Dominicans.



In Ho Chi Minh City, they were received by the Lay Dominican National Service Council and were hosted at the Curia -Provincialate by the Prior Provincial, Rev. Fr. Joseph Nguyen Duc Hoa, OP. Fr. Joseph accompanied them at the Eucharistic Celebration and Program at St.

Martin de Porres Parish, Xuan Loc, Diocese where many thousands of Lay Dominicans actively participated in the Dominican celebration.



Mr. Vicente Libo-on of the Provincial Secretariat, Dominican Province of the Philippines and of Lay Dominican Regional Secretariat, and the National Service Council Officers of Vietnam headed by Mr. Joseph Do An Ninh, OP, National President, also graced the diocesan visits on August 5-13, 2017. Ms. Maria Hoang Kim Dung, OP, a professed Lay Dominican joyfully served as interpreter.

To date, there are 117,138 Vietnamese Lay Dominicans.

VOCATION CAMPAIGN IN AKLAN AND ANTIQUE

By Br. Melencio Garcia, OP

Promoting vocations by the Franciscan, Dominican and La Mennais congregations is truly a different experience. Moving around Aklan and Antique in six days was tiresome, but a meaningful and joyful experience. Truly, vocations can be found everywhere; but we only need to bring awareness to the youngsters in school and Churches to let them discover their vocation.



Sr. Sharon Templanza, FMIJ, and Sr. Annabelle Pinos, FMIJ, from the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Infant Jesus organized vocation campaign around the provinces of Aklan and Antique. The invitation was extended to the Dominican Province of the Philippines (Br. Mhel Garcia, OP), Dominican Sisters of Peace (Sr. Lorna Ablog, OP) and the La Mannais Brothers (Br. Bobot Fernandez).

The schools that we visited were: Aklan State University, St. Joseph Academy in Malinao, Aklan, Batan Integrated School of Technology College, Altavas National High School and Yapak National High School, Boracay. Along the way, we also took advantage of posting our vocation materials in the parishes nearby.



It was heartwarming to re-discover how the deep sense of religiosity could be surmised from the faith of the students with their warmth and sense of openness. It was noticeable though how they misconceived the vocation to priesthood as one among the professional careers. It was great to have enlightened their young minds that priesthood and religious life were a calling from God to do service to Him and to His people.

We thank the people who were one with us in this journey of inviting people to serve in the vineyard of the Lord. May you be blessed a hundredfold!

SEMINAR ON THE ROSARY IN SURABAYA

By Br. Lukas Sabdaningrat OP

In line with the mission of the Province to bring the presence of the Order to the peripheries, the community of Rumah Santo Tomas, Surabaya was very blessed with the visit of Fr. Louis Marie Ariño Durand, OP, the Promoter of the Rosary of the Order who came last August 2017. His arrival in Indonesia was part of the apostolic mission of the Order to promote the rosary all over the world.



He held a seminar entitled “*Devosi Rosario*” (Devotion to the Rosary). More than 500 people including the brethren, the youth and other various communities attended the seminar held in the Church and was aired live the Redemptor Mundi facebook page. The seminar was delivered in English and was translated into *Bahasa* by Fr. Adrian Adiredjo, OP. With the use of PowerPoint presentation, Fr. Durand was able to inspire the audience. Three points were brought out as pointers for reflection: the message of the Blessed Virgin in Fatima, the relevance of the Mysteries of the Rosary in our life and the value of the repetition in the recitation of the rosary.

At the end of the seminar, Fr. Durand encouraged the audience to pray the rosary every day, based on the message of the Blessed Mother in Fatima, and to form a Rosary Team in Surabaya by way of promoting the rosary. Inspired by the talk and moved by the spirit, the audience right away formed the Rosary Team!

After Surabaya, Fr. Durand intended to also visit Dili, Timor Leste for the promotion of the rosary. We join him in prayer for his mission in the name of Jesus through Mary!

AVE MARIA...

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY LA NAVAL FOUNDATION, INC.

By Br. Jayson R. Gonzales, OP

On August 15, 2017, 5:30 PM, the Santo Domingo Convent launched the Our Lady of the Rosary La Naval Foundation, Inc. The launching started with the blessing of the newly renovated La Naval office and the unveiling of the signage of the foundation. Br. Napoleon Sipayal Jr., OP, the Prior Provincial of the Dominican Province of the Philippines and the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the foundation, welcomed the benefactors and guests. Mrs. Gilda Resurrecion, a professor at Ateneo de Manila Graduate School, presented an overview of the foundation and the projects it proposes. Br. Roland Mactal, OP, the Prior of Santo Domingo Convent and the Chief Executive Officer of the foundation, gave the closing remarks. He thanked the benefactors and devotees who are supportive in this endeavor. The launching was capped by the singing



of the *Tiples de Santo Domingo*, the oldest existing boys choir in the Philippines. A simple dinner followed afterwards.

HIGH SCHOOL HIGH IN ANGELICUM SCHOOL ILOILO!

By Gabrielle Fran C. Domingo

Solo Dios - God Alone - This was the theme of the High School High Acoustic Jam of the Youth for Christ High School Based Iloilo last August 28, 2017 at the Angelicum School, Jaro, Iloilo City. The event was participated in by different schools from various sectors in the province. During the said activity, Rev. Fr. Ramon Claro Mendez OP, the Director of Angelicum School, welcomed the whole delegation in behalf of the Angelicum and the Dominican community and bid them with a blessed encounter with the Lord by reminding them that “the very poetry of God the Father is Jesus Christ himself.”



The atmosphere was filled with fun as the activity took place. There were vocal solo pop competitions, dance competitions, and acoustic band competitions, wherein the host school won 3rd place. The spiritual essence of the event was emphasized in the praise and worship jams, acoustic jams, and, most importantly, in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, which was presided over by Rev. Fr. Randy Doromal, the spiritual director of the Couples of Christ and the head of the Archdiocesan Commission on Family Life in the Archdiocese of Jaro. He said in his homily that the youth should know the importance of the Word, “focus”, which should not only be visible within us, but also in the people around us. He said that in order



to have focus, one should have faith and faithfulness, openness and obedience, celebration and communion, uphold Christian values and virtues, and service.

The highlight of the day's event was the acoustic jam, which entirely centered on the theme of having true happiness in God alone. The inspirational sessions were given by Kuya Genesis, who directly came from Cagayan just to grace the said event. Young people joined in the singing and were very participative because of the "hugot" lines that were mentioned in some parts of the session. Two youth leaders from the YFC community, namely Bro. Richmond and Sis. Johanna Marie, gave their testimony on how they have found true happiness when they encountered Christ in the said religious organization. The whole day's activity ended with a call to commit their lives to serve Christ as they found deep and satisfying joy in Him, despite all the trials that might come in their life.

CATHOLIC STUDENTS: BUILDING COMMUNITIES FOR LIFE

By Hazelene Grace P. De Asis

Life is precious, and we are taught to value and nurture it as stewards of God's creation. This year, the Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines (CEAP) Region VI organized a regional youth camp with the theme "Catholic Students: Building Communities for Life," inviting various Catholic schools including Angelicum School Iloilo.



The event was hosted at Aklan Catholic College, Andagao, Aklan and was a two day overnight event with a continuous program that stretched through the night. Many of the participants arrived early by bus having traveled from the city and other regions of Panay. The registration took up most of the early morning before moving on to the opening program which included a cultural presentation where some selected schools showcased the festival of their regions; the Bayluhan festival and the Dinagyang festival were some that were presented.

Aside from the cultural show, the program included an interschool sports tournament with volleyball, basketball, and chess players scattered into various teams: there was also an Amazing Race. After the fun and games and a moment of rest, the participants were called together to join in the Eucharistic Celebration led by the Most Rev. Jose Romeo Juanito Lazo, DD, Bishop of the Diocese of San Jose de Antique.

Throughout the day, various speakers called the participants to be an advocate for life: life that, given the country's current state, is being misguided and taken for granted. One of the guest speakers was Fr. Jeffery Aytona, OP. He put emphasis on the role of social media and the youth in today's generation. He spoke about how influential the media can be and how the youth, as millenials, are a key factor in making a change and in advocating for life; how social media can be used as a medium to spread the truth so as long as it is used correctly.

The night stretched on without breaks anymore. Various schools performed and presented the many talents of their students. As the sun rose to early morning, the program ended with a prayer. The participants, though tired from their long night, went home to their respective regions with new a smile and a renewed sense of spirit for life.

OP MOLO @ 92 AND INSTALLATION OF NEW MOTHER GENERAL

By Br. Paul Reagan O. Talavera, OP

Last July 24, 2017, the Dominican Sisters of the Most Holy Rosary of the Philippines, in Molo, Iloilo City celebrated their 92nd founding anniversary. This year was made extra special because of the election of their 7th Mother General in the person of Mo. Ma. Nemia Daral, OP, principal of St. Rose of Lima Catholic School in Bacolod. During the celebration of the mass presided by Most Rev. Angel Lagdameo, DD, Archbishop of Jaro, the new Mother General and her councilors were installed. Those who were installed: 1st councilor and Vicar General Mo. Mary Celestine Bancal, OP, 2nd councilor Sr. Ma. Lucilla Narra, OP, 3rd councilor Sr. Gemma Sobredilla, OP, 4th councilor



Sr. Ma. Arlene Laude, OP, 5th councilor & Secretary General Sr. Ma. Arlene Nacionales, OP, 6th councilor Sr. Ma. Victoria Maghanoy, OP. Together with the Archbishop were his concelebrants: Fr. Ramon Claro Mendez, OP, & Fr. Paul Reagan Talavera, OP, from the House of the Most Holy Rosary in Jaro; Fr. Manuel Vergara, OSA, from the University of San Agustin; Fr. Oswald Duran, OSA and Fr. Peter Guarin, secretary of the Archbishop.

TO MARAWI WITH LOVE, STUFFED TOYS FROM ILOILO

By Br. Paul Reagan O. Talavera, OP

As a response to the call of the Commissions on Missions and Justice, Peace and Care of Creation to send help for children of Marawi who are displaced by



the ongoing war between the government forces and the Maute group, the Angelicum School together with the Parish of Sta. Maria which is administered by our dear Jesuit brothers decided to support the Black Pencil Project's "Send Hugs to Children of Marawi". Fr. Neupito Saicon, SJ, the new parish priest of Sta. Maria expressed his interest in the project, and after having announced it to his parishioners, the faithful showed support by sending their donations.



Likewise, the Angelicum School Iloilo, spearheaded by Mr. Michael Desano, head of the community service and student council adviser, mobilized the Angelicum School Student Council to start collecting new and old stuffed toys from our learners. They also made cards for children in Marawi to extend their greetings to their fellow youngsters. The toys were sent to St. Antoninus House in Davao City through our Br. Oscar Novem Enjaynes, OP, the house superior.

September in DPP History (Culled from the Archives of the Province)

☞ **1989 September 9** – The construction of the new novitiate house was inaugurated on September 9, 1989 at Manaog, Pangasinan. Due to an inclement weather, the ceremony (the blessing and laying of cornerstone and time capsule), which would have been held outdoors, was integrated in the Mass in a simple but more solemn rite led by Bishop Pedro Magat, DD, Bishop of Urdaneta. It was highlighted by the symbolic offering and insertion of different articles into the time capsule by some officials of the Province and other distinguished guests, to wit: Fr. Quirico Pedregosa, OP, Vicar Provincial, and Fr. George Moreno, OP, Prior of the Priory of Our Lady of the Rosary, a copy of the New Testament; Mrs. Felicidad Viray, the incorporation papers of the AEAPSI; Dr. Kelvin Chiong, coins; Dean Augusto Concio (for UST Architecture and Fine Arts Dean) and Mr. Ronnie de Jesus, architect and designer respectively, the plan of the building; and the Dominican Novices. Br. Francisco Tũaño, OP, who was the project director concelebrated in the mass. Other members of the brethren were also in attendance including the Postulants from St. Albert's House and some Student-Brothers. Fr. Enrico Gonzales, OP, delivered the homily. The services of Dean Augusto Concio and Mr. Ronnie de Jesus were offered gratuitously.

☞ **1975 September 30** – In response to the repeated requests of the families of Filipino technicians in Tehran, Iran, for a Catholic Dominican School, the Angelicum School of Quezon City opened an international branch in Tehran, Iran on September 30, 1975. Site of the school was at St. Abraham's Church and Convent of the Dominican Irish Fathers. The all-Filipino teaching staff was headed by Fr. Jose Rizal Dimapilis, OP, who served as Assistant Director of Angelicum School, Tehran, Iran on April 23, 1976.

☞ **1991 September 16** – On September 16, 1991 Archbishop Nicholas Marcus Fernando, the Archbishop of Colombo, Sri Lanka, gave a favorable response to the proposal of Fr. Jayalath Balagalla, OP, to establish a Dominican House in Sri Lanka under

the care of the Dominican Province of the Philippines. The Archbishop was supportive to it because he himself believes that most likely India will not be able in the foreseeable future to establish such a house due to the existing political differences between the Indian and Sri Lankan people.

On January 27, 1994, Fr. Quirico Pedregosa Jr., OP, informed Fr. C. J. Sebastian Condodikary, OP, Vice-Provincial of India that the Provincial Council in its meeting on January 25, 1994, has officially approved the acceptance of the mandate for the Dominican Province of the Philippines (DPP) to establish the Dominican Order in Sri Lanka, on the following conditions: (1) that the Vice Province of India approves of it and (2) that the Master of the Order grants it.

In a letter addressed to Fr. Kevin Toomey, OP, Socius of the Master for the Asia-Pacific Region, the Vice-Provincial of India expressed the willingness of his brethren in general to relinquish their jurisdiction over Sri Lanka to the Dominican Province of the Philippines "because of political reasons." The transfer of jurisdiction was officially drawn by Fr. Timothy Radcliffe, OP, Master of the Order on May 15, 1995. (Source: Thesis of Fr. Joseto Bernadas, OP, "The first twenty five years of the Dominican Province of the Philippines 1971-1996, pages 112-113)

☞ **2001 September 11** – St. Dominic's House was officially erected in Kandy, Sri Lanka by virtue of a decree from the Master of the Order, Fr. Carlos Azpiroz Costa, OP. A prior ecclesiastical approval was granted by the Bishop of Kandy, Most Rev. Vianney Fernando, DD, on July 18, 2001 for the canonical establishment of the House. (Source: PHILDOM September 2011)

☞ **2011 September 2** – The groundbreaking of the Holy Rosary Seminary, the Province's juniorate house in Sri Lanka, in a five-acre property in Kandawala, Negombo, Sri Lanka which was acquired by the Province in 2010, was held on September 2, 2011. The groundbreaking was led by the Prior Provincial, Fr. Quirico Pedregosa Jr., OP, who was in Sri Lanka for the canonical visitation to the community of St. Dominic's House in Kandy from August 29 to September 3, 2011. The said groundbreaking ceremony was well attended by the community members of S. Dominic's House and the other members of the Dominican Family Sri Lanka – Dominican Sisters of St. Catherine of Siena, Dominican Sisters of Malta and some members of the Dominican Laity. There were also some Franciscans Friars (OFM), Somaskan sisters, the Parish Priest of Kandawala, and representatives from the building contractors headed by Mr. Jude Fernandopule. (Source: PHILDOM September 2011, pages 2-3).

☞ **2011 September 24** – The Solemn Blessing and Dedication of the San Lorenzo Ruiz and Companion

Martyrs Parish Church took place last September 24, 2011 with the Prior Provincial and the Bishop of Kalookan presiding, in Kanularan Village, Navotas City. Parishioners and members of the Province supported the event through the initiative of its head pastor, Fr. Allan Lopez, OP, Parish Priest for a decade (2001-2011). (Source: PHILDOM September 2011 page 3)

PC Notes...

Notes from the 403rd Provincial Council Meeting on 7 August 2017

- ☞ The Promoter for Continuing Formation is deputed to provide suggestions (date, venue, theme, resource person/s) for the 2018 Province-wide retreat. Due is on 30 September 2017.
- ☞ The proposed project of OCM Steel Corporation with the budget of ₱4.8 million for the construction of the Dominican Studentate covered basketball court was approved. However, the Priory of Sto. Domingo Convent has to write a formal letter to the Provincial and his Council for a funding scheme for its construction.
- ☞ The Adhoc Committee under the leadership of the Promoter for Continuing Formation designated to make the draft of the Policy on Gambling and Other Forms of Addiction is tasked to revise the guidelines that they have submitted into a protocol initially limiting to gambling. Due is on 30 September 2017.
- ☞ The Provincial Council declines the invitation of Bishop Tim Harris of the Diocese of Townsville to send 2 Dominican brethren for pastoral ministry in the diocese. However, we may assist Bishop Harris in identifying dioceses whom he may wish to deal with.
- ☞ The Provincial Syndic is directed to meet all the Promoters to discuss the organizational structure, duties and functions as well as to assess the competence of the present staff in managing the website that is directly under the management of the Promoter for Evangelization through Social Communication.
- ☞ Café Inggo 1571, the concessionaire of the commercial space in Padre Pio V building had the inauguration for a soft opening on 8 August 2017 until it holds its grand opening on 8 September 2017.

DEATH IN THE FAMILY

We pray for the eternal repose of the soul of:

- † **Sr. INOCENCIA MORTERA, OP**, of the Congregacion de Religiosas Misioneras de Santo Domingo, who passed away on August 5, 2017.

- † Sr. MA. FELIPA LUMAIN GOMEZ, OP, of the Congregation of Dominican Sisters of St. Catherine of Siena, Philippines, who passed away on August 5, 2017.
- † ENRICO RAMIREZ who passed away on August 2 2017. He is the brother of our Br. Erasmo Ramirez, OP.
- † TELESFORO G. ABOGADO, JR. who passed away on August 30, 2017. He is the father of our Br. Jannel Abogado, OP.

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 September.

September 17 + Br. Domingo Nacion, OP
 26 + Br. Ramon Salinas, OP

Canonical Visit of the Master of the Order

September 17 to October 1, 2017

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.

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: **CASTOR**
Nickname: "Dodong"
Middle Name: **CULASTE**
Surname: **OLACO**
Birthdate: 28 Dec 1973
Civil Status: Married
Hometown: Candijay, Bohol
Educational Attainment:
 Bachelor of Science in Marine Transportation (1995), Capitol University (formerly Cagayan Capitol College), Cagayan de Oro City

Date of Employment in the Provincialate: 1 Dec 2001

Current Position: Household Staff

Milestone/Highlight of being with the Province: Nang dahil sa Sacramento ng Binyag sa Bahay Dominiko, nagkatagpo and dalawang nagmamahalan.



Standing from left to right: Anacrita (my wife) and my children: Castor Jr., Joseph Alouis and Jean Camille.



Colegio de San Juan de Letran

Ika-20 ng Agosto 2017

G. ZALDY AT GNG. LORENZA DELOS SANTOS

Ginigiliw na G. at Gng. Delos Santos,

Kapayapaan!

Ang **Colegio de San Juan de Letran** ay marubdob na nakikiramay po sa pagkamatay ng inyong anak na si **KIAN LOYD DELOS SANTOS!** Hindi man po namin personal na kakilala si **Kian Loyd** at ang inyong pamilya, ang trahedyang pagpaslang ay tunay na gumising sa aming budhi sa galit at lungkot sa nangyayari sa ating lipunan.

Bilang paaralang Katoliko, pinahahalagahan po namin ang buhay ng tao. Ito ay kaloob ng Diyos at Kanyang mariin na utos, **HUWAG KANG PAPATAY!** Kaya, walang karapatan at dahilan ang sinumang pamahalaan o tauhan, kahit gaano man ka-popular, kahit sa ngalan ng “Digmaan kontra Droga,” na ipatupad ang pagpatay.

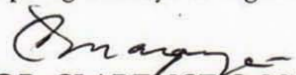
Bilang paaralan, umaalingawngaw sa amin ang mga huling kataga ni **Kian Loyd**, “*Huwag po! Tama na po! May test pa ako bukas!*” Ang mga mag-aaral ng Letran ay tunay na makakalahad sa ganyang pahayag. Sila ay ang pag-asa ng bayan, sila ay ang ating kinabukasan. At marapat na ipagtanggol natin sila, laban sa anumang sinumang susupil at sisiil sa kanilang mga pangarap, laban sa madilim na puwersa ng karahasan, kalupitan, at kasamaan.

Bilang Sentro ng Edukasyon sa Karapatang Pantao, ang Letran ay nakikiisa at nakikibaka sa inyo, para makamit ang katarungan para kay **Kian Loyd**. Handa kaming tumulong sa abot ng aming makakaya para maibsan ang inyong dalamhati, mapalakas ang inyong loob at maisulong itong adhikain.

Itong araw ng Linggo, ika-20 ng Agosto, ating nabasa sa Ebanghelyo ang kuwento ng ina na nakiusap kay Hesus para matulungan ang kanyang anak. Katulad niya, nang may buong pananampalataya, aming dulog, “*Panginoon, maawa ka... Panginoon, tulungan mo kami.*”

Ito ay ang aming dasal para sa Pamilya Delos Santos, para sa lahat at iba pang biktima ng pagpaslang, para sa ating sambayanang Pilipinas. Nawa, ang kamatayan ni **Kian Loyd** ay magkamit ng katarungan at saysay sa pagtatanggol sa buhay ng bawat tao, lalo na ng kabataan at maralita. Hindi ito mababale wala basta’t magkakaisa tayo sa pag-alala sa kanya at sa pagsulong nitong adhika. **KATARUNGAN PARA KAY KIAN LOYD!**

Sa ngalan po ng sambayanan ng Letran,


RDO. PDR. CLARENCE C. MARQUEZ, OP
Rector at Pangulo

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ITINERANCY

By Br. Enrico D. Gonzales, OP



Br. Enrico D. Gonzales, OP

I might have stayed too long in Santo Domingo so that one could base simply on statistics that I must have vowed stability in one convent alone. From year 1968 to the present, I have become a fixture in Santo Domingo. This duration has been punctured by no more than five times but the transfer to

another community lasted only for one or three years at most, then, back to Santo Domingo again. I have nothing to complain about though. Santo Domingo has been my home where charity begins. There, I learn to be in one place and yet itinerant. For even if charity begins at home – that is Santo Domingo – it does not end within the walls of this convent only. Santo Domingo is just the starting point whence the line is drawn and extended to the infinity, so to speak. From Santo Domingo my preaching assignments bring me to the four corners of the Philippines and at times, even beyond. So, even if I have only one address – Santo Domingo – I had been affiliated to so many communities – Dominican or otherwise – who welcomed me home. To be welcomed by so many communities because I am a preacher opens my eyes to the real meaning of itinerancy. Itinerancy is not just “locomotion” – a physical transfer from one location to another. If such were the case, then, airplane pilots, stewards and stewardesses would have been the best models of itinerancy. But they are not. In travelling they do not forge lasting and meaningful relationship with persons. The process involved in the interaction starts with hello and sooner than expected ends with good-bye. Heart to heart engagement is not encouraged; for all we know, it might even be forbidden as a matter of policy. Well, it is just business as usual – nothing more, nothing less.

Being moved from one place to another is not the total meaning of itinerancy; at most, it is just its superficial denotation. After all, there are cases when persons are transferred from one community to another not because of their service in any particular apostolic project but simply because they need an address. For, alas, no community seems to be willing to accept them. The Provincial leadership needs to intervene lest they become homeless or worse, vagrants. But vagrancy is surely not itinerancy. In itinerancy, we are sent from one community to another

for one simple reason: mission. We are sent to extend our home to others. We always aim at building an extended family, that is, a family without frontiers, a family where spirit is thicker than blood. So, our journey goes beyond locomotion since we are sent on a mission to establish communion with people whoever they are and wherever they are. It is indeed a gross misunderstanding to think that we are sent just to manage resources, construct buildings or any other infrastructure projects and call all these our missionary endeavours. Our mission is definitely not for things but for persons, not for objects but for people. To move out of this missionary vision is to betray our Dominican vocation itself. We become traitors to God so that instead of promoting his Kingdom, we embark on a religious imperialism which enslaves people rather than liberates them.

It is now “assignment-season” in the Province. Today I see fresh faces gracing Santo Domingo and miss the usual ones who left as soon as they received their new posting. In the midst of this traffic of coming and going, I stay in my usual place. Standing like a watchman, I welcome those who are arriving and send off those who are leaving Santo Domingo. Should I feel sorry for myself for being left alone by this merry-go-round? Not at all. In Santo Domingo, I am moving without being moved. The missionary call to preach keeps me on my toes and leads me to read the signs of the times on the faces of people with whom the Spirit has brought me to share the power of his word. I might not be able to describe adequately amazing places on earth. The glory that was Rome nor the loveliness of Paris left no indelible marks in my memory but encounters with people were etched in my consciousness as though they just happened yesterday. The latest instance is my recent sojourn in Seoul, South Korea. Invited to facilitate a weeklong dialogue among young Dominicans in the Asia-Pacific Region, I squeezed this program into my tight-packed schedule in the Philippines. From Manila to Seoul, then back again is the only itinerary my schedule can allow me for what could have been a much needed leisure in South Korea. My trip is “business as usual” after all. So, what more will I expect? I tried to console myself with the thought that I had been all too familiar with the historical places of my interest in South Korea. An avid fan of Korean telenovelas, I hardly missed episodes of epic dramas of adventure, romance and politics in Korea during the classical period of Joseon and Goryeon dynasties. I have resigned myself to this vicarious enjoyment of Korea until some bright

idea entered into the mind of our gracious host. On the night before I left for Manila, the Korean Dominican Community invited me to an evening cruise of Han River. This river snaking along the main thoroughfares of Seoul is so strategically located and historically loaded that in just one evening I had the vision of Korea in a nutshell. But more than this new acquisition of historical knowledge, I likewise had a review of the salient points of the personal story of my itinerancy. Right on the table where I enjoyed the sights and sounds of Seoul in that evening ferry, were seated beside me two landmarks of my itinerancy: Fr. Javier Arrazola, OP, and Fr. Thomas Bae, OP. Fr. Javier is a pioneer missionary of Korea, having stayed there since the beginning of our Dominican presence more than twenty-five years ago. Before Korea, he lived in our own University of Santo Tomas (UST) distinguishing himself as a much beloved rector of its Central Seminary for so many years. As a young postulant, I was privileged to have him as one of my mentors. More than the academics, he had taught me through his examples how to harmonize firmness and

gentleness in a well-balanced personality. Fr. Thomas, on the other hand, is the superior of all Dominicans living and working in South Korea. He was under my charge as his Master of Students during his formative phase as a theology student of UST. Patient and hardworking, he already showed himself a leader in action more than in word during those years.

I returned to Manila the next day with nothing but the memory of that evening cruise. That memory though is for me everything. It marks the distance my itinerancy has taken me so far. Han River ceases to be just a river. It is alive and as it keeps flowing, it brings along everything that enjoys its course until it merges with the ocean where limits and boundaries are no more. The promise of Han River is the promise of itinerancy:

Follow the bidding of the Spirit. Take courage. Cut off the knot and sail to the unknown. Surely God is waiting for us somewhere.

**HOMILY OF REV. FR. NAPOLEON SIPALAY JR., OP
DURING THE MASS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT OF
THE PHILIPPINE DOMINICAN CENTER OF INSTITUTIONAL
STUDIES AND INSTITUTE OF PREACHING**

11 August 2017, Aula San Pio, San Pio V Building, Quezon City

Transcript by Br. Vince Stanley B. Iñigo, OP



Br. Napoleon B. Sipalay Jr., OP

It is a very good tradition that we are gathered together before the start of the academic year to invoke the Holy Spirit for the gifts that will lead us students, professors, administrators as partners in the different endeavors of the Philippine Dominican Center of Institutional Studies and Institute of Preaching.

I suppose if everything will be okay, this year, the process being done by the Father Regent and Moderator of Studies is the last Mass of the Holy Spirit for the PDCIS. We are sad that this will be the last but we are also happy that we will be part of the full circle now of where we all have started because many of us have studied in UST. And I believe that invoking the Holy Spirit, the third Person of the Trinity, we normally describe this Person in different images.

In the First Reading, we started with a strong driving wind. For us from Mindanao especially from Davao, we had no typhoons in Davao except for "Pablo" and when we first came to Calamba, we were so happy to see the typhoon coming. While the people from Luzon were

hiding inside the seminary, the people from Davao region were out looking at everything that could be brought by the wind, from the roof to the branches of trees and everything that could be blown by the wind. We were so happy then.

We have seen that this Center and UST must probably be (integrated). I think it is to start a full circle that we are going to send our students to UST which will be our center of institutional studies. I think it's not so much of a destruction of the PDCIS, but giving a new order. The Holy Spirit gave order to the chaos that was there (during the Creation of the World): to put order in the creation of God. Hopefully, that would be the same picture that we would have when we see a configuration of our centers, that is, a strong driving wind. And I hope that the strong driving wind that can be seen outside is also present in each one of us. I believe many of us started our vocation with so much drive, so much enthusiasm, filled with motivation. I hope that it is still there. Because as we go on, I know that all this lethargic and weakening may take place but hopefully the strong motivation will always be there to help us through to follow this call.

And there is also this image – the tongues of fire, tongues for communication. The people were in confusion. But the confusion is different compared to that

of the Tower of Babel that people did not understand each other after they spoke in different languages in the Old Testament. But (in the New Testament), it was a confusion that they understood because they heard the disciples in their own tongues. It was like a fire in the same way as there was a driving wind. I hope that fire will always be enkindled; burning, because as you can see, as we go on in our vocation, there are so many fire extinguishers along the way. Many at times, we could be hit by the fire extinguisher and fire may die out. But somehow we still have that kind of ember within. The wood is burning overnight only to be covered by white soot, and just remove that soot, there is still the fire. What we need is to put more dried woods so that they could be turned into another living flame. So we hope that this center will help us; to have those woods for us to keep burning. And the burning that we have, hopefully, will not extinguish us because others might be burnt out for all other causes. I hope that we will be like the burning bush: Burning, but not consumed; burning and giving warmth. Burning and giving life to those who are in cold situations. I hope that the fire of the Holy Spirit will be given to us this year.

There is also that image of the breath. I attended to Fr. Salgado the night that he died, I asked, "*Father, what is happening with you?*" because he was sounding differently, and he said, "*I could not breathe.*" And when I attended to him in Loyola when he died already, there was no more life in the corpse of Fr. Salgado. When the breath is out, there is no more life. When we had this program in Sri Lanka, I remember, about justice and peace with the Jesuits and Franciscans. They likened the dead body like "*umbalakada*". If you have been to that place (or country), it is a kind of dried fish, very hard like wood. You have to scrape it in order to eat it. Without breath, we will be like any hard things, no flexibility. But the breath that the Lord gave us is the same breath that he gave in creation. He gave life, a kind of order for one's being to function, for life to continue.

In our Second Reading, there are so many gifts in a way that we have brilliant professors and brilliant students, musician, librarian. Those people are partners here. Hopefully the Spirit will guide us to put order in everything: the breath that gives life, one body moving as one. I believe that that is the purpose of life: That it gives order in everything. As you go on with life, look for a kind of connection of everything. When Fr. Winston and Fr. Stephen conducted our ongoing formation as priests of different ages, we discovered that this stage of our journey and even in the early part of it, we must see the seamless connection of everything. This is life, good or bad, everything is connected. In our study, I hope that we could see the connection of things. But most often, I could see that many of our brothers after studying in our different centers of study, there is a kind of disconnection in how

one integrates knowledge and application to life. When we value life, we only value life in terms of abstraction, in terms of classes where we discuss the value of life. We value life where we are in our different ministries.

I remembered talking to one of our brothers, seeing the end of the war, destroying the tomb of the Tamil peoples and I commented, "*How come they are destroying the tombs? They are already dead.*" And I received his answer, "*Because Father, they are dead. Their tombs should be destroyed.*" But I told him, "*They are dead and they could not do anything. And besides if that is my father's grave and you do this I'd get angry.*" And then he said, "*No, they should be destroyed because they are terrorists.*" But then that brother came here to the Philippines and after he came here and we met again, he said, "*You were right, Father, those tombs shall not be destroyed. People need a place to mourn.*"

I hope that kind of study will help us connect to reality: not that we disconnect ourselves from reality because we were so much. I think when pride enters into our minds, we only impose what we think is right. I think that is not reality; that is not Truth. I hope that our Truth would be congruent to the reality we are facing. I hope that our studies would answer the questions of our times. Our studies would be relevant to determine what ministries we will have.

When we were under Fr. Enrico as students of Philosophy, he assured us that we will forget everything that we learn. We will forget things that Aristotle, Plato, other Philosophers, Derrida, Habermas, everyone, we will forget. But what he asked of us, a kind of frame of mind, a kind of structure of mind that when we're faced with Truth, we would not move away from Truth. We will support the Truth. We will put our lives even, and align ourselves with Truth. And I hope and pray that the brothers in this Center in this Mass of the Holy Spirit, we ask Holy Spirit to help us to discern in our study, to put us and align us with the strong drive of fire that is within us, the connection of things, to see in us, in our hearts that everything is connected. I hope we move as one Province.

We are in the process of renewing the *Ratio Formationis Particularis* and the *Ratio Studiorum Particularis*. I hope not only the Formators, not only the brothers in-charge of studies, but all of us would be responsible to integrate. We had a meeting these recent days with the mission. We were asking ourselves how could we really integrate everything that we call priorities in our studies. I think it is time for us to see the connection of everything. We ask the Spirit to breathe into us this new life and to connect everything, the gifts, that the Holy Spirit has given us. So we ask the Holy Spirit, in the opening of this academic year to guide us in our studies and to inspire our professors and administrators here as partners to connect everything that we know in our Dominican journey, in our Dominican Life.

THE GIFT OF DOMINICAN INTERNATIONALITY

REFLECTION FROM 9TH ASIA-PACIFIC COMMON STUDY PROGRAM, SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA

By Br. Valentinus Bayuhadi Ruseno, OP



Br. Valentinus Bayuhadi Ruseno, OP

There are tons of lessons I learned from my participation in the 9th Asia-Pacific Common Study program held in Seoul, Korea from July 5 to July 31, 2017. Yet, the big question is: through these myriads of inputs, am I growing? Surely, I am growing several grams heavier, thanks to the nutritious and sumptuous meals provided by the host community. Yet, am I growing in a more meaningful way?

The Common Study provided me with a precious opportunity to encounter Dominican brothers from other nations in the region. Not that it was the first time since I basically spent my entire formation with foreigners, or as a foreigner to my fellow Filipino brothers, but the opportunity afforded a taste of Dominican internationality. The Order of Preachers was founded by a Spaniard saint in French soil. The first followers of Dominic were also Europeans as well. One expects that it would grow to be a Europe-centrist congregation, but gratefully, it was not the case. The missionary and itinerancy spirit propelled the friars to move from the boundaries of Christendom to the frontiers. Early Dominicans were preoccupied to engage in dialogue with the Moslem in the Middle East. China and India were always the dreamland of early Dominican evangelization. As soon as the Philippines was discovered by the Europeans, the friars immediately flooded the land.

The Order used to be very European in the sense that many members were coming from this tiny continent, yet as the number of vocations were generally declining in this part of the world, the Order has become less European and more global. In fact, it is the internationality of the Order that saves it from crumbling. In Asia, for example, new brothers are crowding the formations houses. In the Philippines, there are more than 50 brothers in the Studentate, not counting brothers in the novitiate and postulancy. Vietnam continues to be the largest Province in Asia with more than 400 friar-members. My country, Indonesia, keeps growing in number as generous young men join us. I believe the situation is not far different from Dominicans in America and Africa. Br. Bruno himself announced the opening of mission in Zambia, Africa.

What makes me truly grateful is not the internationality of the Order itself, but the bond of profession that unites us all into one brotherhood, one family. We can be an international group with multi-national members, but



Photo from Facebook of Br. Edmund Nantes, OP

what is the point if we never know and care for each other? This Common Study gives us a venue to meet my brothers from different lands, sharing their joy, struggles and dreams. Their happiness is mine to savor, their sufferings are mine to bear. I am proud to say that I have brothers in India, Pakistan, Myanmar, Korea, South Africa, and many more. We might be fighting in different frontiers, but we fight the same fight. We might be dealing with different issues of injustice particular in our place, but we all preach justice and peace.

If the big question is “have I grown through this Common Study?” the answer is that I have grown in the sense that my identity, horizon, and world have expanded exponentially. Because I am not just my habit, my licentiate thesis, or my books, but I am my brothers working for the poor children in India, am my Pakistani brothers serving the desert people, am my brothers in Iraq living in conflict zones. Groot of the Guardians of the Galaxy used to say one sentence, “I am Groot”, but as he was ready to sacrifice his life to save the other members, he finally said “We are Groot.” I hope that through this common study, I am empowered to say “We are the Order of Preachers.”



Photo from Facebook of Br. Edmund Nantes, OP

PERSISTENCE AND PATIENCE

Homily for the 20th Week in Ordinary Time, August 20, 2017

By Br. Virgilio A. Ojoy, OP



Br. Virgilio A. Ojoy, OP

Minsan merong isang bibe na pumasok sa tindahan ng mga feeds. Nagtanong sya sa tindero: "May tinda ba kayong pagkain ng mga bibe?" Sumagot ang tindero: "Wala kaming feeds para sa mga bibe." "Okay", sabi ng bibe. The next day, pumunta uli ang bibe dun sa tindahan at muling nagtanong: "May tinda ba kayong pagkain para sa mga bibe?" "Wala po",

sagot ng tindero. "Okay", sabi ng bibe. Nang sumunod na araw, balik uli ang bibe sa tindahan at pareho pa rin ang tanong nya: "May tinda ba kayong pagkain para sa mga bibe?" Nagalit na ang tindero: "Sinabi nang wala! Hindi kami nagtinda, di kami nagtitinda, at di kami magtitinda ng feeds para sa mga bibe! Sa susunod na magtatanong ka uli, ipapako ko na yang malalapad mong mga paa dito sa sahig!" "Okay", sabi uli nga bibe. The next day, andyan na naman ang bibe, pero iba ang tanong nya: "Meron ba kayong pako?" "Wala po", sagot ng tindero. "Kung ganun", ang sabi ng bibe, "May tinda ba kayong pagkain para sa mga bibe?"

That is what we may call persistence. But there are two kinds of persistence. The first one is the persistence that is meant to annoy, to make fun of, at the expense of another. Ito ang tinatawag nating 'makulit'. The other kind of persistence is not based on the intention to annoy or to make fun of somebody, but to desperately achieve something because of a great need. This is the kind of persistence that the Canaanite woman had when she approached Jesus with a request. This woman had a strong character. In fact, she was a stranger, a foreigner. She had no business mingling with Israelites, much less sharing in the blessings intended by God for his Chosen People, Israel. This seems to have been the reason why when she approached Jesus and pleaded, "Lord, Son of David, have pity on me. My daughter is tormented by a demon", Jesus was completely silent. He was quiet and did not show any reaction.

Some people, when met with a seeming indifference and are ignored, would easily give up. But this Canaanite woman was different. Motivated by her love for her daughter, she continued to follow Jesus and must have persistently communicated her request, prompting the Apostles to tell Jesus to give in to her, so that they could get

her out of their way. But Jesus replied: "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel". Jesus' response was more direct, and more hurting. It was as if he was telling the woman "You are not an Israelite and you have no right to partake of the blessings meant only for the people of Israel." But the woman was adamant. She prostrated herself and begged Jesus, "Lord, help me". Jesus' response became even more hurting even bordering on insult. He said, "It is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs!" Jesus likened the Canaanite woman to a dog. That could have been the last straw, to drive the woman away and get rid of her. But the woman spontaneously responded: "please, Lord, for even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from the master's table."

It was Jesus who gave up. The woman's persistence was rooted not only in her great love for her daughter but also in her deep faith in God's tenderness and mercy for all people. So Jesus told her, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done to you as you wish." And at that moment, the woman's daughter was healed.

My dear brothers and sisters, our readings today impart to us, at least, two lessons. The first lesson: in the eyes of God, nobody should be considered a stranger, a foreigner, an outsider. In God's Kingdom, nobody is excluded unless he excludes himself. Everybody is equal in the eyes of God. Salvation is meant for all people, in fact, for the whole of creation. This universal salvation is also expressed in the First Reading through the prophet Isaiah: The foreigners who join themselves to the Lord. . .and hold on to my covenant, them I will bring to my holy mountain and make joyful in my house of prayer. . .for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all people."

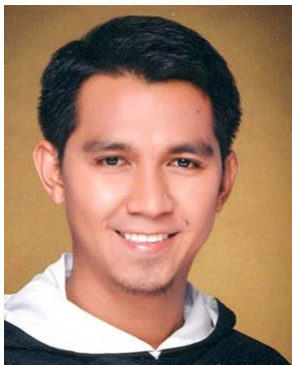
Jesus, in the gospel, gave the impression that he was excluding the Canaanite woman. But his real intent was to bring the woman to the right motivation, a deep faith that God is solicitous for the needs of all people. We should have that kind of faith. Even when God seems to be silent, even when he seems unmindful of our great needs. God has room for us all in his eternal memory. If God does not grant our requests at the time we want it, it is because God is not an automatic dispensing machine from whom we can draw anything in one push of our finger. God's wisdom has the proper time, and an appropriate blessing for each one of us.

In our own time, it is not only people from other nations that are considered strangers. Within our very own country, there are people who are deemed outsiders, people who are excluded. We neglect, or conveniently

forget to share with them the blessings of our society. We are lucky if we are born with a silver spoon on our mouths as offsprings of “de buena familia” or we are able to rise up the social and economic ladder. Then we can live in posh villages, ride in luxury cars, wear expensive attire, and wallow in sumptuous feasts and expensive vacations. But what about those who live in the ‘kariton’, those children who knock on our car windows and wipe our squeaky clean cars with their dirty rags? They have no houses, they may have four wheels, but they have no cars, no work, and many times, no food. Shall we give them a few coins, or candies or cookies and then feel good about our charitable deed? Are they dogs that can rest content with the scraps that fall from our tables? Or can we do something more ‘saving’, more life-changing? Can we, for example, pool our resources together, let’s say five of us who are friends, and send one poor child to College? Or give a substantial capital for a poor family to start a business, of course, with our guidance? The real bottom line for us who are better off is: In our mind, in our heart,

do we feel that those people have no right to the blessings of life? Do they deserve to be excluded? Are we in the same wavelength as God?

The second lesson is as follows. For those who are needy because they have to knock on car windows, or because they feel helpless amidst a challenge like a terminal illness, sudden loss of job, or heavy irreversible losses in business, or a marriage falling apart – sometimes our pleas for help can fall on deaf ears, or we can be outrightly refused, we do not have to worry and give up. We should not think that God is unmindful of us, or that God chooses the persons to whom he gives the blessings. We just have to be persistent, to continue to strive, and to continue to knock on the hearts of our fellow human beings. There are many people of good will who are in the same wavelength as God. And, of course, we must never stop praying. Our challenges, our greatest needs, are opportunities for us to develop our deep faith in God’s love, in God’s mercy and wisdom. Someday, God will grant to us the deepest longings of our hearts.



ISANG HOMILIYA

Biyernes ng Ikadalawampung Linggo ng Karaniwang Panahon

Unang Pagbasa: Ruth 1:1, 3-6, 14b-16, 22

Salmong Tugunan: Awit 146:5-6ab, 6c-7, 8-9a, 9bc-10

Mabuting Balita: Mateo 22:34-40

Agosto 25, 2017, Santo Domingo Church

Deacon Carlo Rey C. Canto, OP

Ang pagbitiw ng salita’y nakakapagpabagabag
Maaari itong makabuo o makawasak
Maaari ring magsaboy ng buhay
o ‘di kaya’y maghasik ng lumbay.

Ang pagbitiw ng salita’y pagpapatunay
ng kung anong sa puso’y nananalaytay.
Ito’y nagpapatibay din ng isang adhikain
Nang ang bawat masambit, siya ring gagawin.

*“Huwag mong naising lisanin kita
Wala ‘kong hangaring ika’y mag-isa
Sa’n man magtungo, ako’y sasabay
Magkabalikat sa paglalakbay.*

*“Poon mo ay aking ipagbubunyi
At iibigin nang buong sarili
Sa’n man abutin ng paghahanap
Ikaw at ako’y magkasamang ganap.”*

Pananatili.

Ito ang pangakong kay Ruth namutawi
Mga katagang ipinanata kay Naomi

Na sa Unang Pagbasa ating napakinggan
Mga katagang kanyang pinanindigan.

Ang Mabuting Balita sa araw na ito
laman ang kasagutan ni Hesus sa tanong ng Pariseo
Ito’y ang mahalín ang Diyos nang buong pagkatao
At mahalín ang kapwa gaya nang sarili mo.
Ang utos na ito’y siyang pinakadakila
Sapagkat ito ang buod ng pagsunod sa Kanya
Hindi ba’t kapag iniibig natin ang Diyos na Aba,
marapat rin lamang na ibigin din natin ang ating kapwa?
At ang pag-ibig na taos sa puso, ang pag-ibig na totoo
ay nagnanais ng kabutihan sa kapwa-tao – ito’y
nagpapatawad.

Ang tunay na pag-ibig ay hindi nanlililang,
hindi namimili at hindi nang-aabuso – hindi nang-iwan.

Ang kapwang tinutukoy dito ay hindi lamang ang katabi
natin

O bahagi ng pamilyang ating kinalakihan din
Ang kapwa natin ay lahat ng taong ating nakasalamuha
o nakasalamuha sa nakaraan o makasalamuha pa sa
hinaharap

Ang kapwa natin ay sinumang pinagkalooban ng hininga
 – ng buhay
 Kasama na rito ang mamang driver na mabilis
 magpatakbo
 Ang aleng mabunganga at mainitin ang ulo
 Ang batang rugby ang pantawid-gutom
 At ang kaklase o katrabahong nagmamarunong.
 Ang pagbitiw ng salita’y nakapagpapabagabag
 Sapagkat ito’y kailangang ating matupad.
 Ang pagbitiw ng salita’y pagpapatibay
 Ng mga nais nating gawin sa buhay.

Mag-ingat sa pagsasabi ng “Mahal Kita”
 Sapagkat ito’y kailangang panindigan
 Sapagkat kung sa Diyos natin ito ipinanata
 Marapat din lamang na mahal din natin...
 Siya... siya... siya – na ating kapwa.
 Pananatili.
 Ito ang paninindigan ni Ruth.
 Mananatili rin kaya tayo sa ating paninindigan
 magmahal?

LANGUAGE OF LOVE (MY PREACHING EXPERIENCE IN VIETNAM)

By Br. Jayson R. Gonzales, OP



Br. Jayson R. Gonzales, OP

The following are the excerpts of my word of thanks to the Studentate of the Dominican Province of the Queen of Martyrs (Vietnam): Some people say that when you enjoy and love what you are doing, time passes by very fast. Our stay here in Vietnam has been very fast. We did not notice that we are on our last days here. Some brothers even ask us if we miss our family and the Philippines. I honestly can say “no”. Why? It is because you have made us feel at home. We have become a family.

These words of gratitude are still fresh in my mind up to this time of writing. I did not expect that I had a heavy heart as I bid goodbye to their community. It was my first time to feel that way. I got emotional. I asked myself why I suddenly felt that way. I remember my first week of stay in Vietnam was my adjustment period. I need to adapt with their food and culture. Other than adjusting, I together with two other brothers need to do what is expected from us. We were asked to facilitate an avenue where they could practice their facility in the use of the English language. I prepared and followed my lesson plan but then I felt that they could not understand me. I almost got discouraged but I then realized that I was talking fast and my accent was different.

This exposure has placed me in an actual situation where my teaching ability was tested. My teaching experience led me also to the understanding that the ministry of preaching is not about you being understood but it is about you understanding your listener/student. Preaching is about you reaching out to others. This is only made possible if you make an effort to know others. It is through knowing them that you can deliver properly what you will preach.

Knowing will eventually lead to loving as proposed by our brother, St. Thomas Aquinas. I believe that love is a universal experience. We may have different languages; it is the language of love that connects people even with different cultures. If we know how to express this language of love, a good and lasting relationship will be built. This is the primary reason why it is hard to say goodbye to people whom you have considered as family. I then realized that it is not actually saying goodbye but until we see each other again. A chapter has ended but a new chapter is about to begin as the journey continues. This experience should fuel me to be true to our charism: to be sent and to be itinerant. We should be ready to reach out to other people. We do not leave people we encounter but we actually bring them with us. How? We carry the lessons we have learned from and with them, and apply it in our next journey. In this way, we continue to preach, to learn and most of all, to spread love. This is a great lesson I have learned that I will forever be grateful.



WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT FR. ROLANDO V. DE LA ROSA, OP?

By Br. Vince Stanley B. Iñigo, OP

"Those who do not remember the past are condemned to repeat it." - George Santayana



Br. Vince Stanley B. Iñigo, OP

What do I know about Fr. Rolando V. de la Rosa, OP? I know him as the former Rector of the University of Santo Tomas (UST). I know him as a teacher, preacher, and a historian. I know him for the numerous books and newspaper articles and columns he has written. But after a brief interview with him, I realized that the sum of my ignorance far surpasses my knowledge of him.

Fr. Roland (as I fondly call him) was born on June 27, 1953 in Manila but he practically grew up in Legazpi City. No one would probably think that the young Roland would later become a Catholic priest because of he came from a broken family and his father had been a Mormon elder. Understandably, his father opposed Fr. Roland's decision to become a Dominican priest. He never once visited and even wrote to Fr. Roland during his formative years; nor did he attend his ordination. It was Fr. Roland's mother (a devout Catholic) who had supported his dream of becoming a Dominican priest.

He spent his elementary and high school days in Aquinas University in Legazpi City, Albay. After high school he took up Engineering, but he secretly wished to become a Dominican because of his great admiration for Fr. Ramon Salinas, OP, Rector of Aquinas University. When he was in his third year in the University of Santo Tomas, he decided to enter the Dominican Order with the help of Fr. Reynaldo Adalid, OP, who was then the Master of Postulants. Fr. Roland stayed for one year in Letran College where the postulancy was located, without the knowledge of his father. It was Bishop Jose Salazar, OP, who persuaded Fr. Roland's father to sign the needed parent's consent so he could proceed to the Novitiate. Prior to this, he was baptized "conditionally" by Fr. Honorato Castigador because all attempts to retrieve the baptismal certificate in the churches mentioned by Fr. Roland's mother were in vain. He must have been baptized in a non-Catholic rite.

He made his profession to the Order on May 20, 1974 and was ordained priest on April 3, 1982. Although his father was absent during his ordination, he attended Fr. Roland's Thanksgiving Mass in Legazpi City. Did he convert to the Catholic religion? Fr. Roland said the only indication

of his father's change of heart was that he requested for a priest to listen to his confession before he died.

When it comes to offices and administration, there is so much to say about Fr. Roland. Just a few weeks after his ordination, he was already appointed the second Master of Novices of the Dominican Province of the Philippine, succeeding Fr. Eduardo Alapide, OP. He held this position for two years until he was assigned to the Priory of St. Thomas Aquinas. After serving as Regent of the UST College of Arts and Letter for a year, he obtained a scholarship grant at the Katholieke Universiteit in Leuven, Belgium from 1985 to 1988, through the help of Fr. Frederik Fermin. He obtained two doctorate degrees there in a span of only three years. He came back to the Philippines in 1989 and was appointed Regent of the College of Education Elementary Department, and subsequently Assistant Secretary General. In 1990, he was elected Rector of UST in 1990, perhaps the youngest to ever hold that position. After two terms as Rector, he was elected Prior of the Priory of St. Thomas Aquinas. Upon finishing his term as Prior, he asked the Provincial to allow him to take a respite from all administrative work, but he was appointed instead Rector and President of Colegio de San Juan de Letran-Calamba in 2003.



Br. Vince Stanley B. Iñigo, OP, (left) and Br. Rolando V. de la Rosa, OP (right).



His rectorship in Letran-Calamba was cut short when the President of the Philippines appointed him Chairman of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) in 2004. Finding very little support for his many advocacies and educational reforms, and harassed by owners of substandard schools which he had closed, he resigned from this government position in 2005.

After his brief stint in the CHED, he again requested the Provincial to free him from administrative work so could focus on ministries which he considers as specifically Dominican: preaching, writing, teaching, and giving retreats and recollections especially to the clergy and religious. For a while, he got his wish, but in 2007 the Master of the Order came to the country and appointed him Acting Rector of UST. In 2008, he was installed Rector of the university, for the third time, until 2012.

Despite the many problems in UST that the Master asked him to resolve, he still found time to prepare for a grand and unforgettable celebration of the Quadricentennial of the university. It was during his last four years as Rector of the university that the UST Simbahayan was established; the Quadricentennial Pavilion was constructed as well as the UST Alumni Center, also known as the BGPOP. He also spearheaded the construction of the new Doctors' Clinics and the foundation of the new UST Hospital.

In 2013, he was tapped by the Master of the Order to be the Director of *École Biblique* in Jerusalem, and in 2016 he was elected Rector of Angelicum-Rome. He apologetically declined both appointments.

Fr. Roland was assigned in Sto. Domingo Convent on August 27, 2016. During his first days in the convent, I thought that he was just on vacation before moving to Rome. I did not know that he had already declined the office of Rector of Angelicum-Rome.

In all honesty, I was amazed at how simple and down-to-earth, Fr. Roland is. He said that his work as Rector for many years is perhaps the most challenging and nerve-racking; preaching and writing are the most enjoyable; but giving retreats and recollections to the clergy and religious are the most fulfilling. To date, he has already given clergy retreats to 23 Dioceses. He believes that this is a form of apostolate that can immensely contribute to the renewal of the Church. He said: "The renewal of the Church always begins with the renewal of the clergy and the religious." He hopes that the Province would establish a team of Dominicans whose main work is giving retreats to the clergy and religious.

When I visited his room which he personally renovated, I was amazed at how he had transformed a once-dilapidated place into a cozy and elegant room. He

said that one of his principles in life is "to leave a place much better than he found it."

His most treasured memories are his brief personal encounters with Pope John Paul II and Mother Teresa. Photos of them with Fr. Roland hang in his room, but these caught my attention. How many of us has a photo with canonized saints?

Last but not the least, Fr. Roland is a man who loves to study history. Not because he is teaching it, but because he believes that history gives us priceless insight about the present and the future. He thinks many Filipino Dominicans do not appreciate the importance and significance of the Province because they hardly bother to know its past.

"We cannot love what we do not know," wrote St. Thomas Aquinas. How can we love the Province if we are ignorant of its birth and development, its achievements and setbacks? How can we be grateful to the Dominicans who went ahead of us, if we don't know how much they have done the move the Province forward? And how can we avoid committing the same mistakes that were committed in the past, if we don't even know what these mistakes were, mistakes that continue to haunt us until now?

I saw in Fr. Roland's room many books either written by him or about him, as well as folders of articles both published and unpublished. True to being a historian, Fr. Roland meticulously keeps a record of all the retreats he had attended since his novitiate year. Notebooks containing his daily gospel reflections, dating back to 1977 are still preserved, written in beautiful penmanship.

And so, to my fellow young Dominicans, I believe that it will be a good idea to start honing our historical consciousness. Who knows?... One of us might become the next Fr. Rolando de la Rosa of the Order of Preachers.



Fr. Roland celebrating the Eucharist during the Quadricentennial of UST (2011). Photo by: Paul Allyson Quiambao (Inquirer.net)

KOMIKS NI FRAY

M.G.L.,OP



Komiks ni Fray

By Br. Mervin G. Lomague, OP, Solemnly Professed Student Brother



Boxed Birds

Art Installation

By Br. Isidro C. Abañó, OP
Ordained priest on 30 August 1985



Vade Praedica

Acrylic on canvas, July 2017
Br. Joseph Conrad V. Salenga, OP
Second Year Student Brother

Gifted by the Student Brothers of the Dominican Province of the Philippines to the St. Dominic's House, Seoul, Korea.