



PHILDOM

SEPTEMBER
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

Canonical Visit of the Master of the Order



OCTOBER BIRTHDAY CELEBRATORS

- 1 Br. Hilario Siñgian Jr, OP
Br. Jude Guesler Roquero, OP
Br. Sandy Alerta, OP
- 3 Br. Oscar Manlapas, OP
- 7 Br. Don Dominique Marco
Antonio Go, OP
- 10 Br. Reynaldo Adalid, OP
Br. Ian Joeffrey Melendres, OP
- 11 Br. Romulo Angeles, OP
Br. Roberto Luanzon Jr., OP
Br. Stephen Mari La Ja, OP
- 12 Br. Jeremy Realubit, OP
- 13 Br. Conrado Marra, OP
- 18 Br. Quirico Pedregosa Jr., OP
- 20 Br. Napoleon Sipalay Jr., OP
Br. Jerone Geronimo, OP
Br. Christian Paul Desales, OP
Br. Allen Kim Malnegro, OP
- 21 Br. Clarence Marquez, OP
- 22 Br. Paulo Sillonar, OP
- 24 Br. Kenneth Villacastin, OP
- 25 Br. Felix Legaspi III, OP
- 26 Br. Rogelio Alarcon, OP
- 27 Br. Enrico Gonzales, OP
Br. Jessie Yap, OP
- 28 Br. Ferdinand Bautista, OP
- 30 Br. Maximo Gatela, OP
Br. Winston Cabading, OP
Br. Paul Reagan Talavera, OP
Br. Luigi Christian
Bracamonte, OP
- 31 Br. Erasmo Ramirez, OP

Prior Provincial's October Calendar

- 1 - Our Lady of the Rosary of Manaoag's Feast Day
- 2 - BOT Meeting, Caleruega Philippines (Bahay Dominiko)
- Provincial Council Meeting
- 4 - Solemnity of St. Francis of Assisi (San Jose Tagapagtanggol Parish, QC)
- 5 - Family Rosary Crusade's Golden Anniversary - Siena College, QC
- 6 - 21st Family Rosary Crusade - St. Jame's Academy, Malabon City
- UST Council of Regents Meeting
- 7 - Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, Dominican Sisters, Molo, Iloilo City
- 8 - Our Lady of the Rosary La Naval de Manila's Feast Day
- 9 - Dominican Family of the Philippines Foundation, Inc. Ad hoc Committee Meeting (Bahay Dominiko)
- 11 - Vade Praedica (UST Manila)
- 12-15 - Ordination of Rev. Mingdry Hanafi Tjipto OP (Surabaya, Indonesia)
- 16-20 - Continuing Formation, Bohol
- 23 - Dominican Family of the Philippines Foundation, Inc. Meeting (Bahay Dominiko)
- 29 - OP Pompeii Sisters Recollection (New Manila)

FORTHCOMING EVENTS October 2017

- 1- *Our Lady of Manaoag Fiesta*
- *Santisimo Rosario Parish Fiesta*
- 1-13 - *Opening of the Marian Exhibit on the occasion of the Diamond Jubilee of the Santisimo Rosario Parish to be held at the UST Museum*
- 2 - *405th Provincial Council Meeting*
- 8- *Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary La Naval de Manila*
- 10-12 - *Vade, Praedica!*
- 13 - *Priestly Ordination of Rev. Mingdry Hanafi Tjipto, OP, in Indonesia*
- 16-20 - *Continuing Formation Program*
- 20-29 - *Novena Masses in honor of the Our Lady of the Rosary in Angelicum School, Iloilo City*
- 22 - *MUKHA AD Grand Opening*
- 27 - *TradTalk of the Dominican Studentate*

BROTHERS ON FOREIGN TRIP (By reason of Office)

- ➔ 1-16 Oct - Myanmar - Br. George Phe Mang, OP - Teaching ministry at the Center of the Major Superiors' Conference in Yangon.
- ➔ 9-15 Oct - Indonesia - Br. Ramon Salibay, OP, and Br. Rudolf Steven Seño, OP - To attend the ordination of Rev. Mingdry Hanafi Tjipto, OP, in Surabaya.

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PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE RETREAT OF THE BRETHERN OF THE DOMINICAN PROVINCE OF THE PHILIPPINES ON OCTOBER 22-26, 2018

A MISSIONARY OPTION TO THE PERIPHERIES

(as a Priority of the Province)

PRESENT AND FUTURE MISSIONARIES MEET

By Br. Jose Martin L. Sibug, OP

Last September 22, 2017, Br. Jose Martin Sibug, OP, Promoter of the Missions, organized a meeting of the brethren who are presently assigned in the mission stations in Babuyan Islands together with the brethren who are next in line to be assigned in the mission stations. The meeting was held at the Convent of St. Albert the Great, Calamba City. Those present during the meeting were Br. Noel Kristoffer Castor, OP, and Br. Ramiro de Belen, OP, from Calayan Mission Station; Br. John Stephen Besa, OP, from Camiguin Mission Station; Br. Art Vincent Pangan, OP, and Br. Felix Delos Reyes Jr., OP. Br. Cyr Stephen Magbanua, OP, from Camiguin Mission Station was not able to make it to the meeting due to prior commitments in Camiguin Norte Island. Br. Rommel Olivar, OP, was also absent due to the meeting of their community in Manaog with the Master of the Order.



During the meeting, Br. Sibug presented to the group the 4 Year Apostolic Plan of the Commission on Missions. Among the highlights of the plan were the continuous support for the radio station “Spirit of Calayan” and the development of its programming, and the nomination of brothers as parish priests in our mission stations for a term of three years in accord with our statutes (Statute 110). A quarterly meeting of the brethren next in line who are to be sent to the mission stations was also in the plan, as part of their immediate preparations. A free discussion on the concerns of the missions also took place to give the newly ordained brethren a glimpse of the life in the mission stations.

The Promoter of Missions also echoed to the brethren what transpired during the Philippine Dominican Pastors’ Conference and Missionaries Summit which was held at Caleruega Philippines last August 9-10, 2017. The brethren who are pastors assigned in the mission stations

in Babuyan Islands were not able to attend the said conference due to inclement weather. An important item taken up in the conference was the revival of the practice of writing chronicles and records keeping, which will be an important source of ethnographic studies in the future.



After the recitation of the rosary and vespers, the group had dinner together with the community of St. Albert the Great. Afterwards, they had fellowship while enjoying each one’s company over videoke and barbecue. The next day was capped by the Eucharistic concelebration with Br. Jeremy Realubit, OP, as the main presider and homilist.

CAMIGUIN NORTE MISION

By Eunice Sison

In recognition of the importance of education and for Letran to continuously partake in the mission apostolate of the Dominican Province of the Philippines, a memorandum of understanding was formally signed between the Colegio de San Juan de Letran-Manila and the Lyceum of Camiguin. The general objective of this joint venture is to have better implementation of the programs through educational cooperation between the two learning institutions. It is avenue that will provide the students and employees of both schools with different educational opportunities.

The Colegio through the Center for Community Development (CCD) has an existing community development program. One of the support programs is



MISION and it was conceived in 1999. The motive of the Mision is love of neighbor. The Colegio's "love of neighbor" goes beyond the confines of the community of Letran and neighboring communities. Letran's love of neighbor is going to people and transcends geographical boundaries. This Mision is in Camiguin Island Norte, where the Lyceum of Camiguin is, and the remote barangays of the area.

The Mision is regularly scheduled during summer. The first Mision was held in summer of 2000. Based on CCD's record, 17 Misions had already been conducted. There were supposed to be 18 Misions; one mision was cancelled because the coast guards in Aparri did not permit the volunteers to cross the sea to the island because of inclement weather. For this academic year, we are very hopeful to have two successful Misions; the first will be timely scheduled within the "one week short summer" of September, and the second will be within the "long summer" of April to May. We are optimistic that the weather conditions of identified summer periods will be



calm and favorable for sea travel.

Leo Bernadas, the Director of the CCD; Albert Rosarda, the Junior High Prefect of Discipline; Josephine Gayanilo, Registrar's Liaison Officer; and Eunicie Sison, Librarian were the volunteers to Camiguin last September 9 to 16, 2017. Rev. Jose Martin Sibug, OP, the Head of the Dominican Mission of the Philippines, accompanied them.

As the volunteers set foot on the island, they felt the joy and ease as they were told to always be prepared for a worst scenario. Luckily, they had a calm and safe voyage. The moment they reached Lyceum of Camiguin, the volunteers immediately chose their own corner in the parish church to say their personal prayers of thanksgiving for having arrived safely.

Volunteers were welcomed with a good accommodation at the Lance home stay, which served as home throughout the stay, while meals were served at the TLE room or the school's kitchen area. Fr. Cyr Stephen Magbanua, O.P., the parish priest, officially introduced the volunteers to the entire Lycuem community at the parish church on September 12.



After the breakfast, the morning continued with a daily Mass at the chapel. The active participation in Aass songs and responses among the students were exceptionally remarkable. They were also much disciplined in forming lines and going about their daily routines.

Library works were done every morning. The volunteers performed library duties such as; sorting, classifying and technical processing of books. The books processed were comprised of academic books, fiction books and mostly textbooks donations from CCD. The teacher in-charge of the library was also given assistance with regard to shelving of books accordingly, filing of shelf list cards and weeding books.

From September 11-14, afternoon classes in Lyceum of Camiguin were called off to give way to a series of seminar-workshop for the faculty members. The afternoon session was facilitated by the volunteers who shared knowledge from their fields of expertise. The volunteers were able to share their knowledge on the following areas: basics of maintaining the library, event management, basics of registrar management, 5s in the workplace, classroom management, student discipline, customer service, and basics of application for accreditation.

Participants of the seminar-workshop were composed of ten faculty members who had dynamic roles in managing the daily operation of the school. Their interest and eagerness to learn were evident based on how they engaged in the different workshops and activities prepared by the volunteers.





After the seminar workshop, there was one afternoon wherein we were given a chance to visit Naguillan Beach. We got to enjoy the long stretch of shoreline. We enjoyed swimming so much until it rained heavily, making us to decide to get off the shore. Walking on our way home, we got to witness a beautiful sunset behind the Pamoctan Island.

On our last morning, a brainstorming was initiated by Fr. Magbanua, Fr. Sibug, Mr. Bernadas, and other volunteers with regard to the planning of possible projects and activities for the next mission on May 2018. Ideas discussed specifically focused on programs for further development of the school, environmental concerns (waste management etc.), medical mission, sports, and also about giving a sustainable livelihood for the community in Camiguin.

After the meaningful discussion, the ideas were acted upon immediately, Fr. Sibug, together with the volunteers, went to interview the people in the community regarding the gathering of “honey” and “walis tambo” production, the local products which Camiguin is known for. A health worker was also interviewed at the Regional Health Unit regarding the health concerns of the community. Concerns and all gathered information during the interview were noted.

In the afternoon, the seminar-workshop went on, followed by a simple culminating program where tokens of appreciations were given and the awarding of certificates took place. Messages and a brief background about the Camiguin Norte Mission were delivered consecutively by Mr. Bernadas, Fr. Magbanua, and Fr. Sibug. A response message was delivered by a faculty member. After the program, the volunteers had a series of group picture taking with Fr. Sibug, Fr. Mabanua, and the participants.

Based on the reflections of the volunteers, Rosarda said *“it was a new experience that helped me as a person, as a teacher, as a father because it deepened my understanding about the different realities of life and society,”* Gayanilo mentioned *“I am happy and willing akong bumalik sa*







Camiguin kasi maganda ang feeling na na-i-share mo sa iba ang kaalaman mo,” and Sison shared *“the experience was very inspiring because we were able to witness the dedication of the teachers and I hope that they will use what we have shared with them.”*

The volunteers were able to return safely in Letran-Manila on September 16. Mr. Bernadas believed that the Camiguin-Norte Misyon was a success. The volunteers were productive. Every activity was properly coordinated and it all went smoothly. The volunteers were blessed with a safe voyage and a whole enriching Camiguin experience.

ITINERANCY

(as a Priority of the Province)

ASSIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

-  Br. Jayalath Balagallage Alfred Dias, OP, is assigned to St. Dominic’s House, Sri Lanka on September 22, 2017.
-  Br. Orlando C. Acheron, OP, is assigned to the Priory of St. Thomas Aquinas, UST, Manila on October 7, 2017.
-  Br. Dennis E. Maquiraya, OP, is assigned to the Convent of St. Albert the Great, Calamba City, Laguna on October 28, 2017.
-  Br. Lauro G. de Dios, OP, is appointed Subprior of the Convent of St. John Lateran, Manila on September 12, 2017.
-  Br. Jose Martin L. Sibug, OP, is appointed Confessor of the Dominican Nuns in Cainta on September 27, 2017.
-  Br. Giuseppe Pietro V. Arsciwals, OP, is appointed Confessor of the Dominican Novices on November 3, 2017.

DEEPER FRATERNAL INTEGRATION

(as a Priority of the Province)

FEATURED BATCH



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

Entrance to the Novitiate: **14 May 1981**

Simple Profession: **14 May 1982**

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



First Name: **JAIME**
Middle Name: **COLLADO**
Surname: **ALAMILLO**
Nickname: "Fr. James"
Birthday: 7 July 1960
Solemn Profession: 14 May 1986
Ordination: 15 Aug 1989
DPP ID No.: 198201
Current Assignment: **St. Dominic's House, Sri Lanka (since 9 Nov 2015)**

Previous Assignments: Sto. Domingo Convent (Jan 2010 - Nov 2015); Priory of St. Thomas Aquinas (Jun 2003 - Jan 2010); Bahay Dominiko - residing in Caleruega-Philippines (Oct 2001-Jun 2003); Sto. Domingo Convent (Oct 1997 - Oct 2001); Priory of Our Lady the Rosary (Sep 1989 - Oct 1997); Sto Domingo Convent (May 1982 - Aug 1989)



First Name: **PABLO**
Middle Name: **TAMAYO**
Surname: **TIONG**
Nickname: "Fr. Palbee"
Birthday: 1 Jun 1962
Solemn Profession: 14 May 1985
Ordination: 19 Mar 1990
DPP ID No.: 198202
Current Assignment: **Priory of St. Thomas Aquinas (since 1 Apr 2017)**

Previous Assignments: Sto. Domingo Convent (Jun 2012 - Apr 2017); Priory of St. Thomas Aquinas (May 2003 - Jun 2012); Sto. Domingo Convent (Nov 1996 - May 2003); Priory of Our Lady of the Rosary (Mar 1990 - Nov 1996); Sto. Domingo Convent (Jun 1988 - Mar 1990)

QUALITY FORMATION
 (as a Priority of the Province)

JSF AT UST: A GATHERING OF SIMPLE PROFESSED RELIGIOUS

By Br. Wilhelm B. Boñon, OP

Last September 10, 2017, the Juniors - Seminarians Forum (JSF), an organization of all temporary- professed religious sisters and brothers in Metro Manila and their adjoining provinces, held their 31st General Assembly at the UST Central Seminary Gym with the theme: "Consecration in Christ, Community of Love, Commitment to Serve". Here, they came together to share their respective charisms and experiences, hopes and challenges that confront consecrated persons today.

The General Assembly had 200 Participants coming from 42 different Congregations. The Temporary Professed Dominican Student-Brothers joined and



helped in hosting the event as two Dominican Student-Brothers are members of the JSF Core Group. More than 27 Dominican Student-Brothers made the event fully alive by showcasing their talent in dancing and music through their preaching band: The Joyful Friars.

Br. Enrico Gonzales, OP, was invited as the keynote speaker for the event. Also, the "Sandugo", an association of National Minorities in the Philippines shared to the participants their situation and challenges and presented a small exhibit in the event. In the afternoon, The Religious played the Bible Quiz Bee Religious Edition. The event culminated through the celebration of the Eucharist with Fr. Reynaldo Capili, SSS, and Fr. Christian "Toots" B. Buenafe, O. Carm.



Indeed, the said event gave us young religious a moment to reflect and share our experiences, visions and gifts for the Church.

GENERAL NEWS

PREACH IT. PACK IT. GIVE IT.

By Richelle Bautista, Siena College, Quezon City

The OP-Siena postulants and some Senior High School students of Siena College, Quezon City put flesh in their school's motto, "Passion for Truth and Compassion for

Humanity” by reaching out as volunteers in packing relief goods for the victims of typhoon Maring last September 13, 2017 at the GMA Kapuso Foundation in GMA Network Warehouse, Brgy. Culiat, Tandang Sora, Quezon City.



For three straight hours, they sorted out and packed the goods undaunted by heat, discomfort and hunger. Together, they filled the bags not only with temporal goods but also with love and prayer. The whole experience brought joy to the volunteers as they realized that there are still so many generous and concerned people who are willing to share their blessings to those in need. Indeed, there was ardour in packing relief goods and gratitude to God for the given opportunity to preach in action and to contribute in some ways in alleviating the sufferings of others.

Rightly, the words of Jesus, “there is more joy in giving than in receiving” found its meaning and strength through this grace-filled encounter.

ENTHRONEMENT OF OUR LADY OF LA NAVAL: A NIGHT OF MUSIC AND GRACE

By Br. Eugene Dominic V. Aboy, OP

STO. DOMINGO CHURCH, QUEZON CITY – The La Naval festivities 2017 began in worship and music as the Enthronement Rites and the Eucharistic Celebration took place last Sept. 28. The rites began with a solemn procession around the garden of Sto. Domingo led by the priests and the brothers as they accompanied Our Lady of La Naval towards the altar. The people were with exuberant



PHOTO FROM THE VARSITARIAN FACEBOOK ACCOUNT, BY MICHAEL ANGELO M. REYES



PHOTO FROM THE VARSITARIAN FACEBOOK ACCOUNT, BY MICHAEL ANGELO M. REYES

joy as the Blessed Virgin was raised on the *retablo* while the lights and music from the orchestra added to the majesty of the event. Br. Roland Mactal, OP, presided over the mass together with the Prior Provincial, Br. Napoleon B. Sipalay Jr., OP, and the priests from different convents. In his homily, Br. Mactal mentioned that Mary too is an *anawim* (a poor of Yaweh) and stressed out that the Church is open to all, whether he or she is rich or poor. We must therefore be open to an encounter regardless of our status. “*Dito makikita ang ating debosyon... kung tunay ang ating ugnayan sa Diyos, sana ay tunay rin ang ating ugnayan sa kapuwa,*” he said.



PHOTO FROM THE VARSITARIAN FACEBOOK ACCOUNT, BY MICHAEL ANGELO M. REYES

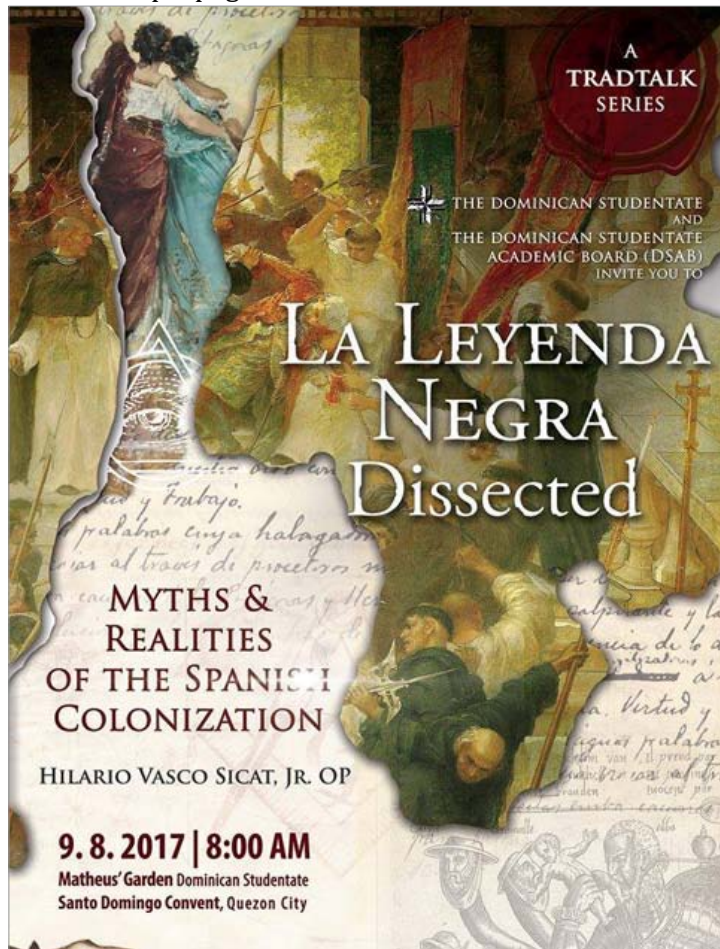
What made this year’s enthronement rites more special was the grand concert in honor of Our Lady of the Rosary of La Naval entitled “Magnificat”, which followed immediately after the Mass. The admission to the concert was free as a way of gratitude to the benefactors and devotees of the shrine for their constant love for the Blessed Virgin. The Master of the Order, Rev. Fr. Bruno Cadoré, O.P. and his Socius, Rev. Fr. Vivian Boland, O.P., graced the concert. Together with the audience, they witnessed brilliant performances from the UST Singers, Triples de Santo Domingo, Coro Tomasino, UST Liturgikon Vocal Ensemble and the Dominican Studentate. From the beginning towards the end, the seats were full as the faithful enjoyed two and a half hours of music and grace. For the finale, all the choirs joined together, and were

accompanied by the UST Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Sir Herminigildo Ranera, as they performed a rendition of John Rutter's *Magnificat*.

OPENING OF THE DOMINICAN STUDENTATE TRADTALK SERIES: SEASON 3

The third season of the Dominican Studentate Trad Talk Series kicked off last Sept. 8 for the formation year 2017-2018 at the coristado community room. Br. Hilario V. Sicat, O.P. delivered a lecture entitled "La Leyenda Negra Dissected: Myths and Realities of the Spanish Colonization." The lecture was divided into four parts, namely: Origin and Meaning of the Leyenda Negra; Effects of the Leyenda Negra in the Philippine Psyche; Education in the Hispanic Philippines: A Glaring Example of Black Legend; and Lumina Pandit: The Challenge to those who had received the Light.

One of the highlights of the lecture was the discussion on James Leroy and the suppression by the Americans of key Philippine-Spanish sources that presented the brighter side of the Spanish era, works like those of Wenceslao Retana, Pedro Paterno, Isabelo de los Reyes, Leon and Fernando Ma. Guerrero. The omission of these sources was meant to publicize the atrocities of their defeated opponent, Spain, and to establish the Filipino distaste and bias against the Spaniards. In the process, the Americans propagandized their benevolent assimilation,



boosting their glorious image towards their "little brown brothers."

The lecture was not meant as an apologia on behalf of *Madre España*; rather, it was aimed to avoid the hasty generalizations and sweeping statements in reading history, where exceptions sometimes become the rule, and one trait becomes the overall portrayal. The lecture concluded by challenging the audience to look also for the "hidden gems" of the Filipino's Spanish heritage which would facilitate a deeper understanding of the Filipino Identity.

Trad Talk is a series of monthly lectures in the Dominican Studentate which began on August 29, 2014. It provides an avenue for the student-brothers "to share" (in Latin: tradere) among themselves the fruits of their studies.

THESIS DEFENSE OF BR. JAYSON GONZALES, OP

On September 22, 2017, Br. Jayson R. Gonzales, OP, successfully defended his thesis for his STL-MA major in Moral Theology at the University of Santo Tomas. His work is entitled "The Teaching of *Amoris Laetitia* on the Family as Community of Life and Love, with Special Reference to Families in Difficult Situations: A Thomistic Analysis." The research sheds light on the importance of family in the contemporary society and how the Church tries to address the prevailing ideologies faced by the family today. Fr. Jannel N. Abogado, OP is his adviser. Fr. Rodel E. Aligan, OP is the chairman of the panel with members Fr. Pablo T. Tiong, OP and Fr. Dexter A. Austria, OP.



KAPATID LAUNCHES AN EXHIBIT IN HONOR OF MARY

The KAPATID (Si Kristo Ang PAtutunguhan sa Tulong ng Ina ng Diyos), the Marian Promoter of the Dominican Studentate and Sto. Domingo Convent mounted an exhibit in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary at the *Museo de Santo Domingo*, Sto. Domingo Church, Quezon City. The theme for this year's exhibit is "*Katolikos: One Church Under the*



"Mantle of Mary." The blessing of the exhibit and opening rite were held on September 30, 2017, 4:30 PM. Fr. Ramon Salibay, OP, the Master of Students led the opening of the exhibit. The exhibit is open every Friday to Sunday of the whole month of October from 8 AM to 5 PM.

OUR LADY OF ARANZAZU COMES HOME TO LETRAN MANILA

By Br. Paul Lovell G. Javier, OP

Last August 6, 2017, the Diocesan Shrine and Parish of Nuestra Señora de Aranzazu in San Mateo, Rizal, gifted Colegio de San Juan de Letran with an image of their Patroness.



The same image of Our Lady was formally received and crowned by the Letran Community on September 7, 2017 during the monthly Convocation at the Blessed Antonio Varona Ortega Gymnasium. The following day, September 8, the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin, Our Lady's image was carried in procession and enthroned in the Colegio Chapel.

Devotion to Our Lady of Aranzazu began in the Colegio in the late 1700's, highlighted by the establishment of the Archconfraternity of Our Lady of Aranzazu. The veneration of her image, dormant since the Second World War in the 1940's, will undergo revival in the Colegio, with Letran's "special devotion to Mary," enshrined in her mission identity.



Arriba Maria! Arriba Letran!

DOMINICAN FAMILY DAY WITH THE MASTER OF THE ORDER

By Br. Siddharta B. Chiong, OP

The OP Family day was celebrated last September 23 in the Angelicum Gym. It was a gathering of the whole Dominican Family: priests, cooperator-brothers, sisters, Lay Dominicans, Dominican Confraternities and the rest of the family, wearing different habits and colors. The celebration was centered on the canonical visitation of the Master of the Order, Br. Bruno Cadoré, OP, together with his Socii: Br. Vivian Boland, OP, and Br. Michael Mascari, OP.



Br. Cadoré, OP, gave an inspiring sharing on the relevance of the Dominican Family in our modern world. Everyone was given the opportunity to ask questions and voice out their concerns to him. The Master welcomed this chance to encounter individual Dominicans in their struggles and questions. It was an inspiring encounter that made everyone reflect on their roots in St. Dominic, about 800 years ago. Some gave their gifts and tokens to the Master. Photo opportunities with the Master were heartily grabbed.

The event commenced at 9 in the morning and ended with lunch. In a spirit of solidarity, everyone brought their



own meals to share with the rest. There was a variety of food and sweets- in which *lechon* could not be missing. The community went their own ways, satisfied both in body and spirit.

MASTER OF THE ORDER WITH THE DOMINICAN STUDENT-BROTHERS

By Br. Vince Stanley B. Iñigo, OP

“The goal of the preachers is to serve with grace of evangelization to the Church...

...To proclaim that He is coming; to be with us, and this is the Good News to everyone.”

-Br. Bruno Cadoré, O.P.

September 21, 2017 – The Student-Brothers of the Dominican Province of the Philippines gathered at Aula San Pio V, Sto. Domingo Church, Quezon City to meet the visitors from Santa Sabina, Rome: Br. Bruno Cadoré, OP, Master of the Order of Preachers, Br. Michael Mascari, OP, Socius for Intellectual Life and Br. Vivian Boland, OP, Socius and Promoter of Fraternal Life of the Brethren.

Concerns regarding the influence of social media communications, growth of an unrecognized Order of Preachers “Reformed”, friars’ itinerancy, promotion of cooperator brotherhood and the like were listened to by the Master of the Order. The two socii also shared to the Student-Brothers their experiences of asceticism as a way of preaching the Gospel. That, discipline in the work and prioritizing duties and responsibilities is a must. In addition to that, a time for prayer or solitude after the whole day’s labor is also needed. Br. Bruno Cadoré, on the other hand, reminded the Student-Brothers that it is important to be with the community and to combat the influence of technology which hinders the time shared with others. He related these statements to his life story that people inside a room suddenly become invisible



when friars start using their smart phones, hypnotized by the screen, forgetting their seatmates. In line with that, strengthening the fraternal common life will help one another grow in the religious vocation.

At the end of the meeting, Br. Rambang Ngawan, OP, the Decano of the Dominican Studentate, gave warm thanks to the Master of the Order and his Socii on behalf of the Studentate Community. The *Sacra Praedicatio* (an official logo of the Dominican Studentate for the year 2017-2018) shirts were given as a token to the visitors from Santa Sabina, Rome. Blessings, smiles and fraternal embraces were shared by the brethren after the event.



AN ENCOUNTER WITH THE YOUNG PEOPLE: AN EVENT TO REMEMBER

By Sr. Mary Augustine, OP

The Filipino youth is one of the most dynamic sectors of the society. According to *National Youth Commission (2017) Youth Projected Population* they comprise almost 30% of the Philippine population. By mere observation, people can see that the youth today are interested in technology-based activity, going to the malls, talking with friends and a lot more.

The Queen of Angels Monastery, last September 17, 2017 opened their gates to some 66 youths from Bulacan and Manila to engage with them and learn what would make the church closer to them. This meeting



with the youth was initiated by the nuns in response to the Invitation of Master Rev. Fr. Bruno Cadore, O.P. to all Dominicans to engage in the preparatory dynamic of the Synod of Bishops convened by Pope Francis scheduled for Oct. 2018 with the theme: **Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment**.

The encounter started with the singing of "Welcome to the Family" and Invocation led by our Dominican Sister, Sr. Hilary Marie, OP. Sr. Mary Lourdes, OP, Prioress of the monastery, welcomed the young people to the activity while Sr. Mary Emmanuelle, OP, presented the purpose of the gathering. What was fascinating and touching moment in the encounter was when the nuns of the Queen of Angels Monastery introduced themselves one by one to the participants which was responded to by the young people as they did the same. It was indeed an unforgettable moment!



Games were facilitated in to break the ice so that these young people would know other youths. An important part of the encounter was to know the youth's point of view on how to make the church closer to them. Several questions were given which they willingly and admirably answered through the individual questionnaire given to them and through the group workshops. Responses of the young people varied. They saw that activities such as dance and song gathering would make them engage more with the church. Some also responded by identifying actual tasks that they could do during Mass; while some also identified reach out programs would be an interesting activity that could spice up their interest in joining church activities. However, among the many and varied responses of the youth, the one that stood out was the use of social media. They saw the use of Facebook and other social media platforms as powerful tools in spreading the good news of the Lord and as means of engaging with the young people.

The sharing and testimonies of young people through Brother Benjamin Rodil representing the International Dominican Youth Movement (IDYM) and Brother Rafael Luis Lopez from the Dominican Network Youth (DOMNET) made these young people realize that they too could engage and be active members of the church. Short film showing of the life of Blessed Pierre Giorgio Frassati and the Dominican Family gave them a glimpse of how people



in the Dominican order live a happy life through service to the Lord.

The youth were able to see firsthand and had a glimpse of the life of the nuns with the Rosary pilgrimage tour of the Convent.

The perfect day ended with the perfect celebration of the Holy Mass. Indeed, the day was filled with various activities that made the Encounter with the Young People an event to remember!

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

- ☞ **1936 October 11** - Another Filipino entered the Dominican Order. He was Benito Vargas, a native of Catanduanes, an island in the Bicol Region. He is the first Filipino Dominican priest and the founder of St. Bartholomew Academy (already closed in March 2016) in Calayan Island.
- ☞ **1971 October 9** - Br. Leonardo Legazpi, OP, was installed as the first Filipino Rector of the University of Santo Tomas.
- ☞ **1971 October 11** - The Filipino Dominican priests gathered in a general assembly to choose three candidates from among whom the First Prior Provincial would be appointed by the Master of the Order and his Council. The three Filipinos elected were: Br. Rogelio Alarcon, OP, Br. Manuel Piñon, OP, and Br. Ramon Salinas, OP. In this assembly, the name of the new province was likewise determined. The new Filipino province was named "DOMINICAN PROVINCE OF THE PHILIPPINES".
- ☞ **1973 October 15** - As approved by the Provincial Council of the Dominican Province of the Philippines, the Postulancy in Letran College, Intramuros was transferred to the Holy Rosary Convent in Manaoag, Pangasinan on October 15, 1973. The fifteen postulants and the three high school students who were living with them occupied the third floor of the convent. Br. Reynaldo Adalid, OP, was as Director of the Postulants.

☞ **1977 October 29** - Our Lady of the Rosary of *La Naval* was proclaimed Patroness of the Philippine Navy.

An image of *La Naval* joined a fluvial procession that started in Nagtahan bridge. It stopped for some time at Malacañang where a part of the rosary was said. Former President Marcos and his First Lady were not around but Doña Josefa Edralin Marcos was present. The procession proceeded to Manila Bay following the Pasig River route. The people threw flowers and waived their handkerchiefs as an expression of love to Our Lady. The image was enthroned in a galleon-like ship courtesy of the Philippine Navy.

The Philippine Navy petitioned the Holy See through Msgr. Gaviola, the Philippine Military Vicar, to approve the petition in declaring *La Naval* as the Patroness of the Philippine Navy. The image was then brought in motorcade procession to the Philippine National Museum where a Marian exhibit was held.

(PHILDOM October 2008)

☞ **1987 October 18** - St. Lorenzo Ruiz and Companion Martyrs were canonized in Rome.

☞ **1999 October 1** - Br. Edmund Nantes, OP, was appointed General Syndic of the Order.

☞ **1999 October 23** - A new house was constructed in a lot in Brgy. San Isidro, Gen. Santos City that served as residence for the Dominican brothers. It also served as the Dominican Youth Center

☞ **2003 October 2** - *Museo de Santo Domingo* in Santo Domingo Convent, Quezon City was inaugurated.

☞ **2005 October 21** - The Master of the Order confirmed the election of Br. Norberto Castillo, OP, as Prior of the Convent of St. Mary Majors in Rome. Br. Castillo accepted the election on **November 20, 2005** and became the first Filipino Prior of the said Convent until November 19, 2008.

PC Notes...

Notes from the 404th Provincial Council Meeting
on 4 September 2017

☞ The fund raising scheme for the approved project for the construction of the Dominican studentate Basketball Covered Court was approved by the Provincial Council.

☞ Br. Pama (Convenor), Br. Dingel and Br. Cabading are tasked to finalize the draft on the Policy on Gambling forwarded by the Ad hoc Committee while incorporating some of the suggestions of the Council members.

☞ Financial reports ending 31 May 2017 presented by the Reyes, Galang, King and Company (represented by Atty. Amado Galang and Alfonso Katigbac; representing the DPPI was Anna Marie O. Libo-on) were approved.

☞ Reports of the Promoter for Evangelization through Social Communications and the Promoter for the Missions and the Dominican Volunteers International - Philippines, in relation to the 4 year Apostolic Plan (Stat 40, II) were approved.

☞ The Local Directory of Priestly Fraternities of St. Dominic in the Philippines was approved.

☞ The budget for the construction/furnishings and fixtures of the UST Senior High School Building was approved.

☞ In relation to the canonical visit of the Master of the Order, the respective local ordinaries of the place where the Province carries out their ministry are notified.

2016-2017 ACADEMIC PROFILE OF THE BRETHERN

(From the Report of the Regent of Studies and
Chairman of the Commission on Intellectual Life)

A. BROTHERS WITH GRADUATE DEGREES

1. BROTHERS WITH DOCTORATE DEGREE: 38

a. IN THEOLOGY (13):

Dogma (7)

Morals (2)

Mariology (2)

Biblical Theology (1)

Patrology (1)

b. IN PHILOSOPHY (6)

c. IN CANON LAW (5)

d. IN ALLIED SCIENCES (13):

Education (6)

Anthropology (2)

Guidance and Counselling (1)

Human Resource Management (1)

Southeast Asian Studies (1)

Management (1)

Humanities (1)

2. BROTHERS WITH LICENTIATE/MASTERS DEGREE: 70

a. IN THEOLOGY (42):

Dogma (10)

Pastoral (7)

Sacred Scriptures (7)

Liturgy (4)

Morals (6)

Intercultural Theology (2)

Missiology (1)

Spirituality (2)

Ecclesiastical History (3)

Patrology (1)

b. IN PHILOSOPHY (10)

c. IN CANON LAW (3)

d. IN ALLIED SCIENCES (15):

Philippine Studies (2)

Management (2)

- Chemistry (1)
- Biology (1)
- Education (1)
- Social Services and Development (1)
- Mathematics (1)
- Literature (1)
- Liberal Arts (1)
- Hospital Administration (1)
- Library Science (1)
- Guidance and Counselling (1)
- Computer Studies (1)

B. BROTHERS WHO RECENTLY EARNED GRADUATE DEGREES: 5

C. BROTHERS PURSUING GRADUATE LEVEL DEGREES: 28

D. BROTHERS COMPLETING THEIR BACHELORS DEGREE

1. IN PHILOSOPHY: 40
2. IN THEOLOGY: 16

**BROTHERS ON FOREIGN TRIP
(By reason of Office)**

.... continued from page 1

- ➔ 9-16 Oct - Portugal - Br. Roland Mactal, OP, - To attend the meeting of the Rosary Promoters of the Order to be held in Fatima
- ➔ 12-15 Oct - Indonesia - Br. Jose Martin Sibug, OP - To attend the ordination of Rev. Mingdry Hanafi Tjipto, OP, in Surabaya.
- ➔ 18-22 Oct - Canada - Br. Maximo Gatela, OP - To initiate arrangements leading to MOU between UST CTHM and Niagara College in Ontario
- ➔ 21-23 Oct - Singapore - Br. Victor Calvo Jr., OP - to attend the 29th Southeast Asian Beach Volleyball Championship upon the invitation of the Vice-President of Larong Volleyball sa Pilipinas, Inc. (LVPI)
- ➔ 22 Oct - 24 Nov - Macau - Br. Roland Mactal, OP - To teach at the University of St. Joseph
- ➔ 23-28 Oct - USA - Br. Maximo Gatela, OP - To represent the UST Rector in the ZIP Program in Nashville, Tennessee, USA together with the Dean and the 2 Chairs of the Programs

DEATH IN THE FAMILY

We pray for the eternal repose of the souls of:

- † **Sr. ANNA MARIE GARCIA GATMAYTAN, OP**, of the Congregation of Dominican Sisters of St. Catherine of Siena, Philippines, who passed away peacefully on September 17, 2017 at the age of 79.
- † **Sr. ROSALINA MIRABUENO, OP**, of the *Congregación de Las Religiosas Misioneras de Santo Domingo*, who passed away on September 14, 2017.
- † **ALMA FIDES OLIVAR ESPINOSA**, who passed away on September 22, 2017. She is the sister of our Br. Rommel P. Olivar, OP.

FOR OUR DECEASED BROTHER

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 brother during the anniversary of his death in the month of October.

October 27 + Br. Frederik Fermin, OP

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: **SOFIO III**
 Nickname: "Junjun"
 Middle Name: **PEÑAS**
 Surname: **BARELA**
 Birthday: 31 Jan 1974
 Civil Status: Married
 Hometown: Sto. Domingo, Nabua, Camarines Sur
 Date of Employment in the Provincialate: 2 Jan 2002
 Current Position: Driver
 Milestone/Highlight of being with the Province: Company outing



My wife, Mildred, and only daughter, Ma. Sofia

Canonical Visit of the Master of the Order and his Socii 17 September - 1 October 2017





Canonical Visit of the Master of the Order and his Socii
17 September - 1 October 2017



Celebration of the 97th Birthday of
Br. Francisco C. Mendoza, OP
at Betis, Guagua, Pampanga



Celebration of the Solemnity of Saint Francis of Assisi

4 October 2017

San Jose ang Tagapagtanggol Parish
Commonwealth, Quezon City.



Visit of Br. Gerard Francisco P. Timoner III, OP, Assistant to the Master for Asia-Pacific Region, in Bahay Dominiko on 5 October 2017





Rediscovering Communion:

Master of the Order Graces Fraternities' Canonical Establishment

By: **Br. John Alfred F. Rabena**

Third Year in Philosophy, UST Central Seminary

Member, Seminarians' Fraternities of St. Dominic in the Philippines (UST-CS Chapter)

QUEZON CITY, Philippines—Nine priestly fraternities from different regions of the country... Two seminarians' fraternities from two different formation houses... Journeying from their respective dioceses and archdioceses to Santo Domingo Church...

Creation of Local Priestly Fraternities

Groups of diocesan priests and seminarians spared September 23, 2017 from other obligations and errands as they convened at the Aula San Pio V of the Philippine Dominican Center of Institutional Studies (PDCIS) in order to have an audience with fr. Bruno Cadoré, OP, the Master of the Order of Preachers.

Re-asserting their commitment to brotherhood and communion according to the charism and spirituality of the Holy Father Dominic, the members of the priestly and seminarians' fraternities witnessed the canonical erection of the nine chapters of Priestly Fraternities of St. Dominic in the Philippines.

Before affixing his signature on the certificates authorizing the erection of the nine chapters, fr. Napoleon Sipalay Jr., OP, Prior Provincial of the Dominican Province of the Philippines, expressed his gratitude to the members of the fraternities and to fr. Florentino Bolo Jr., OP, Provincial Promoter, for their hard work and dedication in organizing the rules and local directory of the fraternities in the Philippines.

The nine chapters and their respective elected priors, council members and other officers, are the following:

1. **NAME: Chapter of the Most Holy Name of Jesus**

INAUGURAL MEETING: 17 July 2017, Hotel Gracelane in San Agustin, City of San



Fernando, Pampanga

PRIOR: Fr. Mario Sol Gabriel (Archdiocese of San Fernando, Pampanga)

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Fr. Manny Contreras, *Sub-Prior* (Archdiocese of San Fernando, Pampanga)

Fr. Angel Amir Gamboa, *Vocation Promoter* (Archdiocese of San Fernando, Pampanga)

Fr. Francis Mallari, *Novice Master* (Archdiocese of San Fernando, Pampanga)

Rev. Ervin Ray Garcia, *Secretary* (Archdiocese of San Fernando, Pampanga)

2. **NAME: Chapter of the Most Holy Rosary**

INAUGURAL MEETING: 12 June 2017, Sancta Maria Mater et Regina Seminarium of the Archdiocese of Capiz in Roxas City; 5 July 2017, Aklan Catholic College in Kalibo

PRIOR: Fr. Paul Sayon (Diocese of Kalibo)

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Fr. Jay Velarde (Diocese of Kalibo)

Fr. Egbert Dumali (Archdiocese of Capiz)

Fr. Ryan Barrios (Archdiocese of Capiz)

Fr. Josel Quan (Diocese of Kalibo)

SUB-PRIOR: Fr. Jomar Valdevieso (Diocese of San Jose, Antique)

VOCATION PROMOTER/NOVICE MASTER/ SECRETARY: Fr. Virgilio Ciudadano (Archdiocese of Capiz)

3. **NAME: Chapter of Our Lady of the Rosary**

INAUGURAL MEETING: 7 August 2017, Convent of Our Lady of the Rosary in Manaoag, Pangasinan; 30 August 2017 conference call

PRIOR: Msgr. Gary Noel S. Formoso (Archdiocese of Nueva Segovia)

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Fr. Allan Morris Abuan, *Sub-Prior*

(Archdiocese of Lingayen-Dagupan)

Fr. Allan Flores, *Secretary/Vocation*



Promoter (Diocese of Bangued)
Fr. John Perez, *Novice Master* (Diocese of Tarlac)

4. NAME: **Chapter of San Jacinto**

INAUGURAL MEETING: 31 July 2017, Priests' Residence, Archdiocese of Tuguegarao in Tuguegarao City

PRIOR: Fr. Ernest Raymund Simeon (Archdiocese of Tuguegarao)

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Fr. Kristian Noel Sibbaluca, *Sub-Prior* (Archdiocese of Tuguegarao)

Fr. Rino Guaring, *Vocation Promoter* (Archdiocese of Tuguegarao)

Fr. Ric-Zeus Estrada Añgobung, *Novice Master* (Diocese of Ilagan)

Fr. Adalbert R. Barut (Archdiocese of Tuguegarao)

SECRETARY: Fr. Chate Leir Javier (Archdiocese of Tuguegarao)

5. NAME: **Chapter of Santo Domingo**

INAUGURAL MEETING: 19 June 2017, Priory of St. Thomas Aquinas in Manila

PRIOR: Fr. Arvin Madla (Diocese of Boac)

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Fr. Jun Arvie Bello (Diocese of Cubao)

Fr. Edgardo Toribio (Diocese of Malolos)

Rev. Jay Arvin De Leon (Diocese of Kalookan)

6. NAME: **Chapter of St. Antoninus**

INAUGURAL MEETING: 24 June 2017, Priory of St. Thomas Aquinas in Manila; 15 August 2017, Our Lady of Guadalupe Diocesan Seminary in Kidapawan

PRIOR: Fr. Charles Allan Nemenzo (Diocese of Kidapawan)

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Fr. William Cajés, *Sub-Prior* (Archdiocese of Davao)

Fr. Jonathan Autida, *Vocation Promoter* (Diocese of Tagum)

Fr. Allan Alindajao, *Novice Master* (Diocese of Tagum)

Fr. John Kristoffer Nalam, *Secretary* (Diocese of Tagum)

7. NAME: **Chapter of St. Raymond of Peñafort**

INAUGURAL MEETING: 14 July 2017, Holy Rosary Major Seminary, Archdiocese of Caceres,

Naga City

PRIOR: Fr. Xavier Amoroso (Archdiocese of Caceres)

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Fr. Albert Orillo, *Sub-Prior* (Archdiocese of Caceres)

Fr. Francis Francisco, *Vocation Promoter* (Diocese of Libmanan)

Fr. William Santiago, *Novice Master* (Archdiocese of Caceres)

Fr. Jhun Oliva, *Secretary* (Archdiocese of Caceres)

8. NAME: **Chapter of St. Thomas Aquinas**

INAUGURAL MEETING: 27 June 2017, Priory of St. Thomas Aquinas in Manila; 9 August 2017, Our Lady of Peñafrancia Parish in Paco, Manila

PRIOR: Fr. Carlo Del Rosario (Archdiocese of Manila)

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Fr. Carmelo Arada, *Sub-Prior* (Archdiocese of Manila)

Msgr. Albert Venus, *Vocation Promoter* (Diocese of Parañaque)

Fr. Jeoffrey Catuiran, *Secretary* (Diocese of Pasig)

Fr. Hernandez Mendoza (Diocese of Pasig)

NOVICE MASTER: Fr. Vhon Rudolf Villacarlos (Diocese of Antipolo)

9. NAME: **Chapter of St. Vincent Ferrer**

INAUGURAL MEETING: 7 July 2017, Arzobispado of the Archdiocese of Cebu

PRIOR: Fr. Simplicio Pugasan (Archdiocese of Cebu)

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Fr. Randy Boiser, *Sub-Prior* (Diocese of Talibon)





Fr. Japheth Geonzon, *Vocation Promoter*
 (Archdiocese of Cebu)
 Fr. Severino Escobido III, *Novice Master*
 (Archdiocese of Cebu)
 Fr. Anthony Cotiamco, *Secretary* (Diocese
 of Maasin)



Another modification in the fraternities, as reported by Fr. Bolo, is the distinction between the priestly and the seminarians' fraternities of St. Dominic. Though they do not enjoy full and definitive membership in the Priestly Fraternities of St. Dominic, the diocesan seminarians are invited to take part in the mission and spirituality of the Order in their unique context as future members of the diocesan clergy. As the newly approved directory indicates, the seminarians are considered postulants whose status corresponds to that of a preparatory stage for the fraternities of priests. The reference to priests in the Rule and the directory can, therefore, be appropriated to the seminarians by virtue of the latter's status as ultimately directed towards the reception of the Holy Orders.

Currently, the Seminarians' Fraternities of St. Dominic in the Philippines include two chapters based in different diocesan seminaries, namely, the UST Central Seminary in Manila, and the Immaculate Conception Major Seminary in Guiguinto, Bulacan. Even now, there are initiatives coming from some of the priests of St. Dominic to introduce the same chapter in seminaries in other parts of the country.

Dialogue with the Master

Following the ceremonies of the canonical erection of the nine chapters of the priestly fraternities, an open forum with Fr. Cadoré was conducted to allow the members of the fraternities to share their insights and ask questions from the Master himself.

Diversity and the Universality of Mission

Among the priests who spoke before the Master was Fr. Simplicio Pugasan, the elected Prior of the Chapter



of St. Vincent Ferrer. Fr. Pugasan thanked the Order for establishing the fraternities as potent means to foster the "universality of mission" amidst the diversity among clerics and religious, especially those whose ministries are in the local dioceses.

He also reiterated the importance of standing on a solid spirituality among diocesan clerics who are immersed into parishes and ecclesial communities since the diocesan spirituality is not definitely defined.

Responding to Fr. Pugasan's remarks, Fr. Cadoré said: "This is the challenge to our fraternities: to rediscover the dimension of community in the Catholic faith; to rediscover the ways of building a home for every member of the Church... not because the priest is very eloquent in delivering homilies but because each one is part of one body in Christ."

Discovering Who We Are

Moreover, Msgr. Gary Noel Formoso, the elected Prior of the Chapter of Our Lady of the Rosary, affirmed in his statement before the Master that his formation under the Dominicans has indeed enriched his view on the universality of mission.

Recounting his experiences in his formation years, Msgr. Formoso highlighted the diversity among the challenges and social environments faced on the one hand





by the UST Central Seminary in Manila, and on the other hand by the regional seminaries that were intended to form seminarians according to the local context.

He further expressed his sense of pride and gratitude for having been given the opportunity to be formed in the UST Central Seminary, and saw the Dominican spirituality imparted by the priestly fraternities as an “added grace” that is to be cherished.

Fr. Cadoré, in reply, said: “Our mission is to proclaim the Good News and to live as brothers and sisters because of this proclamation of the Kingdom... and we have the opportunity to discover who we are because of our mission of proclaiming and to discover who we are becoming as we are sent to the world in the name of the Gospel.”

“Preaching is our way of sanctification. Proclaiming the Gospel leads us to discover who we are,” the Master added.

On Engaging in Socio-Political Issues

With issues and problems looming the Philippine society today such as extra-judicial killings and injustices against the indigenous peoples, some of the participants asked what role do the religious and clerics in general and the Order of Preacher in particular have to take in responding to these issues.

Fr. Cadoré thus replied: “It is more important to think before we say what we think is true.” Reiterating the need to recognize diversity in the views and opinions of people from different walks of life, the Master said: “It doesn’t mean some [opinions] are better than others. What is important is that we remember that we are altogether part of humanity.”

“The goal we have to aim at is to make the Dominican house a place where everyone could feel at home... Those who have no voice will feel that they are at home with us,” the Master said.

Rite of Reception of Priests to the Fraternities

Right after the audience with the Master of the Order, the participants proceeded to the side-altar of the Sto. Domingo Church to carry out a Celebration of the Lauds, to which was integrated the Rite of Reception of Priests to the Priestly Fraternities.

The priests, who were received into the fraternities and were vested with the Dominican habit, are the following:

For the Chapter of the Most Holy Rosary

1. Father Brethen Rye Gamala (Diocese of Bacolod);



For the Chapter of St. Thomas Aquinas

2. Father David Reyes (Diocese of San Pablo);
3. Father Glenn Relucio (Diocese of Antipolo);
4. Father Herbert Camacho (Archdiocese of Manila);
5. Msgr. Gerry Santos (Archdiocese of Manila); and

For the Chapter of St. Vincent Ferrer

6. Father Joseph Morallon (Diocese of Marbel).

Dominican Family Gathering

In his speech at the Angelicum College Gymnasium during the Dominican family gathering which followed the Rite of Admission, Fr. Cadoré said: “What is my hope for the priestly fraternities? That they may bring this kind of fire into their communities and bring the Order out of its actual frontiers.” PFSDP



DISCIPLESHIP

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY (Matthew 16: 21-27)

By Br. Ernesto M. Arceo, OP

“Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it,” says the Lord.



Br. Ernesto M. Arceo, OP

Self-denial is a requirement for discipleship. But what does it really mean? There was a time when certain people wrongly believed that matter is the principle of evil. Anything material is bad. Since the human body is evidently composed of matter, they considered it evil. For this reason, the human body should be castigated, mortified, denied. Since

marriage- although required to fulfill the divine precept to go and multiply- makes use of the human body, they also considered it evil- a necessary evil. In the end, it's really a kind of self-depreciation, self-hatred, and self-rejection. This erroneous belief is called Manicheism. St. Augustine held it for sometime before he got converted to Christ and was baptized by St. Ambrose.

This false teaching re-emerged in the 12th century in the form of Albigensianism in Southern France. St. Dominic fought against this heresy together with his brothers in the Order.

Unfortunately, Christian spirituality has not been completely shielded from this unhealthy perspective regarding the self. Even now, during Good Friday, there are men who go around the village flagellating their bleeding backs. Some even have themselves crucified. One wonders what kind of God they have! Sadistic?

Happily, this is not the kind of self-denial that Jesus requires from those who intend to follow Him. He Himself teaches: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” If we don't love ourselves, how can we truly love our neighbor? And just before He ascended to heaven, He brought love of self even to a higher plane when He commanded His disciples: “Love one another as I have loved you.” Jesus is telling us: “You see, I have suffered and given up my life for you. You are precious to me. I love you. I want you to appreciate yourself, to value yourself, to love yourself, and to love others as well.”

Yes, my dear friends, Jesus is telling us that charity begins at home. Self-love is the point of departure for

loving others. Nobody can truly reach out to others in love if in the first place he has not learned to accept, appreciate, respect, and love himself. How can one who wallow in self-depreciation and self-hatred in turn, follow the Lord of love?

Self-denial positively understood means self-offering. It's like putting your life and yourself in your hands and saying, “Lord this is the best I've got. This is very precious to me and I love it very much. I am offering it to You.” That is the kind of self-denial Jesus is talking about. It is offering the best that we have to God. It's like the offering of Abel that was pleasing in God's sight. How can one please God if he presents to him a rotten gift? “Lord this is me- good for nothing, useless. I actually hate myself. Please, take it.” Remember Cain's offering? God took no delight in it.

It's only after accepting and loving myself as I truly am- precious in God's sight, created in His own image and likeness, forgiven and redeemed by His suffering and death on the cross- that I can really deny myself and give it up meaningfully for the love of God and my neighbor.

And realizing, how much we have been loved by the Lord, with His grace we shall use all our talents, energies, all that we are and all that we have to love God and to love our neighbor. This is our ministry. And this ministry of loving necessarily implies sacrifices, crosses. “Love until it hurts,” says Blessed Teresa of Calcutta. Love which is not ready and willing to bear sacrifices for the sake of the beloved is a sham, nothing more than a superficial and fleeting emotional experience. A loving couple knows this fully well. They live together committedly and lovingly despite problems and difficulties, in sickness and in health, for better or for worse. A loving mother is willing to bear her child in her womb and deliver it safely and cares for it in spite of inconveniences and the erroneously alleged intrusion into her privacy.

The irony is those who have loved themselves truly and who have given up themselves for the love of God and their neighbor are the ones who find lasting meaning in life. They are the ones who deeply enjoy life in peace and contentment even here in this world. Find a husband and a wife who truly love each other and you will see a deeply happy couple living in peace. Find a truly loving mother and you will see a really joyful woman. Find any loving person and you will see an individual whose life is worth living. We find meaning even in the sufferings that we bear for the sake of love. This is what the Lord means when He says, “...whoever loses his life for my sake will

find it.” Only real love will give true meaning to our life, and this kind of love involves giving up of one’s self for God and one’s neighbor.

On the other hand, those who have not learned to accept and love themselves as the Lord loves them cannot reach out to others unselfishly. And they cannot really find the meaning that they are looking for in life. A person who is angry with himself, hates and rejects himself and who is into self-destructive behavioral pattern lives in misery. And he brings misery to wherever he goes infecting others especially those to whom he comes close. Misery loves company, you know. Find an alcoholic or a drug addict and you will see an unhappy man. If you are a woman looking for an opportunity to destroy your life, marry him and your life is going to be scattered to pieces

sooner than you think. It’s guaranteed, believe me.

We praise the Lord. We sing Alleluia. We heal. We pray in tongues. We prophesy. We say ‘Amen’. And as we sing and dance and clap our hands, the Lord is pleased when He sees that all His sacrifices and death on the cross are worth it; when He sees that we accept, appreciate, respect and love ourselves as He loves us; when He sees that we offer to Him the best that we’ve got; when He sees that we are ready and willing to bear sacrifices for the love of our neighbor. When He sees all these, we can as well imagine Him dancing and clapping His hands, praising and singing alleluia to His Father, and finally - with a smile of success upon His face- shouting joyfully “Amen”.

ABOUT TIME

By Br. Jeffrey M. Pagaduan, OP



Br. Jeffrey M. Pagaduan, OP

Timer starts in 3... 2... 1...

I always find it hard to put schedule in my life. The more that I attempt to put it, the more that I fail in fulfilling it. It really frustrates me that sometimes I would just console myself with the thought that maybe there is a drop of artistic blood running through my veins. As we all know, the most revered art pieces in the world were

never scheduled! Well, what happened to my artistic blood? I have mastered the art and way of “mamaya na!” At my age of 24, I am almost a living embodiment of this phrase.

Whenever I postpone doing things, I have this feeling of being entitled with the notion of the malleability and elasticity of time. I would think of stretching it literally in order to create an opportunity for me to do two or more things. “Mamaya na” makes me think that there is an abundance of time at my disposal and that I can control it. However, everytime that I am late, that I am cramming, I have been proven wrong. There is no such thing as stretched opportunity. It is an illusion. I do not have time.

There is no time at my disposal. I am the one who is at the disposal of time. Time owns me!

The greatest artists have understood this reality. They have not made schedule when to work yet they have considered each moment as a moment of inspiration. They have surrendered to time, thus enabling them to turn their senses on the vulnerability of human life in the middle of what would Ecclesiastes pronounce as the “time for everything.” But behold, the scenery is good and beautiful! Isn’t it that the most beautiful paintings are set in the middle of the time of life and the time of death? Isn’t it that the greatest photographs are taken between the time of peace and the time of war? Isn’t it that the greatest songs are composed at the middle of the time of happiness and sorrow, of encounter and separation, of love and of hate?

A large chunk of the problem therefore does not really lie on putting schedule into my life. It is in the attitude of pursuing its futile consequences: putting life above time and controlling it, thus equating immortality with longevity. The composer of Psalm 90 must have experienced such futility that he would beseech God *to teach us to count our days aright, that we may gain wisdom of heart.* This prayer demands a life of surrender to the great reality of time. Life that is not surrendered is pointless. Life that is not surrendered to God is meaningless. *Time’s up!*

NAME AND STORY

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time, August 27, 2017

Matthew 16:13-20

Br. Valentinus Bayuhadi Ruseno, OP

"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Mt 16:16



Br. Valentinus Bayuhadi
Ruseno, OP

Today's Gospel is well known as the Confession of Peter. Jesus asks the disciples who He is, and Simon confesses that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. He gets it right, and Jesus Himself reveals that his answer does not come from his human weakness, but from the heavenly Father. I used to think that this revelation is an instant inception of divine idea inside Simon's mind.

Right there and then, like Archimedes who discovered the Law of Hydrostatic, Simon also shouts "Eureka! I have found it!"

However, I realize there is a different understanding of revelation. It is not an instant one, but a revelation that involves Simon's entire life as well as his active participation. Simon is able to formulate his answer because God has led him to meet Jesus, and on his part, Simon has decided to follow him and live as his disciple. The revelation comes through a long process of listening, witnessing and sometimes, misunderstanding his Master. Simon sees Jesus' miracles. He hears Jesus' teachings. He feels Jesus' compassion for the poor and the afflicted. Simon gradually recognizes Jesus personally and intimately. Simon's confession is born of this intimate knowledge and friendship. He knows Jesus' story, and at the right moment, he is ready to share his story of Jesus with others.

This is not far from our daily experiences. When we address our loved ones and close friends, we do not just call them with ordinary names, but names imbued with our intimate stories. My mother simply calls me Bayu, but I know that it is a lot different from a stranger who

calls my name. Often, we also have terms of endearment. Among close friends in the Philippines, we call each other as "Friend", "Friendship", "Best", "Bessy" among others. These names are beautiful because we hold each other's stories dearly. Indeed, our humanity is conceived because of our ability to gather our common stories and to share them confidently.

Therefore, it is a serious offense to our humanity when we suppress other people's stories, and address them with improper words. Our refusal to recognize the others' stories is in fact, the root of many discriminations, like racism, sexism, and fundamentalism. The worst is when we erase altogether the names and the stories behind them. Victor Frankl, the author of "Man's Search for Meaning" was once a prisoner in a Nazi's camp. He narrated how prisoners were called by set of number as their identity, like prisoner 1234, and gradually they also lost their humanity, as they were treated, tortured and disposed as mere numbers.

The war on drug in the Philippines has been one of the bloodiest in the Philippine history. Thousands have been killed, the suspects, the law-enforcers, and even innocent civilians. Yet, many do not care, "Anyway, it is just number and statistics," until Kian, a teenager student, was mercilessly killed allegedly by the law-enforcers, and the event recorded in CCTV camera awakened the nation's conscience. The investigation was held by the Senate and Kian's parents faced the alleged killers of their son. During this hearing, the parents narrated Kian's stories as an ordinary boy who aspired to become a policeman himself. Kian began to emerge a human person with stories, hopes and dreams, not just a faceless number. And the mother ended her statement by saying to the alleged perpetrators, "Ama ka rin (You are also a father)." It was not only a call to their conscience, but also a reminder to all of us that we fail as humanity if we no longer listen to and share our stories with one another.

"I call you by name, you are mine." Is 43:1



REV. FR. ROGELIO B. ALARCON, OP HISTORIC FILIPINO DOMINICAN LEADER & EDUCATOR

By Br. Marc Adrian H. de la Peña, OP

*"Whether you do it well or not
As a provincial, nobody can take the fact
That you are the first and you will always be in history."*



Br. Marc Adrian H.
de la Peña, OP

Who would have thought that a boy who flunked in school would someday be the first prior provincial of the Dominican Province of the Philippines and a pioneer of learner-centered education in the country? Only God knew that a child born in a little town at the foot of the Sierra Madre, would play a major role in the history of the Dominican Order, of the Church and of the Philippines.

Rev. Father Rogelio Bautista Alarcon, O.P. was born on October 26, 1937 at Laur, Nueva Ecija. He was the second of the three children of Dr. Domingo Alarcon, a medical doctor, and Anatolia Bautista Alarcon, a pharmacist.

Father Alarcon, in spite of being educated in Catholic institutions like Letran-Manila, never conceived of becoming a priest until the Marian year of 1954. It was, then, the 100th anniversary of the proclamation of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception. As Father Alarcon relates, in 1954 he was a naval ROTC. As a cadet, he was asked to assist the priest in giving communion by holding the communion plate. During that time, the Church still followed the Tridentine rite and so every communicant received communion in communion rails. Father Alarcon continued that in that particular moment, it crossed in his mind that there was indeed a great need for priest. Afterwards, this simple observation led him to something which he never conceived in his younger years that would change his life forever. The decision he made that day to enter the Dominican Order to become a priest never changed.

He says that he never changed that decision because he has faith that God wants him from the very beginning to be a priest. As he reminisces his past experiences and reflects on them, he sees that God has always been there at his side guiding and saving him from all sorts of danger. In connection to this, there are three events that are very significant to him. During these events, he nearly died yet God miraculously saved and protected him.

The first was during the Second World War. Father Alarcon clearly remembers the day when he was evacuating with his mother, younger brother and some companions from the church of Obando, Bulacan. They were going to a nearby river, where his father and older sister were waiting in a boat. As they were heading towards the river, a bomb fell in front of them. This bomb killed the boy beside him but he was miraculously saved. He says that he was not even hurt. Later on his life, every time he remembers this event, he is reminded that he could have died also that day but God saved him because he had a mission to do. *Hindi pa tapos ang kanyang kwento.* God wants him to be a priest. From then on, every time he remembers this, he tells himself never to abandon the priesthood.

The second near-death experience of Father Alarcon was when he was a *decano* in the Coristado. The coristas were then having their vacation at Baguio. He relates that he was alone driving back to the vacation house, when a



Br. Marc Adrian H. de la Peña, OP (left) and Fr. Rogelio B. Alarcon, OP (right).



delivery truck hit his Volkswagen Kombi in the Naguilian Road. He says that the first thing he did was to step on the break. Afterwards, his van turned around and bumped the concrete barrier. Miraculously, his van was not thrown away. His seat became like a fulcrum. The van just turned laterally. In that accident, his car nearly fell on the cliff and he could have died. He says, "*Konting-konti nalang talaga.*" Again, God saved him.

The last significant event in his life that God saved him was during his stay in Tehran, Iran from February of 1979 to April of 1979. During that stay in Iran with twelve Angelicum teachers, Iran was in a civil war. There were gun fires and riot here and there. There were lootings everywhere. Moreover, they could not go safely out of Iran by any means of transportation. The airport was closed and every checkpoint going to Turkey was not safe. Father Alarcon relates that God guided them in those difficult moments. Just a single mistake in their decisions would have cost them their lives. These events only prove that God saved Father Alarcon. But God did not just save him without reason. God had a mission for Father Alarcon which he was yet to fulfill.

At present, he continues to fulfill his mission in this world. He continues to do his best to follow his father's advice to him when he asked permission to enter the convent. His father told him, "I am not against your decision to become a priest but if you choose to be a priest, be the best that you can be." At the age of 79, he still comes to the choir every morning even earlier and regular than most of the Coristas. His homilies are always wonderful, meaningful and insightful. At his present age also, he continues to teach, give recollection and hear to confessions. He continues to be the best he can be despite his health condition. Father Alarcon shares that his secret for this healthy vocation is prayer. For him prayer is the solution to everything.

During the difficult beginnings of the Dominican Province of the Philippines, for Father Alarcon prayer was the solution to every problem they encountered. The first Filipino Dominicans and Father Alarcon really prayed a lot to overcome any problem that arose. With the help of God, the province is still alive and continues to be a beacon of light and hope in the Asia-Pacific.

Father Alarcon shares that the beginning of the Philippine Province was difficult because everything in the provincial level was new to the Filipino Dominicans. They were never given a chance to have a role in the provincial level. They had to learn how to do things themselves. They

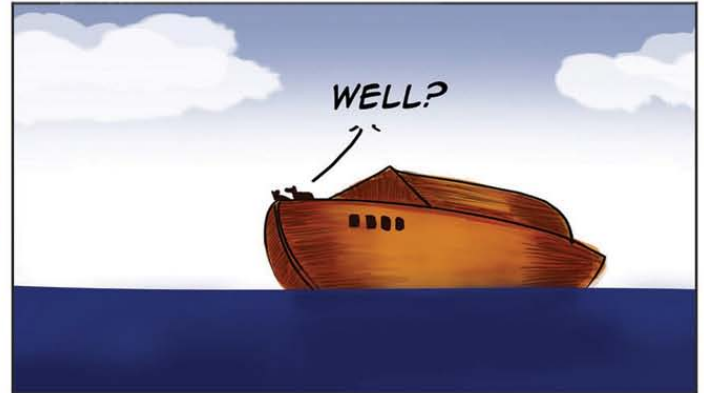
had many invalid decisions. They had to learn things by trial and error. Despite these challenges, the Province outlived these problems and difficulties. Moreover, Father Alarcon believes that besides prayer, those problems were overcome because the Filipino Dominican and he focused on the strengths that the province had rather than her weaknesses.

With his experience as a superior, a leader for Father Alarcon is someone who is a visionary and a missionary. A visionary leader is someone who has an end in mind that is in line with the Constitutions of the Order. On the other hand, a missionary leader is someone who has full confidence in God's providence. He has faith that God is leading him to respond to God's will. Moreover, a missionary leader is someone who is always open to the grace of God. He sees every opportunity as God-sent. Like Dominic, this leader is not afraid to try new things and is open to failures as learning experiences.

Father Alarcon was this kind of leader. This can be seen not only in the way he administered when he was a provincial but also when he pioneered the first non-graded system and learner-centered education upon the establishment of the then Angelicum School in 1972. Drawing from his own difficulty and from his observation as a principal in Letran Manila, he courageously established a new system that broke free from the traditional educational system. He started a system that focused on true learning and not on academic achievements. It was system that at first was scorned by most educators but later on was praised and adopted. At present, this system which Father Alarcon pioneered continues to help many young Filipinos to learn and achieve their dreams without the discrimination of grades and traumas of failure.

With all these achievements of Father Alarcon as a leader and educator, he would always be remembered in history. As an old Spanish friar told him, "*Whether you do it well or not as a provincial, nobody can take the fact that you are the first and you will always be in history.*" However, Father Alarcon will not just be remembered because of his achievements but more importantly because of the goodness he has shown and continues to show and do for others.

He is chosen by God to be a son of St. Dominic. And indeed he is a faithful son of Dominic who serves as a living example to his younger brothers. He is a faithful son who is courageous in exploring new avenues in proclaiming the Truth, our Lord Jesus Christ.



Komiks ni Fray

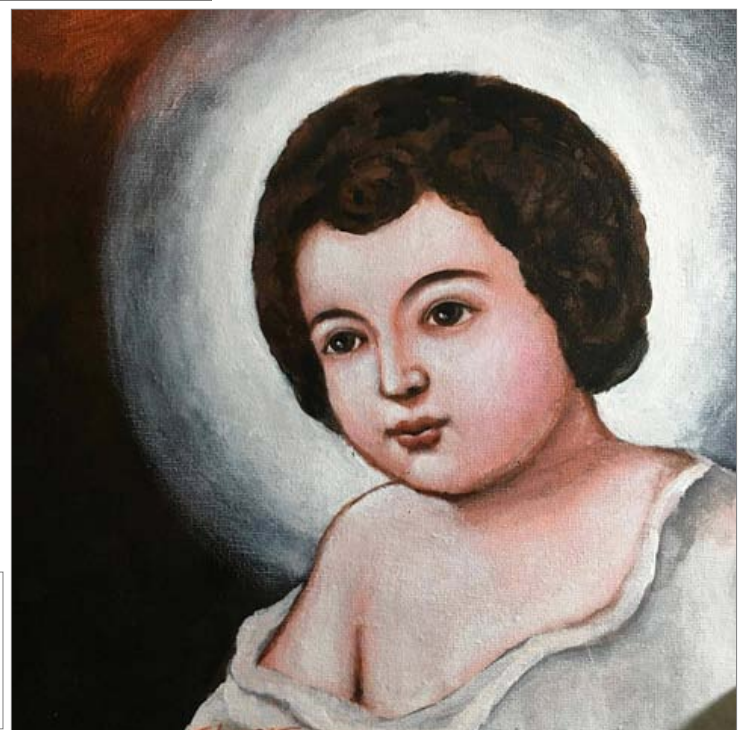
By Br. Mervin G. Lomague, OP, Solemnly Professed Student Brother



Coppersmith Barbet

Megalaima haemacephala
 Pok-pok, Tuk-tuk (Pil)
 Aso ni Pusong (Tag)

Colegio de San Juan de Letran, Abucay, Bataan
 April 4, 2014, Resident
 Photo by Br. Oscar Novem A. Enjaynes, OP
 Ordained priest on 28 August 1996



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



Blood and Water

Watercolor and Ink, September 21, 2017
 Br. Luigi Christian R. Bracamonte, OP
 Second Year Student Brother

The heart tells everything that one wishes to know about a person. Hence, to know the heart is to know the person. However, nowadays many of us hide and lock away our hearts from others for fear that our heart may break or get hurt. But, Jesus teaches us that the heart houses love and that this love needs to be shared. It is true that to offer one's own heart is risky, but love is a risk. Jesus loves us so much that He took the risk of loving us, even though he knew that he would suffer and die.

I know that I can never return God's love for me, but I will still take the risk to love. Hence, I will offer all the love that my feeble heart can offer. This artwork is inspired by the Divine Mercy. The Divine Heart of Jesus is the one who pours out His love for us in blood and water.



The Halo

Manoag Summer Feast
 April 2017
 Br. Wilhelm B. Boñon, OP
 Third Year Student Brother

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.