



PHILDOM

OCTOBER
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

Continuing Formation



Prior Provincial's November Calendar

- 4 - RMI Mass (11 AM), Quezon City
- 6 - 406th Provincial Council Meeting
- 7 - Board of Trustees Meeting, UST, Manila
- 9 - Funeral of Concepcion Alaurin, Legazpi City
- 10 - Mass – Union of Superiors General (USG), Caloocan City
- 11 - Commission on Mission Meeting, Bahay Dominiko
 - Adonai Mass – Domnet Youth Group, Siena College, QC
 - Dinner-Dance for a Cause of Sto. Domingo Parish (Fr. Mhandy Malijan, OP's birthday)
- 17-18- Retreat – Dominican House of Prayer, Tagaytay City
- 19 - Ordination of Rev. Emie Gaviola OSB, Cebu
- 24 - Board of Trustees Meeting – San Vicente Liem dela Paz Foundation, Inc., Manila
- 28 - Board of Trustees Meeting – Colegio De San Juan de Letran Calamba

FORTHCOMING EVENTS November 2017

- 4- MLC Advent Pilgrimage
- 5- PST Orientation and Entrance Examination
- 6 - 406th Provincial Council Meeting
- 11- ADONAI, Siena College, Quezon City
 - Sto. Domingo Parish Dinner-Dance for a Cause to be held at Amoranto Multi-Purpose Theater, Amoranto Sports Complex, Quezon City
- 13- DSMC Anniversary
- 15- Feast of St. Albert the Great

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY CELEBRATORS

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 3 Br. Oscar Novem Enjaynes, OP | 25 Br. Romulo Rodriguez, OP |
| Br. Roman Santos, OP | Br. Ivan Paul Obando, OP |
| 7 Br. Andreas Kurniawan, OP | 27 Br. George Phe Mang, OP |
| 8 Br. Eduardo Alapide, OP | 29 Br. Isaias Tiongco, OP |
| 9 Br. Teodoro Goc, OP | 30 Br. Victor Calvo Jr., OP |
| Br. Rodel Cansancio, OP | |
| 11 Br. Mhandy Malijan, OP | |
| 12 Br. Louie Coronel, OP | |
| 13 Br. Ramon Claro Mendez, OP | |
| 14 Br. Lauro de Dios, OP | |
| 15 Br. Allen de Guzman, OP | |
| 16 Br. Florentino Bolo Jr., OP | |
| 18 Br. Tereso Campillo Jr., OP | |
| 20 Br. Norberto Castillo, OP | |
| Br. Rolando Castro, OP | |
| Br. Hermel Pama, OP | |
| 21 Br. Napoleon Encarnacion, OP | |
| Br. John Clifford Perera, OP | |
| Br. Glen Mar Gamboa, OP | |
| 22 Br. Edgardo Alaurin, OP | |

BROTHERS ON FOREIGN TRIP (By reason of Office)

- 26 Oct-10 Nov – USA – Br. Ernesto Arceo, OP – To attend a seminar on the administration of higher educational institutions in Orlando, Florida
- 31 Oct-4 Nov – Thailand – Br. Herminio Dagohoy, OP – To attend the XXXII International Conference of the International Confederation of Catholic Health-Care Institutions
- 4-19 Nov – Europe – Br. Florentino Bolo Jr., OP – To attend the annual meetings of the General Promoters of the Order and the International Bureau of the Dominican Family in Convento Santa Sabina, Italy; to attend the meeting of the Priestly Fraternity of the Province of Switzerland in Fribourg; and to visit the priestly fraternities of Spain and Italy
- 9-11 Nov – Singapore – Br. Art Vincent Pangan, OP – To accompany the students of Colegio de San Juan de Letran Calamba Robotics Academy to attend the World Robot Games

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**RETREAT OF THE BRETHERN OF THE DOMINICAN PROVINCE OF THE PHILIPPINES
OCTOBER 22-26, 2018 * ST. PAUL RETREAT HOUSE, ALFONSO, CAVITE**

A MISSIONARY OPTION TO THE PERIPHERIES

(as a Priority of the Province)

FAMILY DAY 2017 AT LYCEUM OF CAMIGUIN

By Br. Cyr Stephen Magbanua, OP

October 16, 2017, learners of Lyceum of Camiguin with their supportive parents gathered together to celebrate the annual Family Day celebration. It was a day where children and parents prayed, played and ate together at school. This event sought to fortify the bond of love between learners and their parents; and the learners' families with other families since families were grouped into teams according to their respective barangays, thus building communion of barangays. The day started with the Holy Mass presided by Br. Cyr Stephen Magbanua, OP. Then the Lycean Family paraded their team banners and Philippine - festival- themed costumes along the main road of Barangay Balatubat. The morning program



included dance presentations from the learners inspired by the different Philippine Festivals - *Aliwan, Sinulog, Pahiyas, Panagbenga, Masskara* and *Kadayawan*. Each team wowed the audience with their ostentatious display of props and ethnic performances. Afterwards, creative parlor games further intensified the lively mood of the Lyceans that made them burst into laughter as they watched the different participants amusingly struggled



to win each game. The morning activities ended with families eat- together where a sumptuous meal was prepared by the parents themselves. This day also marked the opening of the school's week-long Intramurals 2017. In the evening, it was the turn for the parents to showcase their gifts by singing and dancing. There was also a part where father and mother, father and daughter, mother and son danced together. It was a night filled with delightful and meaningful familial memories. Truly, families are blessings and what a blessing to be part of the Lyceum of Camiguin Family!

ST. VINCENT FERRER PARISH CELEBRATES FAMILY ROSARY

By Br. Cyr Stephen A. Magbanua, OP

Eight families of St. Vincent Ferrer Parish, Camiguin Islands Norte guided the faithful into praying the Holy Rosary together as a parish community last October 29, 2017. This parish activity, Family Rosary, is a culminating celebration of the Rosary Month. It aims to nourish and revive the devout practice of praying the rosary as a family. The families selected are members of the different parish ministries – lectors, lay ministers, choir and Mother










Butler Guild. This is in connection with the celebration Year of the Parish. Prior to the recitation of the rosary, Br. Cyr Stephen Magbanua, OP, parish priest, catechized the people on the importance of this pious devotion and the need of praying as a family. In turn, parts of the rosary were distributed to each family. And as they prayed the Glorious Mysteries, father, mother, and their children offered flowers before the image of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Each decade was offered for different intentions – for all victims of violence and the war in Marawi; for those killed in the government's campaign against drugs; for the victims of drug-abuse; for Filipino families; and for personal intentions. These prayer petitions were based on the Pastoral Letter, "We value life. We ask for due process" of Archbishop of Tuguegarao, Sergio Utleg, DD.



ITINERANCY (as a Priority of the Province)

ASSIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

-  Br. Giuseppe Pietro V. Arsciwals, OP, is appointed Provincial Promoter of the Dominican Laity on November 3, 2017.
-  Br. Roger C. Quirao, OP, is appointed Superior of the House of San Lorenzo Ruiz and Companion Martyrs on November 7, 2017 and is subsequently assigned to the said House.
-  Br. Mingdry Hanafi Tjipto, OP, is assigned to Rumah Santo Tomas Aquino in Surabaya, Indonesia on October 31, 2017.
-  Br. Honorato C. Castigador, OP, is assigned to St. Dominic's House in Sri Lanka on November 3, 2017.

-  Br. Raul I. Obsioma, OP, is assigned to St. Dominic's House in Sri Lanka on November 3, 2017.
-  Br. Patricio P. Hiwatig, OP, is assigned to the Convent of St. John Lateran in Manila on November 3, 2017.
-  Br. Napoleon M. Encarnacion, OP, is assigned to the Convent of St. Albert the Great in Calamba, Laguna on November 15, 2017.

DEEPER FRATERNAL INTEGRATION (as a Priority of the Province)

FEATURED BATCH (LONE SURVIVOR)



First Name: **ISIDRO**
Middle Name: **DE CASTRO**
Surname: **ABAÑO**
Nickname: "Fr. Didoy"
Birthday: 12 January 1957
Entrance to the Novitiate:
 21 May 1979
Simple Profession: 22 May 1980
Solemn Profession: 22 May 1983
Ordination: 30 Aug 1985

DPP ID No.: 198001

Current Assignment: **Priory of St. Thomas Aquinas**
(since 17 Jun 1991)

Previous Assignment: Sto. Domingo Convent (May 1980-Jun 1991)

BROTHERS BLESSING BROTHERS

By Br. Art Vincent M. Pangan, OP

On 16-20 October 2017, forty two (42) of our brothers gathered at Hennan Alona Beach Resort in Bohol for the Continuing Formation Program of the Dominican Province of the Philippines. The theme for the said gathering was "Living Together, Loving God Together, Growing Old Together".

The formation sessions on 17 and 18 October were facilitated by Msgr. Ramon Masculino and Ms. Cynthia Baga of G.A.M.O.T. Resources Inc. The sessions centered on the blessed history of the Province in the personal story of each brother. In the sharing of their personal stories in the Province, the brothers were divided according to age groups – the young (0-15 years in the priesthood), the middle aged (16-30 years in the priesthood), and the elders (more than 30 years in the priesthood). In their stories, the brothers named their joys and challenges, strengths and vulnerabilities in their Dominican life as well as their hopes, visions, dreams, and contributions for the future of the Province. The group sharings were summarized and presented in the plenary on 18 October. In the last session, the brothers were led to reflect on the



Beatitudes (Mt. 5:1-10) and on their beatitudes (being blessed in life) towards living the “Be-Attitude” (the disposition of recognizing our being blessed in spite of...).

In conclusion, the brothers reflected that they could truly become blessings to each other in their presence, in their speech, and in truly giving themselves “so that others may have life.” With blessing consciousness, Br. George Moreno, OP, celebrated the Eucharist on 17 October with Br. Art Vincent Pangan, OP, as preacher. Br. Napoleon Encarnacion offered the Divine Sacrifice on 18 October with Br. Ramiro de Belen, OP, as preacher. On 19 October, some of the brothers had a short tour of Bohol. They gathered in the evening for the Holy Mass presided by the Prior Provincial, Br. Napoleon Sipalay Jr., OP. The Mass was offered as a thanksgiving for this year’s Continuing Formation Program. It was also offered for the birthday intentions of the Provincial.

The brothers went back to their respective communities on 20 October 2017 bringing home the blessings of the week-long fraternal gathering

QUALITY FORMATION (as a Priority of the Province)

MEETING AT THE COMMON GROUND

By Br. Jimbo M. Mendejar

The novitiate communities of the different Dominican religious congregations gathered last October 16-22, 2017 at the Rosary Center of Our Lady of the Rosary of Manaoag Parish, Manaoag, Pangasinan to hold the annual Common Study on Prayer. Nine female congregations participated in the study, which was organized and hosted by the brother novices of the DPP.

The Melting Pot

Among the many religious orders in the Catholic Church, the family of St. Dominic is certainly one of the most encompassing and far-reaching with its numerous apostolates that permeate the social strata. From social works with the indigenous and the affectively marginalized sectors of our society, up to the schools in the provinces and universities in highly urbanized cities, the Dominican spirit proves itself timeless in catering to the rising needs of the ever-changing times. The incessant expansion of the field of work where Dominicans are involved gives rise to the challenge of entrenching the novices to the fundamental principles of our way of life before professing vows and letting these ideals seep to their very person. This will gear up the candidates with the spirit of singularity that will enable them to provide services that are genuinely Christ-centered, neighbor-oriented and distinctly Dominican.

Under sway of this context and our Rule’s call to common life and study, the Dominican Novitiate of the Annunciation and different female congregations convoked in the famed pilgrim destination of the North in pursuit of deeper understanding of prayer as an indispensable pillar of the Dominican life. Coming from various religious institutes and cultural traditions, the sister and brother novices attentively listened during the discussions and blended talents and wits in coming up with performances about the theme. Enriching talks on prayer were delivered by distinguished speakers, Rev. Fr. Rolando dela Rosa, OP, and Rev. Fr. Charles Moises Barrientos, OP, who shared their significant insights on the pivotal role that prayer plays in our vocation and discernment. Various sharers from the female religious congregations also imparted noteworthy ideas on the Ways of Prayer of Saints Dominic and Catherine of Siena.

As one of the speakers underscored, the best way of learning prayer is by praying itself. Hence, certain activities have given the participants the avenue to experience different modes of prayer firsthand. Along with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist at the Basilica were supplementary activities that included Praise and Worship, Meditational - Taizé Rosary and the Liturgy of the Nine Ways that, in one way or another, enlivened and stimulated the spiritual fervor of the participants.

On the eve of the Common Study’s denouement, the group had their excursion on the sands of the San Fabian shores where the novices and formators enjoyed the sun’s scorching rays during the day in fraternal camaraderie through several team building activities and spectacular cultural presentations during the night that certainly made the whole event something to be remembered.

Different Streams Leading to the Same Sea

Prayer is an expression of a soul’s desire to reach out to the Divine. It is a means through which the universal

impulse toward spiritual intimacy manifests. The craving of the human soul to paint a well-defined path that traces the course of this spiritual exercise gave way to numerous theological exhortations and enchanting poetry by the Mystics who, unable to express objectively the mystery of prayer, resorted to metaphors and bodily gestures which, though aesthetically appealing and suggestive, still imperfectly articulate its depth. Nonetheless, the experiences of prayer and talks offered throughout common study were but an attempt to venture on unconventional ways that are deeply rooted in our Dominican traditions as well as contemporary methods apart from what the faithful usually experience in mainstream Catholicism. Irrespective of gender and state of life, all men have this unquenchable necessity to attain self-realization; an *insatiable* need, which we can only be addressed by the *Boundless* through prayer. Rephrasing Fr. Rolando dela Rosa's words, there is always a constant need to pray (especially for those who are discerning religious life) because it is only by remaining connected to the Source of the call that one can sustain and finally respond more fully to what the call asks us to do. Prayer indeed is so multi-faceted that confining it within the limits of verbal utterances will only lead us to a distorted concept of what it is. Regardless of whether one is inclined to singing psalms or dancing action songs, in elaborate canticles or in sheer silence, there is but one object that these tools intend to achieve – closer union with God.

A Series Just Started

The Common Study must have been stressful and tiresome for both facilitators and participants. The weeks of preparation and the actual implementation of the delicately planned program required a great amount of assiduous effort. However, it is undeniable that these tiring days were in no way borne in vain for they brought about a deeper understanding of prayer as a significant element of our spiritual life. Moreover, the new bonds of friendship forged among the congregations gave this fleeting encounter a lasting impact in the lives of the participants. As shoulders relaxed with relief from the tedious days which the first phase of the Common Study brought, one cannot help but delightfully look forward to the future. The Common Study is not yet over. It had just begun.

GENERAL NEWS

THIS IS HIS BLESSING

By Br. Samuel Sonny Gunawan, OP

On October 13, 2017, we commemorated the centennial anniversary of the apparition of Our Lady of



Fatima. It was also a special day for Rev. Mingdry Hanafi Tjipto, OP, who received the Sacrament of Holy Order that day. After having undergone 11 years of formation in the Philippines, he was ordained through the hands of Bishop Vincentius Sutikno Wisaksono, DD, Bishop of Surabaya.

His ordination was the fourth time for the brothers in Indonesia, and the first time ever held in Surabaya. Rev. Mingdry himself is from Surabaya and the first Dominican priest from the diocese. It was also the first time for Redemptor Mundi Parish to host a priestly ordination. Hence, for this event, they were very much prepared.

At 5 in the afternoon, the Holy Mass was celebrated. It started by the procession of all liturgical ministers and priests from the different congregations. The main celebrant, Bishop Sutikno, was accompanied by Br. Napoleon B. Sipalay Jr., OP, Prior Provincial, and Br. Adrian Adiredjo, OP, Parish Priest of Redemptor Mundi. There were also brothers who came from Sto. Domingo Convent, Bahay Dominiko, Letran Abucay, and General Santos City. In his homily, Bishop Sutikno reminded Br. Mingdry to be faithful and to surrender himself in God's Love. Priesthood is the mystery of God's love and by becoming a priest, he becomes an *Alter Christus*.

After the ordination, everyone was invited to have dinner in the parking lot of Redemptor Mundi Parish. The parish served various traditional foods and a special program was hosted for the newly ordained priest. At the



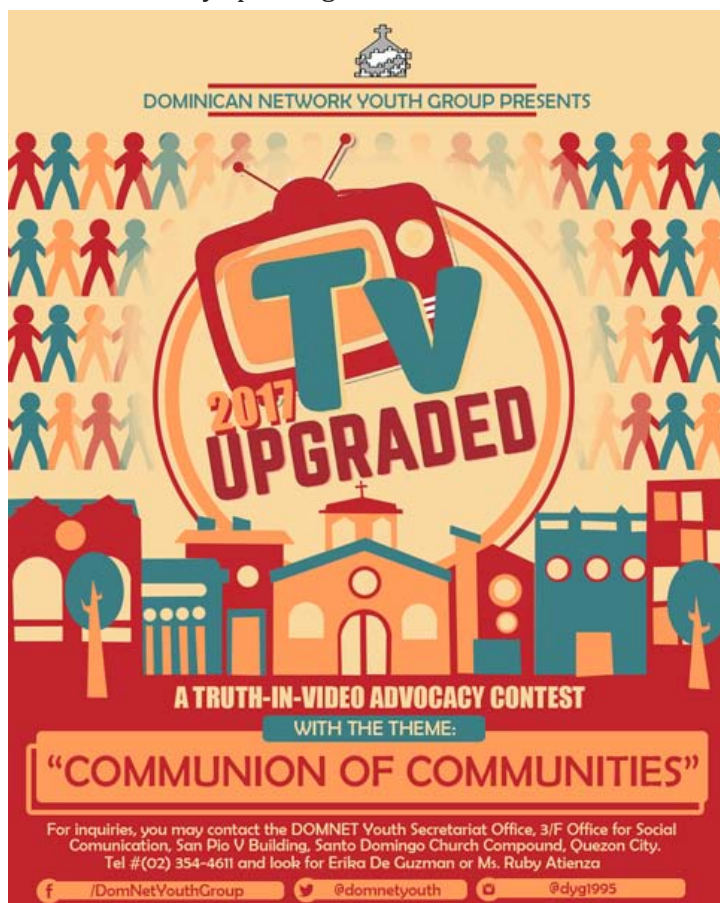
end of the program, Br. Mingdry was invited to go in front of the stage and to dance together with the parishioners.

On the next day, Br. Mingdry offered his Thanksgiving Mass at the Church of Kristus Raja (Christ the King, which is his parish of origin). Br. Adrian Adiredjo, OP, delivered the homily, recounting Br. Mingdry's vocation journey. After the Mass, all the guests had dinner together followed by a program intended for the honoree!

DOMNET TVU 2017 ON ITS 4TH YEAR

By Ruby Atienza and Nikko Aldrich Castillo

In 2014, the Dominican Network Youth Group launched **TV Upgraded: A Truth-in-Video Advocacy Contest**. It aimed to encourage the youth to produce video materials that would promote Christian values and encourage social involvement. It empowered the youth to use social media as a modern platform for preaching in contemporary time. It enjoined college and high school students, loosely speaking, the "millennials."



In 2017, **TV Upgraded** continues on its fourth year as it carries the theme "Communion of Communities." Sixteen different Dominican schools, colleges, and universities in the Philippines have participated in the competition. The institutions are Aquinas School, San Juan; Dominican College, San Juan; Dominican School, Manila; Siena College, Quezon City; UST-Angelicum College, Quezon City; UST Education High School, Manila; University of Santo Tomas, Manila; St. Dominic Academy, Pulilan, Bulacan; Colegio de San Juan de Letran-Calamba, Laguna;

Colegio de San Juan de Letran-Manaoag, Pangasinan; St. Mary's Dominican School, Pangasinan; Dominican School of Sta. Rita, Pampanga; UST-Aquinas, Legazpi; Angelicum School, Iloilo; Our Lady of Grace Academy, Roxas City; and Maryknoll School of Lupon, Inc. Davao Oriental.

All entries have been reviewed by a diverse group of individuals to ensure that set criteria have been met. Ten entries from the High School Division and two entries from the College Division have been named Finalists.

Announcement of winners will be on November 11, 2017 as part of the program of "ADONAI: To Praise, To Bless, and To Preach Jesus," to be held at Siena College, Quezon City. We cordially invite you to witness the awarding ceremonies.

THE JOYFUL FRIARS AT VADE PRAEDICA

By Br. Reginald R. Zamora, OP

For three consecutive years, from 2013 to 2015, the Praedicare Conferences of the Institute of Preaching has always featured the importance of music in preaching by showcasing the styles of preaching of The Light of Jesus Family by Br. Bo Sanchez and that of The Victory Church of the Evangelical Protestants.

It is fortunate that in the recently concluded Regional Colloquium on Dominican Preaching in Asia and the Pacific 'Vade Praedica' organized by the Institute of Preaching held at the Buenaventura Garcia-Paredes, OP Building at the University of Santo Tomas Espana, Manila, last October 10-12, 2017. Invitation was extended to the Joyful Friars preaching band of the Dominican Studentate, who themselves are already preaching to the youth through their music.



The Joyful Friars were able to share their style of preaching on the third day of the colloquium, with yours truly, as the main sharer. The format is very much the same with that of The Feast and The Victory Church because these two are the main inspirations in the establishment of the Joyful Friars. Like them, we also use music and actions in our preaching.

In 2013, after the 1st Praedicare Conference, together with some other brothers, I went to the Victory Church in

Morayta, Manila to observe their worship service. Rather than being inspired, we were quite shocked to see the dynamism and size of the church. It was overflowing with young people from the Catholic and non-Catholic schools and universities around it.

Students flocked and eventually many were joining in because they really liked their style of worship. Now, they are able to conduct eleven worship services per week to accommodate all their participants. Five of these services are on weekdays to cater to students who are in Manila during the week for their studies. Many of these students have already left the Catholic Church.

As Dominicans, we student-brothers knew that we had to do something. We are preachers for the salvation of souls and we just cannot go home as if nothing had happened.



The opportunity came the following October when Fr. Jeff Aytona, OP, invited us to preach at the 1st Adonai Domnet gathering in UST-Angelicum College in Quezon City. The format that we used was that of the Victory Church in Morayta and true enough, it was a big hit to the youth. Since then, the Joyful Friars have participated in all succeeding Adonai gatherings.

At the colloquium, we presented the history of the development of our group and the style that we use to preach to the youth. We showcased the segments in our preaching that we find effective like the praise and worship songs of the band, the dancing skills of the brothers for vocation promotion, our preaching through our sharer and emcees and the talk show segment that



allowed our members to share their personal experiences and reflections as members of the Joyful Friars for the past four years.

There were many other things that we shared during our presentation at Vade Praedica 2017. We were given one and a half hours to present our *'New Way of Preaching to the Youth'* and we did our best to share everything that we could. But I guess I have to end this article with the words of Fr. Enrico Gonzales, OP, who gave the homily during the closing Eucharistic Celebration of the event. Paraphrasing his words, he said: *"We have already said a lot and it is now time to act."*

As students of the Institute of Preaching, we were privileged to have been part of this Colloquium. We have learned and we have shared a lot. Our passion for preaching has once again been energized and our commitment to the Church's call to New Evangelization is revitalized. And many days after the event, Fr. Enrico's words are still echoing in my mind. *"Enough of the talk. Go! Preach!"*

UST SANTÍSIMO ROSARIO PARISH CELEBRATES ITS DIAMOND JUBILEE

By Br. Louie R. Coronel, OP



The Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines has declared 2017 as the *Year of the Parish as Communion of Communities*. The CBCP Pastoral Exhortation *"On the Era of New Evangelization"* describes the focus of this year: *"This is a year when we more deeply discern not only the structures of governance of our parishes but also of the quality of faith life in the parish, the fellowship, belongingness, and participation by its members."* Mindful of such mandate, the Santísimo Rosario Parish of the University of Santo Tomás is celebrating its 75th foundation anniversary, a milestone in our Dominican parish ministry. Based on the greeting of the angel Gabriel to the Blessed Virgin Mary in Lk 1:28, the theme for the Diamond Jubilee celebration is **"AVE MARIA, GRATIA PLENA: 75 Years of Unending Grace"**. The Almighty God grants us grace to fulfill our mission. Mary, who is "full of grace", has been interceding for our parish since its foundation on March 21, 1942 by then Manila Archbishop Michael O'Doherty.

The Santísimo Rosario Parish-UST in Sampaloc District of the city of Manila is a special parish, not only because it is under the care of a religious community, the Dominicans; but also, by its very location, a parish church

SANTISIMO ROSARIO PARISH - U.S.T.
Ceferno Gonzales Dr., University of Santo Tomas, Sampaloc, Manila

AVE MARIA GRATIA PLENA

75 YEARS OF UNENDING GRACE

Join the celebration of our Parish Fiesta!

SEP 21 Enthronement Rites
4:00 pm | From the UST Main Building, passing through Benavides Park, towards the Parish Church

SEP 22-30 Novena Masses
7:30 am and 4:30 pm

OCT 01 75th Parish Fiesta
Sunday Masses | 6am, 7am, 8am, 9am, 10am, 5pm, 6pm
Community Baptism | 11:00am

Living Rosary & Grand Marian Procession
3:00pm

75th Anniversary Thanksgiving Mass
7:00pm | Most Rev. Camilo D. Gregorio, D.D.
Bishop-Prelate Emeritus of Batanes (Main Celebrant)

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within a University (UST), covering two universities (UST and Far Eastern University) within its jurisdiction. The UST Chapel, in which the spiritual, moral and pastoral needs of the Thomasian administrators, faculty members, support staff, students, alumni and guests are cared for, and where religious (ie *Misa de Apertura*, Mass in Honor of St. Thomas Aquinas) and academic functions (ie *Discurso de Apertura*, Commencement Exercises of the Ecclesiastical Faculties, Installation of the Rector) are held, also became the same church where parishioners go for their spiritual nourishment (ie Prayer, Liturgy, Sacraments, Blessing, and other ministries). For the past 75 years, the parish has been a spiritual haven for both the students of the University of Santo Tomás and its parishioners beyond the UST campus.

The parish fiesta is held every first Sunday of October. Before the celebration this year, the following events were held: Launching of the Social Media handles, Parish Exhibit, Rosary Rally, Street Masses, Feeding Program, Bible Congress, 13th Anniversary of *Pondo ng Pinoy*, Fatima Centennial, Diamond Jubilee Celebration at the Manila Hotel, Mass Baptism, Mass Confirmation and Mass Wedding. On September 21, the Solemn Rite of Enthronement of the Nuestra Señora del Santísimo Rosario preceded the nine-day novena Masses in which former parish priests, parochial vicars and syndics

graced the occasion. On October 1, the day of the fiesta, a living rosary preceded the grand procession. Most Rev. Gregorio D. Camilo, DD, Bishop-Prelate Emeritus of Batanes presided the fiesta Mass. Glyzelle Iris Palomar of the *Tulay ng Kabataan Foundation* of the Archdiocese of Manila, who was embraced by Pope Francis during his 2015 visit to UST and is now a Grade 8 UST Junior High School student, led the Act of Consecration of Christian Families in the Philippines to the Queen of the Most Holy Rosary. Pilgrims who take part in the Jubilee festivities gain plenary indulgence following the approval of the Holy See (Prot. N. 644/17/1 et 2), under the usual conditions: sacramental confession, Eucharistic communion and prayer for the intentions of the Pope, and detachment from sin. The Diamond Jubilee year will be concluded on October 7, 2018.

At present, the Parish is headed by Rev. Fr. Louie Coronel, OP, who was installed last 12 January 2016 by His Eminence Luis Antonio Cardinal Tagle, DD. He oversees the intensification of the four (4) core programs especially this Jubilee Year: The **Basic Ecclesial Communities** (which includes Feeding Program, Scholarship Program, Medical Services, *Kalyeserye*); **Catechetical Program** (which includes the Formation of a Core Group of grades school pupils from various public elementary schools, the Promotion of the Bible, the Promotion of the Rosary; Social Media Apostolate); **Youth Formation** (which includes programs for the Youth Ministry); and **Liturgico-Sacramental Program** (which includes Mass Baptism, Mass Confirmation, Mass Wedding, Pastoral Ministry for the needy, the sick, the aged, and the persons with disabilities; and a more active, creative and participatory prayer life of the parish).

A key program of the parish is the intensification of its BECs that is highlighted by the "*Kalyeserye*" program. The term is not just inspired by a local love team, but by a deep pastoral implication. "*Kalyeserye*" includes catechism on the street, praying of the rosary, Confession on the street, and street Masses. Beyond its terminology, Fr. Coronel is personally influenced by the life and ministry of His Holiness Pope Francis who regarded himself as a "*callejero*" when he was still serving the local Church of Argentina. It is our endeavor to proclaim the Good News in the streets where the people are.

Aware of the present challenges of the social media, the new evangelization, and the phenomenon of transient parishioners with the emergence of high-rise buildings, we remain faithful to Christ.

INTERNATIONAL MEETING OF DOMINICAN ROSARY PROMOTERS

On October 10 – 14, 2017, the International Meeting of Dominican Rosary Promoters was held at the Monastery Pius XII, Fatima, France. There were fourteen delegates from the different provinces of the Order who attended.



Br. Roland Mactal, OP, from the Dominican Province of the Philippines was the sole representative from the Asia-Pacific Region. Fr. Louis-Marie Ariño, OP, the General Promoter of the Rosary spearheaded the gathering together with Fr. Bruno Cadore, OP, the Master of the Order and Fr. Orlando Rueda Avecedo, OP the Assistant to the Master for Apostolic Life. The five-day meeting was fruitful with their sharing of what have been done for the general promotion of the rosary and what is being done in their respective Provinces. Fr. Mactal in his sharing expressed his dreams in strengthening the promotion of the rosary through the live streaming of the novenas in Santo Domingo Church, Quezon City and recruiting of the youth for the Perpetual Rosary Association. The delegates also participated in the celebration of the Centenary of the Apparition of Our Lady of Fatima on October 13, 2017. Their gathering was certainly blessed by this occasion as they look forward to a continuous and zealous promotion of the rosary.

KAPATID MARIAN EXHIBIT 2017

By Br. Mark Christopher C. Biscocho, OP

Last Sept. 30, 2017, the yearly Marian exhibit organized by the KAPATID Apostolic Group was opened at the Museo de Sto. Domingo, Sto. Domingo Church, Quezon City This year's theme is Katolikos: One Church under the Mantle of Mary. This is in line with the Year of the Parish's Communion of Communities. The exhibit aims to



propagate the devotion to the Blessed Virgin by showing that Christians are one under her guidance and maternal care through the various titles and devotions in which she is honoured. The exhibit features seven different titles and images of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Our Lady of the La Naval, Our Lady of Lourdes, Our Lady of Fatima, Our Mother of Perpetual Help, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, and Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal). Fr. Ramon Salibay, OP the Master of Students, officiated the rite of blessing and the ribbon-cutting ceremony. The event was well attended by the Dominican student-brothers and the lay faithful.

LA NAVAL BESA MANTO: A MOTHER'S TOUCH

By Br. Mark Christopher C. Biscocho, OP

Last September 29 and 30 and October 2, 4, 6, and 7, 2017, the annual *Besa Manto* took place at Sto Domingo Church, Quezon City. Devotees lined-up while waiting for their turn to kneel and pray in front of the Blessed Virgin Mary. People asked for her intercession, and thanked her for all the answered prayers. As they knelt, the devotees touched a white ribbon which symbolizes a close connection with the Blessed Mother. They also handed over their rosaries, prayer books, and other religious articles to the student-brothers so that such could be close to Our Lady's vestment. Indeed, in every touch made, one could feel the motherly love of Mama Mary. As the devotees touched the image of Our Lady of La Naval, thousands of lives were also touched and expected to change for the better through her intercession.



OP LAITY REGIONAL VISIT

By Br. Paul Reagan O. Talavera, OP

Last October 14-15, 2017, Fr. Honorato Castigador, OP, the Provincial Promoter of the Dominican Laity and Sr. Belen Tangco, OP, National President of the Dominican Laity visited the different chapters in Panay Island and Bacolod. They were accompanied by Fr. Paul Reagan Talavera, OP, ecclesiastical assistant for Region V, Br. Nery Francis Estoquia, OP, regional president and other officers and members from OP Laity Bugasong Chapter.



They were warmly welcomed by aspirants from Kalibo, Aklan where a new chapter is planned to be erected. Sr. Ana Cannoly, OP, a professed member of the Dominican laity who started her formation when she was still working in Rome is currently recruiting members from her home Parish, that is the St. Jude Parish in Kalibo. So far they were able to look for their spiritual adviser in the person of Fr. Paul Sayon, OP, an alumnus of UST and a member of the Priestly Fraternities of St. Dominic.

After visiting Aklan, the group went straight to Capiz to visit the chapters which are accompanied by the Rosarian Dominican Sisters in Loctugan, Roxas City. There are a total of seven chapters which included Ivisan, Burias, Esperanza, Tapaz, Jamindan, Dumalag and Roxas City. In this initial meeting, the chapters were asked to elect their officers and submit the names of all members per chapter. They were also encouraged to join in the regional and national gatherings and activities of the Dominican Laity.

Finally, the group crossed the sea to visit the chapter in Bacolod who is expecting to be canonically erected. This group which holds their regular meetings at the St. Rose of Lima School administered by the Dominican Sisters of the Most Holy Rosary of the Philippines is being accompanied by Br. Reynold Navares, OP. Generally, both Fr. Castigador and Sr. Tangco encouraged the members to be active not only in attending meetings but also in doing apostolates and ministries in their respective parishes and communities. They were also invited to join in the annual Dominican Laity Assembly on the 2nd Sunday of Easter and likewise on November 25, 2017 in Bugasong, Antique for the Advent Recollection, Profession of members and Christmas Party.



MANAOAG PROCESSION IN ILOILO

By Br. Paul Reagan O. Talavera, OP

The House of the Most Holy Rosary and the Angelicum School annually holds the novena to Our Lady of the Rosary of Manaoag and procession on the last week of October. This celebration signals the beginning of the school break for “Undas” holidays. This year’s celebration was made extra special with the participation not only of Angelicum School learners, facilitators and employees but also by the fact that each day of the novena was sponsored by an Alumni batch starting from 1978 to 2016 as part of the one-year preparation for the school’s 40th anniversary come 2018. The theme of the novena Masses centered on how Angelicum School has been a sanctuary of learning, where dreams are borne in grace with the truth that sets us free to love. The procession on the last day of the novena was graced with the presence of the Dominican Sisters of the Most Holy Rosary of the Philippines, Dominican Laity members from Tigbauan, Molo, Lapaz and Jaro, and likewise by parents and alumni of Angelicum School.



ARCHDIOCESAN INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S CELEBRATION IN ANGELICUM SCHOOL

By Oscar Tupong

The Archdiocese of Jaro and the Commission on Indigenous People headed by Fr. Ricky Soriano celebrated its yearly Indigenous People’s Day Celebration with a theme: “*Tumandok: Kabahin sa Mabinalak-on nga Pamilya nga Pilipino.*” last October 21, 2017 at Angelicum School Iloilo. More than 400 IP participants from Ubang, Leong,



Leon, Matag-ub, Taminia, Buenavista and San Enrique joined in the event. Despite the rain, the event started with a foot parade from Jaro Cathedral to Angelicum School followed by a Eucharistic Celebration. The main celebrant was Rev. Fr. Robert Amalay, Director of JAPS (Jaro Archdiocesan Pastoral Secretariat), together with some other priests. A Community Building Activity was also conducted by dividing the group into seniors, teens and kids, followed by Agape and Cultural Sports and awarding.



The community was filled with joy and had smiles on their faces as they went home. Indeed, the Indigenous People's Day 2017 was a success. This was made possible with the help of kind sponsors, dedicated commission team, various church organizations and youth ministries who had offered their time and efforts in this event. Let's continue to support the Commission on Indigenous People. Let's continue to love and to care for our indigenous brothers and sisters.

MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL DOMINICAN COMMISSION FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE CONFERENCE IN GENEVA AND ESTAVAYER-LE-LAC, SWITZERLAND

By Br. Gallardo A. Bombase Jr., OP

The International Dominican Commission for Justice & Peace (IDCJP) met in Geneva and Estavayer-le-Lac in Switzerland September 28 - October 3, 2017. In the past three years, the Commission has been meeting annually to animate the work of justice and peace. Meanwhile, this was the first meeting of the Commission to include the complete representatives of the Dominican Family organized by Fr. Mike Deeb, OP, General Promoter and UN Delegate and the outgoing DSI International Promoter Celestina Veloso Freitas. Present in the meeting were Promoters of Justice and Peace of the five world regions, the DLC/DSI representative to the UN-New York, the DSI International Coordinator, the Socius for Apostolic Life, and representatives of the Nuns, Laity, and the International Dominican Youth Movement.



The gathering was held at the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland for two days. Sessions on human rights violations in various countries, the conflicts in Burundi and Syria, the death penalty and the rights of women were presented. In the process, the members witnessed and experienced how national interests could often override the common good.

Furthermore, strategic planning was held at the Dominican Monastery at Estavayer-le-Lac, Switzerland. The participants focused on strengthening the work of the Commission and on developing plans for collaboration in the promotion of the justice and peace, both internationally and regionally.

The participants identified the global challenges based on the reports that were shared among them and the UN experiences. From these challenges, the participants set up priorities and identified the barriers or threats embodied in these challenges in order to find means in addressing the issues and the courses of action to undertake to attain our objective. SWOT analysis per region were also done.

Each region and group developed its own plans of action for the coming year. These plans included animation, solidarity, communication, formation, and networking. The plan of action for networking included the use of the Order's "Atrium" platform which allows persons to participate in Mission Forums – a way of





preaching to promote the mission in various areas of ministry.

The global common focus of the International Dominican Commission for Justice and Peace is the promotion of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. The care and advocacy for refugees and migrants and the struggle against human trafficking is another priority. In line with the *Salamanca Process*, there is a need for study and research on the issues such as "an ethic of life" and "the sovereignty of the state" that often legitimises impunity in the face of national injustices. An annual Dominican Month for Peace every Advent has been instituted, and this year the whole Dominican Family is encouraged to pray especially for Colombia as it implements its Peace Accord. The participants were all inspired by the growing interest of the Dominican youth in justice and peace especially as the 2018 Synod of Bishops on youth approaches.

A deep spirit of fellowship developed within the group through the common UN experience and in the meeting at the 700-year-old monastery of the Dominican contemplative nuns. Everyone felt that the meeting had significantly strengthened their resolve and capacity to assist the Order to make justice and peace a constitutive dimension of our preaching.

The members of the International Dominican Commission for Justice and Peace are:

Fr Mike Deeb	General Promoter Justice and Peace & UN Delegate
Sr Celestina Veloso Freitas	Outgoing DSI JPIC International Promoter
Sr Cecilia Espenilla	Incoming DSI JPIC International Promoter
Sr Margaret Mayce	DLC/DSI Representative to the UN - New York
Sr Marie Therese Clement	International Co-ordinator DSI
Fr Orlando Rueda Acevedo	Socius for Apostolic Life
Sr Pétronille Kayiba	DSA-JPIC Promoter for Africa
Fr Emmanuel Mulu	IAOP J&P Promoter for Africa
Sr. Maria Luz P. Mission	DSI-JPCC Promoter for Asia-Pacific
Fr Gallardo Bombase	JPCC Promoter for Asia-Pacific Region
Fr Xabier Gomez	J&P Promoter for Europe
Sr Marcela Soto Ahumada	CODALC J&P Promoter for Latin America and Caribbean
Fr Miguel Ángel Gullón Pérez	CIDALC J&P Promoter for Latin America and Caribbean

Sr Marcelline Koch
Fr Brendan Curran
Duncan MacLaren
Maria Teresa Tenti
Sr Irene Diaz
Dimitri Diaz Vidal

J&P Promoter for North America
J&P Promoter for North America
Representative of Lay Dominicans
Representative of Lay Dominicans
Representative of Nuns
Representative of IDYM

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

☞ **1977 November 23, 1977** – The Master General approves the erection of a new house (*domus religiosa*) for the Pre-Novitiate in the compound of Santo Domingo, Quezon City (Prot. Num. 38/77/1494). The territory of this new house covers the Studentate building, the Angelicum two buildings and grounds.

As a consequence some fathers lamented the reduction of the portion belonging to Santo Domingo proper which now covers the Church and its patio, the Fathers' building, the bank building and the small ground where the two basketball courts are located. A ground which used to be the playing area of the students (football ground) is now the playground of the Angelicum and the aspirants. This division was made as a result of a commission formed upon the suggestion of the Master General to solve the many difficulties brought about by the presence of the new school and the aspirants in Santo Domingo compound.

☞ **1981 November 7** – Blessing and Inauguration of first two buildings at Letran in Calamba, Laguna. The extension campus of San Juan de Letran in Calamba, Laguna was opened in 1979 in a sprawling eleven-hectare campus located in the slopes of Mt. Makiling. The first two buildings in the campus were inaugurated and blessed on November 7, 1981, during the anniversary of the martyrdom of Letran's greatest alumnus, Blessed Vicente Liem dela Paz, and feast of all Saints of the Order. A short program preceded the blessing. Br. Patricio Apa, OP, Director of the school, gave his opening remarks and welcomed the guests; Br. Ramon Salinas, OP, a founding Father of the institution, presented the historical sketch of the project, and Br. Regino Cortes, OP, Rector of the College, made the dedication. Bishop Pedro N. Bantigue of San Pablo blessed the building. (Source: Dominican Family-Vol. I, No.1-Jan 1982)

☞ **1988 November 5** – The Martinian Brothers (Dominican Brothers of St. Martin de Porres), a group of lay Dominicans living in community, was founded on November 5, 1988 to take care of the lepers in Tala Leprosarium. The group was suppressed on September 20, 2017 by virtue of the Decree of Suppression issued by the Prior Provincial of the

Dominican Province of the Philippines (DPP) in a move to implement the prior decision of the DPP Provincial Council, in its Council meeting on September 4, 2017, for suppressing the group due to its failure to grow in membership since its establishment.

PC Notes...

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

- ✍ The Province-wide Retreat is set on 22-26 October 2018 with Fr. Vivian Boland, OP, Socius for Fraternal Life, as the Retreat Speaker.
- ✍ With comments from the Diocese of Kalookan and confirmation from the Community of San Lorenzo Ruiz, the MOA (Cfr. Memorandum of Agreement Between the Roman Catholic Bishop of Kalookan and the Dominican Province of the Philippines, Inc.) was finally approved by the Provincial Council. The Provincial is now scheduled to meet up with Bishop David of the Diocese of Kalookan for the signing up of the MOA.
- ✍ Reports in relation to the 4 year Apostolic Plan (Stat 40, II) were presented by:
 - a. Council of Rectors by Br. Clarence C. Marquez, OP
 - b. Promoter for Theological Reflection/COIL by Br. Jannel Abogado, OP (with modifications)
 Such reports received approval from the members of the Provincial Council.
- ✍ The 2016 Annual Report of the Regent of Studies to the Master of the Order (LC0, 93, 1.8) was presented.
- ✍ The complete content (together with the formularies) of the Directory of the Priestly Fraternities of St. Dominic in the Philippines presented by Br. Florentino Bolo Jr., OP, was approved.
- ✍ Ad hoc Committee from UST for the Integration of Institute of Preaching to the UST Faculty of Theology was composed of:
 - Chair: Br. Jesus M. Miranda Jr., OP
 - Members: Br. Rodel Aligan, OP
 - Br. Jannel Abogado, OP
 - Mr. Cesar Velasco, Jr
 - Asst Prof. Joel Sagut, PhD
- ✍ Atty. Carlos Acain signed up his rescript of dispensation from the clerical state last 17 September 2017.
- ✍ Last 22 September 2017, Br. Jayalath Balagallage, OP, was formally assigned to St. Dominic's House, Kandy, Sri Lanka. Together with his Assignment Letter is a letter of Br. Napoleon Sipalay Jr., OP, sanating the past acts of the community that were enacted with the direct participation of Br. Jalayath from 6 September 2006 (his date of assignment to Sto. Domingo Convent, Quezon City) until his assignation back to St. Dominic's House in Sri Lanka.

BROTHERS ON FOREIGN TRIP (By reason of Office)

... continued from page 1

- ✈ 9 Nov-2 Dec – USA and Canada – Br. Anthony Eudela, OP – To attend and grace the Veterans Awards Night in San Diego, to preside a High Mass and lead the Grand Procession in honor of Our Lady of Manaoag organized by the Pangasinan Association of San Diego and a side-trip to Canada
- ✈ 15-19 Nov – Taiwan – Br. Ernesto Arceo, OP – To join a group of administrators for benchmarking activities

SPECIAL GUESTS VISIT BAHAY DOMINIKO!



With the Dominican Sisters of Charity of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin: (second from left to right) Sr. Maria Escayola Coris, OP, Superior General; Sr. Mariamma Paul, OP, General Councilor; and Sr. Rosy Karippai, OP, Superior in the Philippines.



With Fr. Jestoni Porrras (seated in the middle) of the Diocese of St. Paul, Alberta, Canada and a former Dominican student-brother.



With Fr. Patrick Baikauskas, OP, (standing second from right) of the Dominican Central Province (USA), Pastor and Director of Campus Ministry at St. Thomas Aquinas, The Catholic Centre of Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana, USA who visited us on Oct. 31 to November 3, 2017.

DEATH IN THE FAMILY

We pray for the eternal repose of the souls of:

- † **Sr. ALMA COLITA, OP**, of the Congregation of the Dominican Sisters of the Most Holy Rosary of the Philippines, who passed away on October 8, 2017.
- † **Sr. MARIA AURELIA CORTES NAVARRO, OP**, of the Congregation of Dominican Sisters of St. Catherine of Siena, Philippines, who passed away on October 8, 2017.
- † **Sr. ENRIQUETA BALAGTAS, OP**, of the *Congregación de las Religiosas Misioneras de Santo Domingo* passed away on November 1, 2017.
- † **Sr. GLORIA CRESPO, OP**, of the *Congregación de las Religiosas Misioneras de Santo Domingo* passed away on November 2, 2017.
- † **MANUEL A. GOC**, who passed away on September 29, 2017. He is the brother of our Br. Teodoro A. Goc, OP.
- † **NOEL OJOY**, who passed away on October 7, 2017. He is the brother of our Br. Virgilio Ojoy, OP.
- † **CONCEPCION D. ALAURIN**, who passed away on November 4, 2017. She is the mother of our Br. Edgardo D. Alaurin, 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 brothers during the anniversaries of their death in the month of November.

- November 14 + Br. Crispin Marqueses, OP
- 16 + Br. Thomas Lopez Francisco, OP
- 26 + Br. Jaime Boquiren, OP
- 30 + Br. Teodulo Cajigal, OP

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.

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: CELESTINO
VICENTE JUDE
Nickname: "Billy/Jun"
Middle Name: SANTIAGO
Surname: CATRAL
Birthday: 1 Mar 1968
Civil Status: Married
Hometown: Alcala, Cagayan
Date of Employment in the Provincialate: June 2003
Current Position: Office Staff
Milestone/Highlight of being with the Province:



(Left to right) My son, Gian Carlo Miguel, my wife, Leilani, and daughters, Beatrice Angela and Andrea Nicole.

Halina at Maghanda sa pagdiriwang
ng

Advent Recollection

"Paghikintay...Paghahanda...Pagdating"

kasama si

Most. Rev. Pablo Virgilio David, D.D.
Bishop, Diocese of Caloocan

Disyembre 02, 2017, Sabado
7:00 - 10:00 N.G.
Sto. Domingo Church



DOMINICAN FAMILY DAY OF FASTING AND PRAYER



November 3, 2017
Feast of Saint Martin De Porres
Patron of Social Justice

TO OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS IN THE DOMINICAN FAMILY:

Greetings of Peace!

"Is not this the sort of fast that pleases me: to break unjust fetters, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppress go free, and to break all yokes? Is it not sharing the food to the hungry, and sheltering the homeless poor; if you see someone lacking clothes, to clothe him, and not to turn away from your own kin? Then your light will blaze out like the dawn and your wound be quickly healed over." (Isaiah 58:6-8)

The Dominican Family in the Philippines, on its meeting dated October 23, 2017, decided to support the dignity of life in all its challenging situations especially on the on-going rate of deaths of many of our Filipinos, in particular the extra-judicial killings (EJK) as a consequence of an all-out war on drugs. This is also our concrete response to the meeting with the Master of the Order Br. Bruno Cadoré, OP, last September 23, 2017, who challenged us as one Dominican Family to respond together in this issue on the death of many of our Filipinos. Rather than coming out again with another statement, which we released after the De Las Casas Conference by the Dominican Family Commission for Justice and Peace and Care for Creation on April 6 2017, the Dominican Family opted to respond to the said challenge by declaring:

FASTING AND PRAYER ON DECEMBER 3, 2017, on the First Sunday of Advent, which is the inspired time to remind us for the preparation for the coming of Christ once again this Christmas season.

The intention of the Dominican Family in the Philippines is to save the amount we could gather out on that day of fasting from the different communities of the Dominican Family and send the said amount to the Treasurer of the Dominican Family Foundation who will hand it over to the Dominican Family Commission on Justice and Peace and Care for Creation with the intention of giving the collected amount to the families of the victims of EJK. Please send it for the meantime c/o Bahay Dominiko, 8 Biak-na-Bato Street, Santa Mesa Heights, Quezon City or you can send it thru:

Bank: BPI Sto. Domingo Branch
Account name: Dominican Province of the Phils., Inc.
Account number: 0211000015 (Peso)
Bank address: #1 Biak-na-Bato St. Cor. Quezon Avenue, Quezon City

Please send the copy of deposit slip thru fax number: (02) 7324652
Or you may email the scanned copy of the deposit slip to: provincial.ph@gmail.com



DOMINICAN FAMILY DAY OF FASTING AND PRAYER



Or send the copy of deposit slip to Bahay Dominiko's address:

Bahay Dominiko
8 Biak-na-Bato Street
Sta. Mesa Heights
Quezon City


We will report to your community the total amount that has been collected from this Common Dominican Family effort as soon as we receive the amount after December 3, 2017.

What we are doing is only a drop in the big ocean on the merciless death of our many Filipinos on the war on drugs, but we are doing this to start the ripple of touching many members of our Dominican Family to do something concrete. We pray that this would arouse more concrete actions and that we could work together as one Dominican Family. We remember the words attributed to our Father St. Dominic de Guzman: "Would you have me study of these dead skins, when men [and women] are dying of hunger?" We know our Holy Father will respond in this way to come before God and men to do a specific act of "selling his books made of dead skins" to alleviate the "hunger" of our time.

May God continue to inspire us through this endeavor.

Fraternally yours in St. Dominic,

For: **DOMINICAN FAMILY IN THE PHILIPPINES FOUNDATION**


FR. NAPOLEON B. SIPALAY JR., OP
President
Dominican Family in the Philippines Foundation

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME
(Matthew 22: 15-21)

Mass Presider: Br. Roland Mactal, OP

Homilist: Br. Christopher P. Garinganao, OP (Deacon)

Para po sa ating pagninilay sa Ebanghelyo, Balangkas ng Homiliya:

1. Layunin na siluin ng mga Pariseo si Hesus, gumamit sila ng *flattery*, o mga papuri kay Hesus upang makuha ang loob niya at siya ay mahulog sa bitag
2. Sinagot ni Hesus ang mga Pariseo: “Kung gayon, ibigay ninyo sa Cesar ang sa Cesar, at sa Diyos and sa Diyos.”



Rev. Christopher P. Garinganao, OP

Ang konteksto po ng pag-uusap ni Hesus at mga Pariseo ay puno na ng malisya sa umpisa pa lang. Simple lang ang layunin ng mga Pariseo, at ito ay yung mapahamak si Kristo, at ang kapahamakang ito ay magdudulot ng kamatayan kay Hesus. Ang layunin nilang masama ay ginamitan nila ng talino at dunong. Ang mga Pariseo po noong unang panahon ay mga

edukadong tao, alam nila ang pasikot-sikot ng batas. Kaya ginamit nila ang batas upang maisakatuparan ang kanilang masamang intensiyon. Gumamit sila ng *flattery*, o mga mabubulaklak na salita; mga papuri upang bilugin ang ulo ni Hesus. Sa madaling salita ang kanilang masamang layunin ay nakabalot sa magandang palara, maganda sa paningin, maganda sa panindinig, mainam. Kaya nga po sa bahagi ng taong tumatanggap ng papuri, mahirap makita ang masamang intensiyon sa likod nito, sapagkat nakaharang sa kaniyang paningin ang magandang pabalat.

Kaya ang tanong, ano po ang pangontra o *antidote* sa *flattery* at *lies*? Ang sagot po dito ay nasa pagkatao ni Hesus. Kaya hindi mabilog-bilog ng pambobola ang isip ni Kristo ay dahil siya po ay mapagkumbaba. *A person who is humble is indifferent to praises. A person who is humble does not desire flattery for himself, nor does he desire to flatter others.* Ang Diyos na sinasamba natin, ay Diyos na hindi mambobola. Hindi po ba si Kristo na din ang may sabi, “Let your ‘yes’ mean ‘yes’ and your ‘no’ mean ‘no’?” Samakatuwid, siya po ay Diyos na may “*palabra de honor*,” “*word of honor*,” may isang-salita. Hindi pabago-bagong isip.

At sa konteksto po natin ngayon dito sa Pilipinas, kahit *smuggling* pinagmumukhang mabuti. Ibinabalot ang masama sa magandang palara. *They make evil appear good. But no matter how good it appears it is still evil. And evil will destroy you. Evil will destroy us.* Kaya tayong mga Pilipino, turuan po natin ang ating mga kabataan (at ating

mga sarili) ng una, magpakumbaba, pangalawa, turuan natin ang mga bata na magkaroon ng isang salita, *word of honor, palabra de honor*. Ibalik po natin ang *palabra de honor* sa ating lipunan. Ibalik po natin ang *palabra de honor* upang ang mga bata ay hindi mauwi sa panlilinlang ng ibang tao, at ang ibang tao naman ay hindi mauwi sa panlilinlang ng kapwa nila.

Pangalawang bahagi, ang sagot ni Kristo.

Sa bahaging ito, tingnan natin ang sagot ni Kristo, “Kung gayon, ibigay ninyo sa Cesar ang sa Cesar, at sa Diyos ang sa Diyos.” Paborito itong gamitin ng marami na gustong ipahiwatig na dapat magkahiwalay ang Estado at Simbahan, o *separation of Church and State*. Pero sa totoo lang, wala namang problema si Kristo tungkol diyan. Ibigay mo sa pamahalaan kung ano ang nararapat para dito. Pero ang pagkakamali nila sa interpretasyon nila ay para bagang pinapantay nila ang tao sa Diyos. Na para bagang pwede kong ilagak ang mga bagay sa paraang, ang mga nasa kaliwa ko ay para sa Estado at ang nasa kanan ko ay mga bagay na patungkol sa Diyos. Na para bagang pwede ko silang paghiwalayin. Ang interpresyong ito ay bunga ng pag-iisip na magkapantay lang ang tao at Diyos. Hindi po. Dahil lahat ng ginagawa natin, mapa-politika, ekonomiya, pamilya, trabaho at kung ano-ano pa, ay nasa ilalim lahat ng kapangyarihan ng Diyos. Ang bawat aspeto ng buhay natin, ay sumasailalim sa Diyos. Ito ang tandaan natin, kailanman, hindi magpapantay ang tao at ang Diyos. At sa katotohanang iyan dapat tumuntong tayo. Respetuhin natin ang pamahalaan, pero hindi nangangahulugang isantabi natin ang Diyos.

Kung babalikan natin ang sinabi ni Hesus, “Kung gayon, ibigay ninyo sa Cesar ang sa Cesar, at sa Diyos ang sa Diyos,” sa palagay po ba ninyo nung kinuha sa balsa ang pera, *Christ was impressed by a denarius*? Isang barya? Hindi interesado ang Diyos sa mga sensilyo na nasa inyong balsa. Hindi interesado si Kristo sa mga papel sa inyong pitaka. Hindi interesado si Kristo sa narating ninyo sa buhay at mga diplomang nakasabit sa inyong bahay. Ibigay mo ang nararapat sa Estado, kasi hindi yun ang hinihingi ni Kristo mula sa iyo. Hindi siya hihingi ng mas mababa sa iyo.

Ikaw ang gusto ni Kristo. Dahil mahal ka niya. Mahal niya ako. Atsaganangito, upang manumbaliksa Kaniya, naglagay ng pamantayan si Kristo upang hindi tayo malinlang. Sundin natin ang utos Niya, mahal natin Siya, kilalanin natin Siya. Sapagkat hindi Niya tayo lilinlangin. Nais niyang maligtas tayo. Kaya sundin natin ang kalooban ng Diyos, at balang araw, magkita-kita tayo sa Kanyang kaharian.

THE PHARISEES

Luke 12: 1-7, October 20, 2017

By Br. Marvin R. Obedo, OP

“Weak people blame others, strong people blame themselves.” –Ken Blanchard



Br. Marvin R. Obedo, OP

Unacceptance has always been a human phenomenon. Perhaps, if we are to be asked about the violations we have committed here in the Dominican Studentate, the habitual sins that we do, the things or persons we are insecure of, then we would not be able to divulge all for we will spare something for ourselves.

The natural tendency of man is to hide his or her ugliness. Whenever we update our profile picture on Facebook, we see to it that it will be pleasing to the eyes of the people. If a person of high regard would visit our homes, the usual thing that we would do is to clean up, bring out the special utensils, or even renovate the entire structure of the house. If a criminal commits a crime, then the most likely thing to do is to evade. Now in this aspect what is the difference between us and the criminals? Maybe in the violation of the civil laws, yes. But I guess, we do not differ from them since all of us are guilty of hiding our ugliness, our insecurities, and our pride.

In our gospel for today, Jesus warned us of the yeast of the Pharisee which is hypocrisy. What is this hypocrisy that

Jesus was referring to? Perhaps, it is our self-sufficiency, self-righteousness, and selfishness that hides all the bad that we have in order to appear good. If this is so, then who among us is exempted? Rebels ask for peace talks but kill the army in the mountains; the clergyman who speaks of the love of God yet would not even lift a foot to go to a financially depressed area, the religious men who offer their lives in professing obedience, poverty, and chastity yet grumble to the decision of the superior, whine to the food being set before them, and indulge in promiscuity. Thus we ask the question in Hebrews 12:4, “Have you ever shed blood in fighting against sin?”

Certainly, on the question asked, we have not gone enough. We are all still struggling to be good, charitable, and holy. We are all “Pharisees” in our own terms but let us never deny the fact that we also fail, and that we have an ugliness we need to work on. We need not go far in blaming. Let us rather beat our chest once again and say, “God, have mercy on me, a sinner.”¹ God is loving us despite our limitations that even the hairs of our head are counted and that He was pleased in having created us as he said, “That is good!” We pray that we can offer our being “Pharisees” to God and that he may turn our sins into the whiteness of a snow². For thus all He wants is, “... not sacrifice but a contrite of heart.”

¹ Luke 18:13

² Isaiah 1:18

I POP UP

By: Francis M. Borre, OP



Br. Francis M. Borre, OP

It seems like I’m almost done gluing all the vowels of the alphabet to the letter P. Letter P is not a favorite letter of mine nor do I have any favorite letter in particular. However, these institutions where this letters represent (including UST and Holy Cross of Davao College of course) have shaped my mind in a way I see and understand the world, my life and my religion.

When ‘THE’ Fr. Roy Rodriguez, OP, asked me to write a feature article about my *infinitesimal* experience in the University of the Philippines Diliman, I wonder what significance yet I can write with this very tiny experience. To be honest, I am still in my honeymoon stage with my new environment. Whenever there’s a self-introduction in a class, my only rule for myself is not to conceal my identity. I am a Dominican Student-Brother. Then, why are you here? This is the very common follow-up question I received to which I am ready to answer. This is also what I want to share in this article.

I am taking MA Media Studies in Film. The program’s focus is the *study of film vis-à-vis the increasingly urgent*

issues of globalization and new media technologies as it provides Filipino scholars with a means of closely inspecting and evaluating film as a complex social, cultural and economic phenomenon.

We often hear the word ‘globalization’ and almost all the countries in the world are left with no choice but to join and to hold to its promises. In one documentary, it says that no single person invented the phenomenon of globalization. While it claims bright prospects in the future, it also gives birth to the massive problems in the world today. What is the role of media in this reality? How does it affect every individual and the Church?

One of its interesting products is the ‘Culture Industries’ coined by Theodor Adorno and Max Horkheimer of the Frankfurt School. The world today is ruled by the few elites. They invented a culture, priced and consumed by all. Media, in the first place is a business. These include film, one of the most important inventions of media cited by Vatican II’s Decree on the Media of Social Communications – Inter Mirifica. Frankfurt School considered these industries an oppression for the benefit of the elites. Their aim is for the people to consume more. With their capacity to own an expensive media industry

comes the power to greatly influence and play the world – including, in a very imperceptible way – the Church.

Film, according to one of the studies about media in the Philippines ranked second as the most influential medium in the country. While it is widely enjoyed by many in the society, the Church, I believed does not yet fully utilized its capacity. The film can be a powerful vehicle for preaching the Word of God.

Last July 2017, I had the chance to go to Camiguin Island in the Babuyan and teach Media Literacy to the Senior High School students of Lyceum of Camiguin. I was using the book authored by one of the professors of UP Diliman. The book teaches and encourages the use of media. However, it does not teaches the semiotics on how to properly read media text. Thus, students, with their innocence are very much vulnerable to these influences. This is also true to the rest of the humanity. If the Church does not in full force utilize this tool, the power will remain in the hands of the few aristocrats.

So, it is my hope that one day, film will become an instrument to share the shared thoughts of the Dominicans in the Philippines, if not in the whole world.

HOPE TO FULL COMMUNION: A REFLECTION ON THE ENCOUNTER WITH SSPX

(This is a requirement submitted to Fr. Romulo Rodriguez, OP, JCD on the Course, Christ’s Faithful)

By Br. Glen Mar T. Gamboa, OP



Br. Glen Mar T. Gamboa, OP

It has been eight years since the prelates of Society of Saint Pius X – Bishops Bernard Fellay, Bernard Tissier de Mallerais, Richard Williamson, and Alfonso de Galarreta, were freed from the censure of *latae sententiae* excommunication last 21 January 2009, signed by Cardinal Giovanni Re, the Prefect of the Congregation for Bishops. Though it elicited

conflicting arguments and caused confusion among the faithful, Pope Benedict XVI deemed it as a step towards the society’s full communion with the Church. But until now, the hope of restoring the bond of full communion between the Catholic Church and the society is still farfetched.

It has been established that the bishops consecrated by Msgr. Lefebvre and the ordination of priests officiated by the former were all sacramentally valid but illicit (cf. Letter and Spirit, 1996, pp. 796-797). This means that the consecration and ordination were effective, i.e., they are truly bishops and priests. Furthermore, all the sacraments



they administer are valid which confer grace. However, they cannot exercise their priestly ministry in the Church owing to lack of juridical status due to their defiance on doctrinal and ecclesiological teachings upheld by Church: the Second Vatican Council itself, on religious liberty, liturgical reforms, ecumenism, the papacy of John Paul II and some of his predecessors, which alienated them from the bond of communion and rendered them *de facto* schismatic (cf. c.751).

In effect, Catholics are canonically prohibited to receive the sacraments from the members of the society. But the Church has always considered the spiritual welfare of the

faithful by legislating laws that would benefit the good of the soul. On attending to Tridentine Latin Mass (TLM) and receiving communion, there was an exemption included in the prohibition decreed by the Pontifical Commission Ecclesia Dei which stipulates, “it is morally illicit for the faithful to participate in these Masses *unless they are physically and morally impeded from participating in Mass celebrated by a Catholic priest in good standing*. The fact of not being able to assist at the celebration of the so-called “Tridentine” Mass is not considered a sufficient motive for attending such Masses” (Prot. N. 117/95).

During the Holy Year of Mercy, Pope Francis granted the members of the society the faculty to hear confession. (cf. Letter of Pope Francis to Archbishop R. Fisichella, 1 September 2015). It means that the faithful who will confess to them will validly and licitly receive absolution of their sins. And this faculty has been extended beyond the Jubilee year unless revoked otherwise. (cf. Misericordia et Misera, 21 November 2016). The Pontifical Commission Ecclesia Dei issued new provisions for the celebration of the sacrament of matrimony by members of the faithful who are attached to the society (cf. Prot. N. 61/2010). This provision complements c. 1111§2, on the delegation to validly assist in marriage, to ensure not only the validity but also the liceity of the sacrament and allay any concerns on the part of the faithful.

Aside from these decrees, there are continuous dialogues and efforts of reaching out to seek reconciliation. Can the Church be apathetic to 3 bishops, 613 priests, 215 seminarians in 6 international seminaries, with an average of 15-20 priestly ordinations annually, 40 pre-seminarians, 117 brothers, 170 sisters, 79 Oblate Sisters, 2000 third order, 60 000 faithful following their activities, with 172 priories present in 62 countries including the Philippines? (SSPX Brochure). Can the Church abandon her faithful and be strayed? No, instead, like the Good Shepherd in the parable (Lk. 15:2-7), he would look for them and bring them back to the fold. On the other hand, it is good to know the efforts being done here by the society to restore the bond of communion.

It is plausible to say that the society is in good faith with the diocese of Cubao. In fact, the late Fr. Manuel Piñon, OP used to celebrate the TLM with them and teach other priests the *ars celebrandi* of the rite which the society continues until now.

Undeniably, their love for liturgy most especially the Eucharist—the summit and source of all worship and Christian life (c. 897), is at the center of their lives and what sustains them as a group. Their passion really touches the heart every time liturgy is mentioned. They share it not only through words but through the actual celebration of the sacrament. Imagine, every day the students in their parochial school commence the day with TLM.

Many priest come to them not only to learn the *ars celebrandi* of TLM rite but also for the sacrament of reconciliation. It was surprising to know that even some bishops go to them just for confession. Moreover, it is noteworthy to share that the Diocese closely collaborated with the society for the celebration of matrimony (September 2017) of the faithful who follow their activity. The delegation to solemnize the matrimony was even issued by the diocese from the office of the bishop (cf. c. 1112 §2). It was to remedy the defect in canonical form which would render the matrimony invalid if the officiating priest would be from the society (cf. c. 1109). But sadly, on the wedding day itself the delegation was not actualized.

The activities of the society have generated various opinions from the faithful, both positive and negative. It is because they convey adherence to the authority of the Pope, not a separate church apart from the Catholic Church, yet, most of the time they act otherwise. They are obstinate in their claim as the true practicing Catholics, “What Catholics once were, WE ARE. If we are wrong, then Catholics through the ages have been wrong. We are what you once were. We believe what you once believed. We worship as you once worshipped. If we are wrong now, you were wrong then. If you were right then, we are right now.” (Robert de Piante, from SSPX brochure). It does not only confuse the faithful but becomes a source of division. The Church is exhausting her efforts to reach out to them but the society sees it as a trap. Consequently, the hope to full communion reverted to square one when Pope Francis declared, last August 24, 2017 during the 68th National Liturgical Week, that the liturgical reforms of the Vatican II were irreversible. Until the society is obstinate on their doctrinal assumptions, the bond between them and the Church will remain at the brink of wreckage.

But the dialogue must be continued for the enlightenment of the mind and openness of the heart to discern whatever is true and good for sake of the faithful and that the hope of Jesus may be fulfilled in us, *ut omnes unum sint* (Jn. 17:21)



HUWAG KANG MATAKOT

FRIDAY OF THE TWENTY-EIGHTH WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Rom 4:1-8 Rponsorial Psalm: Ps 32:1b-2,5,11 Gospel: Luke 12:1-7

Santo Domingo Church, October 20, 2017

By Br. Carlo Rey C. Canto, OP (Deacon)



Rev. Carlo Rey C. Canto, OP

REFLECTION:

N a k a k a t a k o t !
Nakakatakot ang kumuha ng final exam na kahit nakapag-aral ka na e parang hindi mo pa rin alam ang isasagot. Nakakatakot... ang magsalita at mangaral sa harapan ng madaming tao bagamat hawak mo na nga ang kodigo't rosaryo. Nakakatakot... ang magtiwalang muli kapag ang nakaraan mo'y pinutakti nang

minsang dumaan sa kalye ng pag-ibig – mula sa pagsilip hanggang umibig, tuloy-tuloy sa kumunoy ng pag-iwan at pasakit.

Nakakatakot... ang panindigan ang pangakong binitawan kapag ang kasalukuyan ay taliwas na sa inaasahan. Nakakatakot... ang sumuong sa eskinitang tinakasan ng liwanag at waring kamay na lang ang iyong mga mata sa pagkapa ng daang hitik sa tinik at basurang malansa sa gilid. Nakakatakot... ang maglayag sa dagat na minsang payapa subalit sa gitna ay umuusbong ang mga dambuhalang daluyong na sinabayan pa ng malakas na hanging umuugong. Nakakatakot... ang bumulong sapagkat baka matiktikan ng tenga ng lupa at ito'y maisiwalat at tumambad sa madla. Nakakatakot!

Marami tayong kinatatakutan at sa samu't saring kadahilanan. Ang pagkatakot ay bunga ng pangangamba,

ng hindi pagkawari sa tama at mali, ng hindi pagkatiyak sa dulot ng hinaharap. Ang pagkatakot ay dulot ng trahedyang nakaraan at mga pangyayaring hindi inaasahan. Ang pagkatakot ay dala ng pagkawala sa hawak sa kung tawagin ay katiyakan. Ang pagkatakot ay tanikalang gumagapos sa ating mga kamay, panyong bumubusal sa ating mga bibig, at uric acid na nagpapatigas ng ating mga kasukasuan. Nang dahil sa takot, hindi tayo mapanatag at madali tayong matinag sa pagharap sa mga problemang sumasambulat, sa mga tinig na tumataliwas at sa mga hamong dala ng hinaharap.

Nakakatakot! Subalit... “huwag kang matakot,” wika ni Hesus. Huwag kang matakot tumayo mula sa pagkadapa. Huwag kang matakot ihakbang ang mga paang pinilayan ng mga suliraning nasilayan. Huwag kang matakot tumindig at manindigan sa tamang gawai't kabutihan. Huwag kang matakot magsalita at ipahayag ang katotohanang dala ng Mabuting Balita. Huwag kang matakot magmahal muli sapagkat sa huli pag-ibig pa rin ang maghahari. Huwag kang matakot sa panakot ng tao dahil ang Diyos ay nangakong di magbabago sa pagmamahal at paggabay Niya sa akin at sayo.

At kung sa salita ng kanta ipapabatid, ang mensaheng nais ihatid ay ito: “Kung wala ka nang maintindihan, kung wala ka nang makapitan. Kapit ka sa Akin, kumapit ka sa Akin. Hindi kita bibitawan!”

Huwag kang matakot, minamahal na kaibigan!

THE GREATEST COMMANDMENTS

30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Matthew 22:34-40, October 29, 2017

By Br. Valentinus Bayuhadi Ruseno, OP



Br. Valentinus Bayuhadi Ruseno, OP

“You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. (Mat 22:34)”

What is love? If we ask young couple who are in love, love means more time together and be connected online even up to late hours of the night. For young priests, love may mean patiently listening to confessions for

hours, and attending to sick calls. For a couple who have their newly-born baby, love is changing the baby's diapers even at middle of the night. Love is passion, dedication and sacrifice.

However, love is also one of the most abused and misused words in human history. In the name of love, a young man lures his girlfriend into premarital sex. For the love of their country and race, some men persecute another ethnic group and burn their villages. For the love of God and religion, some men blow themselves up and kill the innocent people, including children whom they consider the enemies of their God.

Surprisingly, the situation is not much different from the time of Jesus. For the love of the Law, the Pharisees keep and observe the Law even to its meticulous details in their daily lives. For the love of God and their country, the Zealots fight and kill the Romans and those who work for them. For the love of God, the Essenes separate themselves from the rest of the corrupted world and build their own exclusive communities. For the love of the Temple, the priestly clan work hard to offer sacrifices daily and is ready to die for the Temple.

When the Pharisees ask Jesus what is the greatest law, the law of laws, it is not simply about theological exercise, but it is to reveal Jesus' fundamental attitude towards God and the Jewish Law. Is He a Pharisee who loves the Law more than anything else, a Zealot who loves the country zealously, or someone else? Jesus answers, "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." Jesus quotes part of the Shema or the basic Jewish Creed that every devout Jew would recite every day (see Deu 6:4-5). Yet, Jesus does not stop there. He completes the first and the greatest law with another one, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." It also comes from the Old Testament (see Lev 19:18). To the delight of the Jews, Jesus' answer is basically an orthodox

one, but there is something novel as well.

The connection between first and second turns to be a watershed. For Jesus, true love for God has to be manifested in the love for others; and genuine love for others has to be oriented towards God. Thus, it is unthinkable for Jesus to order His disciples to kill for the love of God; or, Jesus will not be pleased if His followers are busy with performing rituals, but blind to the injustices that plague their communities.

Once I asked my brother who is studying Canon or Church Law, what is the highest law in the Canon Law? He immediately answered, the *suprema lex*, all laws are governed and ordained for the salvation of souls. The Code of Canon Law contains more than 2 thousand provisions governing various aspects of Church's life, and all these will be absurd if not for the love of God and neighbors. In the same manner, do our love for God, our prayers and celebration of sacraments bring us closer to our neighbors, to be more committed in doing justice, to be dedicated in our responsibilities as members of a family and a society? Do our love for others, our affection for our children and friends, our passion for ministry bring them closer to God?

REFLECTIONS ON RECOLLECTIONS

By Br. Mark Christopher C. Biscocho, OP



Br. Mark Christopher C. Biscocho, OP

"Seed when hoarded rots but when scattered fructifies." We belong to the Order of Preachers and it is our foremost duty to preach. It is contrary to the nature of a Dominican if he does not want to preach. The statement above by St. Dominic is my inspiration whenever I am sent to preach. Where? To the various Dominican schools where we, the student-brothers, give recollections.

Honestly, at first, I was hesitant to give recollections. What if I run out of words? What if my preaching is not appealing? What if they are not interested? These questions were the ones running in my mind once I got to learn that even the first year student-brothers would give recollection. Actually, giving recollections is not new to me. In the postulancy as well as in the novitiate, we were already giving recollections, that is why we already had a glimpse of it. But why am I afraid? It is because now in the studentate, I will give recollections alone. Before, we were in a group but now,



basically I will just be myself standing and talking in front of the students. It is like that I do not have someone to back me up. But then I realized that these fears were just in my mind. Yes, the hesitation was there at the start but after a few experiences one would suddenly get accustomed to it. *Masasanay ka rin*. I also realized that in these fears and doubts, I was too focused on myself to the point that I forgot that this is God's work and that I am just his instrument. He is the one who called me; that is why, I do not need to be afraid. I remember, in the Scriptures when Moses said "What shall I say to the Pharaoh?" and as Jeremiah said "I am too young." Actually, with God's grace nothing is impossible. One simply has to cooperate.

In giving recollections, initially one would consider that the facilitators are the ones who would teach the students and that they would learn from us; but as we gave recollections, we would gather stories, life-realities, stories of triumph, faith and courage which would serve as inspirations and resources for preaching. Thus, we also learn from them. They also have something to share.

I feel the spirit of itinerancy whenever I travel far to give recollections. It reminds me of how St. Dominic and his companions travelled to the different places to preach the Gospel. Honestly, I can say that giving recollections is exhausting; It is a whole day activity. As I facilitate the activities, speak, and listen to their stories, I will be with them. It is tiring but it is fulfilling and it is worth it. I know that I have shared something and they appreciate it. I can feel this through their smiles and their thank-you messages as the recollection ends.



This is just the start. I pray that as I continue to give recollections in the future, I may gain and treasure more experiences. As the Lord's instrument, I pray that I may be able to preach his Word and make his presence felt to everyone.



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



Our Lady of Manaog
Water Color, 1 October 2017
Br. Mark Philip Goroza, OP
Solemnly Professed Student Brother

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