



PHILDOM

NOVEMBER
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

3 Priests, 3 Deacons!



DECEMBER BIRTHDAY CELEBRATORS

- 1 Br. Noel Kristoffer Castor, OP
- 4 Br. Benjamin San Juan, OP
- 6 Br. Wilhelm Boñon, OP
- 12 Br. Rambang Ngawan, OP
- 18 Br. Agus Hermawan, OP
- 20 Br. Bienvenido Trinilla Jr., OP
- Br. Rudolf Steven Seño, OP
- Br. Ian Mark Gupiteo, OP
- 22 Br. Honorato Castigador, OP
- 23 Br. Senen Ecleo, OP
- 24 Br. Giuseppe Pietro Arsciwals, OP
- 25 Br. Johanes Robini Marianto, OP
- 26 Br. Stephen Redillas, OP
- 28 Br. Rolando Granada, OP
- 29 Br. Eugene Dominic Aboy, OP
- 31 Br. Ermito de Sagon, OP

Prior Provincial's December Calendar

- 1 - Ordinations of Deacons and Presbyters, Sto. Domingo Church, QC
- 2 - Dominican Month for Peace, Parish of San Lorenzo Ruiz and Companion Martyrs
- 3 - Installation of Fr. Roger C. Quirao as Parish Priest of the Parish of San Lorenzo Ruiz and Companion Martyrs
- 4 - Provincial Council Meeting, Bahay Dominiko
- 5 - Thanksgiving Mass, Fr. Carlo Rey Canto OP - Narvacan, Ilocos Sur
- 6 - Thanksgiving Mass of Sr. Conception Canasa OP (Daughters of St. Dominic), St. Francis Parish, Ortigas
- 7 - Inauguration of University of Santo Tomas - Legazpi
- 8 - Come Home @46, Anniversary of DPP and Greeting to the Provincial
- 10 - Funeral Mass, +Gamaliel Palma, Arlington Memorial Chapels, QC
- 11 - 3:00 PM, UST BOT Meeting
- 6:30 PM, Christmas Party Cubao Diocese
- 12 - 10:00 AM, Thanksgiving Mass, Fr. Christopher Garinganao, OP - UST Manila
- 3:00 PM, Formation Council Meeting, Bahay Dominiko
- 13 - Visit to Malabon for Sibug Family
- Inauguration of Robotics Academy, Colegio de San Juan de Letran-Calamba
- 15 - Christmas Solidarity with the families of 30 EJK Victims
- 17 - Simbang Gabi, Siena College, QC
- 22 - AM, Bahay Dominiko Christmas Party with employees
- PM, Birthday Celebration for Fr. Honorato Castigador, OP
- 26 Dec-Jan 2, 2018 - Vacation - Davao City

FORTHCOMING EVENTS December 2017

- 1- Diaconal ordination
- Presbyteral ordination
- 3- Installation of Br. Roger Quirao, OP, as parish priest of San Lorenzo Ruiz and Companion Martyrs Parish
- OP Juniors Advent Recollection
- 4- 407th Provincial Council Meeting
- 5- Postulants' UST Entrance Test (USTET)

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BROTHERS ON FOREIGN TRIP (By reason of Office)

- ➔ 4-11 Dec - *Indonesia* - Br. Jeremy Realubit, OP, and Br. Art Vincent Pangan, OP - To facilitate linkages of Colegio de San Juan de Letran-Calamba with Gracia Fei Siang School and Ikado Technical Institute.
- ➔ 6-10 Dec - *Taiwan* - Br. Giuseppe Pietro Arsciwals, OP, Br. Dennis Maquiraya, OP, Br. Jose Martin Sibug, OP, Br. Oscar Novem Enjaynes, OP, Br. Napoleon Encarnacion, OP, and Br. Christopher Jeffrey Aytona, OP - Invitation to Inggo 1587 for a Jubilee concert on the 60th anniversary celebration of the Dominican International School (DIS) in Taipei.

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RETREAT OF THE BROTHERS 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)

“BEING READY TO DIE FOR THE FAITH”

By Br. Michael John A. Pinuela, OP

On the first Sunday of Advent, December 3, 2017, Fr. Roger Quirao, OP was installed as the new parish priest of St. Lorenzo Ruiz and Companion Martyrs Parish Church at Dagat-dagatan, Navotas City. The installation rite was integrated in the 5:30 PM Mass of the Parish. It was presided by Most Rev. Pablo Virgilio David, DD, Archbishop of the Diocese of Caloocan and concelebrated by Fr. Napoleon Sipalay Jr., OP, Prior Provincial of the Dominican Province of the Philippines, and the other Dominican Fathers and priests from the diocese.



In his homily, Bishop David focused on the issue of justice and peace, particularly on the value of human life and its dignity. He started by giving his words of gratitude to the warm presence of the Dominicans in the area. He said that it greatly helped the Church in her mission of evangelization. He shared a recent news in Navotas City about a group of men having a drink of liquor who were shot by a policemen. He said that a neighbour of one of the victims witnessed the killing of a man who was chased until his house, despite his plea for mercy. According to some



witnesses, it was in the first place an act of prohibition that was turned into merciless execution. Then the Bishop asked Fr. Roger: “Are you ready to die?” He urged him to be a courageous and brave shepherd of the Church from the ravenous wolves that devour souls and lead them to eternal damnation: to stand and defend God’s teaching amidst persecution. Furthermore, he reflected about the case of St. Peter when he was asked by Jesus three times, “Do you love me?” He asked the clerics, brothers and sisters in the Church to constantly purify their intentions and visions to bring-out the genuine spirit of mission. He concluded by giving his assurance of support to the parish in terms of evangelization.

After the post-communion prayer, Fr. Roger gave his first pastoral speech as the new parish priest of San Lorenzo Ruiz and Companion Martyrs Parish. He shared his experiences back in 1996 when he had his exposure in the said parish. He remembered the times when the parish was not yet stable and well-structured. During floods, the water really would enter in the area of the parish. He said that he would do his obligations faithfully with the cooperation of the Basic Ecclesiastical Communities (BEC), together with the laity. The Mass ended at 7 PM and was followed by a simple dinner. The BEC also prepared a program held in the parochial school. It was indeed a day of valor! The event reminded us of our true mission: to preach the Gospel in the peripheries, to withstand difficulties and to be strong in safeguarding our faith.



SAINTS LOOK-ALIKE: ST. VINCENT FERRER PARISH HALLOWEEN CELEBRATION

By Br. Cyr Stephen A. Magbanua, OP

Cute alert! Adorable saints visited the parish of St. Vincent Ferrer, Camiguin Islands Norte last November 5, 2017. Despite the heavy downpour of rain, children from ages 6 – 12 were dressed up in costumes matching their favourite saints to participate in the parish program: Saints look-alike. This parish activity aimed to rectify the prevalent practice of a scary Halloween celebration. Instead of dark and horrifying costumes, children with



their parents searched for the heroic lives of the saints whom they wish to emulate and, of course, to copy their distinctive looks. In this way, they might observe the true spirit of a Halloween celebration.


The program was officially opened by Br. Cyr Stephen Magbanua, OP, parish priest. He explained to the faithful that Halloween is not about ghosts, monsters and zombies but about our glorious brothers and sisters who were faithful to God and are now united with Him in heaven. Then, each participant introduced himself and his look-alike saint. Following this was Saints Quiz; after every question, Fr. Cyr delivered an interesting and fun fact about the saints. At the closing of the activity, the participants were given treats, snacks and recipe for sainthood – the Ten Commandments and Eight Beatitudes written at each side of a bookmark.



ITINERANCY

(as a Priority of the Province)

APPOINTMENT

 Br. Roger Quirao, OP, is appointed Parish Priest of San Lorenzo Ruiz and Companion Martyrs (Dagatdagatan, Navotas) by the Most Rev. Pablo Virgilio

David, DD, Bishop of Kalookan, on November 21, 2017 and installed on December 3, 2017.

DEEPER FRATERNAL INTEGRATION

(as a Priority of the Province)

FEATURED BATCH (LONE SURVIVOR)



First Name: **ROBERTO**
Middle Name: **DE GUZMAN**
Surname: **REYES**
Nickname: "Fr. Robie"
Birthday: 6 July 1956
Entrance to the Novitiate:
 14 May 1978
Simple Profession: 14 May 1979
Solemn Profession: 14 May 1984
Ordination: 30 Aug 1985
DPP ID No.: 197901

Current Assignment: **Priory of Our Lady of the Rosary (since Nov 2016)**

Previous Assignments: Convent of Raymond of Peñafort (Jun 2007-Nov 2016); Sto. Domingo Convent (May 2007-Jun 2007); Bahay Dominiko (Feb 2003-May 2007); Western Dominican Province of USA (Sep 1999-Jan 2003); Province of Canada (Sep 1995-Sep 1999); Sto. Domingo Convent (Apr 1990-Sep 1995); Convent of the Most Holy Rosary, Iloilo (Jul 1988-Apr 1990); Sto. Domingo Convent (May 1979-Jul 1988)

FEAST OF ST. ALBERT THE GREAT

By Br. Siddharta Chiong, OP

On November 15, the Priory of St. Albert the Great welcomed the brothers from the different convents to celebrate its feast day. Around 4 pm, the Coristas in their red jerseys headed for the Letran gym to face the best that St. Albert could give in a basketball game. It was a match between the Coristas (red team) against the rest of the world (in decolor jerseys). In the end, the decolor team-



with its varsity players-won the game with a score of 71 against 58.

In the evening, the community gathered in St. Albert gym to enjoy the dinner. A video was shown presenting Letran's new management course to help the future administrators of the Province. "This is Letran's gift to the Province." After that, the community headed to Papa Ben's poolside cottage to enjoy the rest of the night with some drinks to enjoy each other's company. There was lively singing from the Joyful Friars and the members of Inngo. Some enjoyed the night swimming while others simply savored the spirits of camaraderie in a drinking spree. The Coristas spent the night in St. Albert's.

The next day, the Holy Mass was celebrated by Fr. Norman Quilaquil, OP, before heading back to Sto. Domingo Convent.

QUALITY FORMATION (as a Priority of the Province)

3 NEW DEACONS, 3 NEW PRIESTS!

The Dominican Province of the Philippines is blessed to have 3 new deacons and 3 new priests.

Last 1 December 2017, Archbishop Socrates Villegas from the Archdiocese of Lingayen-Dagupan, ordained 3 new deacons: Rev. Hilario V. Sicat Jr., OP, Rev. Jayson R. Gonzales, OP, and Rev. Don Dominique Marco Antonio S. Go, OP.



Photo by Davy Chioa, OP



davyop 2017

It was followed by a priestly ordination for Rev. Stephen Mari La Ja, OP, Rev. Christopher P. Garinganao, OP, and Rev. Carlo Rey C. Canto, OP.

Fr. Carlo held his Thanksgiving Mass at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish Church, Brgy. Santa Lucia, Narvacan, Ilocos Sur on 5 December 2017.

Fr. Chris had his Thanksgiving Mass at the Santisimo Rosario Parish Church, University of Santo Tomas, Manila last 12 December 2017.

Fr. Stephen will hold his Thanksgiving Mass in Myanmar on 20 January 2017.

We thank God for his continuous blessings!

THANKSGIVING MASS OF FR. CHRISTOPHER P. GARINGANA, OP

By Br. Valentinus Bayuhadi Ruseno, OP

"I am weak, but God preserved me. Only when we recognize how weak we are, that is the time we see how God works in our lives," said Rev. Fr. Christopher P. Garinganao, OP in his heart-warming homily. At the feast of Our Lady of Gaudalupe, Fr. Chris, how he was fondly called, likened his life to the *tilma* of St. Juan Diego. A *tilma* was a low-quality garment that would not last long, yet Juan Diego's *tilma* was preserved from corruption because it was miraculously chosen to bear the image of the Blessed Virgin Mary. From 1531 to this day, the *tilma* has continued to be the sign of God's power and love that work and manifest in our ordinary and fragile lives.



In his Thanksgiving Mass held at the Santisimo Rosario Chapel in the University of Santo Tomas, Manila, Fr. Chris thanked many people who have become signs of God's love in his life and vocation. A special message was addressed to his mother whom he entrusted to her his *maniturgium*, small piece of cloth that was used to clean the hands of the newly ordained priest, just after he had been anointed by sacred Chrism. Fr. Chris then explained that handing over the *maniturgium* to a priest's mother during the Thanksgiving Mass has been centuries-old tradition in the Church. A legend goes that at the gate of heaven, a mother is just to simply present this small cloth

to St. Peter, and such will be an undeniable evidence that she has offered her son to the Lord as His priest, and it shall be her passport to heaven!

The Mass started at 10 AM and was attended by Fr. Chris' family members, relatives, friends and benefactors. Concelebrating with him were the two newly ordained priests, Fr. Carlo Rey Canto, OP, and Fr. Stephen Mari La Ja, OP, and the Dominican priests from different communities headed by Fr. Napoleon Sipalay, Jr., OP, the Provincial.

After the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, the traditional practice of kissing of newly ordained priest's hands was observed. The faithful lined up as they revered the hands that would bless them, pour the water of baptism, lift the sacred Eucharistic species at the consecration, make sign of the cross during the absolution, and anoint them with the holy oil. Afterwards, a simple yet warm reception was held at the UST Central Seminary Gymnasium. Towards the end of the reception, "Putong" ceremony was performed by the Marinduqueños to honor and bless the newly ordained priests and deacons. "Putong" itself is a traditional dance and song intended to welcome honored guests peculiar to the province of Marinduque where Fr. Chris has his roots. December 12, 2017 surely will be an unforgettable day for Fr. Chris and his family.

PROMOTING DOMINICAN VOCATIONS TO THE YOUTH

By Br. Andrei Bautista, OP

The Provincial Promoter for Vocations, Br. Melencio Garcia, OP, together with the Dominican Student-Brothers from the *Pagtugon sa Tawag* (PST) apostolic group, participated in two separate Vocation awareness jamborees in an effort to actively promote the Dominican vocations to the youth, and most especially, to the aspiring men who are desiring to enter the religious life.

The first vocation awareness jamboree that the brothers attended was at the 4th Regional Vocation Festival of the Ecclesiastical Province of Manila last November 4, 2017, in Alonte Sports Arena, Biñan City, Laguna. The event was attended by more than 3,000 young men and women coming from the Archdiocese of Manila and its suffragan dioceses. In this gathering wherein different



religious congregations were also invited, several activities took place. The highlight of which was the personal encounter of the different religious with the participants. Opportunely, the Dominican brothers were given the chance to share and discuss to these various youth groups our Order's mission, charism and ministry. They were encouraged to answer the call of vocation and enter the Dominican religious life.

The second vocation awareness jamboree that the Dominican vocations team attended was at the Rogationist College, Silang, Cavite for the 10th Diocese of Imus Vocation Festival with the theme "Ang Kuwento ng ating Bokasyon: I love bokasyon, i-like, i-follow, i-share" last November 18, 2017. In this whole day event, the Dominican Brothers were blessed to set-up a 'Dominican vocation booth' as more than 2,500 young participants were able to visit it and have encounter with the Dominican brothers to learn more about the Order's identity.

For the Dominican vocation promotions team, participating in these two vocation awareness gatherings is part of their proactive effort to inspire men coming not only from our own respective parishes and institutions of learning to enter the Dominican life, but also with the local hierarchy that collectively and mutually promotes vocations for the Order and for the Church.

✿ GENERAL NEWS ✿

PAMASKONG ANGHEL – PASKUHAN SA SAMBAYANANG LETRAN

Lorenzo Isla, Community Extension Service Director, Letran Calamba

Pamaskong Anghel is the annual Christmas outreach project of the Letran Calamba community. It is a tradition of the Colegio to bring good news to those who are less fortunate and follow what the angels did to the shepherds in the gospels when Jesus was born. Each member of the Letran Calamba community contributes in order to come up with humble gifts for selected sectors from our partner communities.





Pamaskong Anghel - Paskuhan sa Sambayanang Letran was launched this year on November 17 at the Delas Casas Lobby of Letran Calamba. It began with a Holy Mass at 4:30 PM presided by the Beloved Rector and President of our dear Colegio, Fr. Arthur B. Dingel, OP. The Mass was concelebrated by the Dominican brethren of Saint Albert the Great Convent: Fr. Art Vincent M. Pangan, OP, Secretary General, who read the Gospel, Fr. Norman I. Quilaquil, OP, OIC-Vice President for Religious Education, Mission and Identity, who served as the homilist, Fr. Giuseppe Pietro V. Arsciwals, OP, the Prior of the Convent and OIC-Vice President for Finance, Fr. Jeremy E. Realubit, OP, Vice President for External Affairs, and Fr. Dennis E. Maquiraya, OP, Asst. Vice President for Finance.

The program immediately followed after the Holy Mass. The celebration was divided into three (3) parts: a) Sectoral Christmas Presentation, b) Launching of Pamaskong Anghel, and c) Institutional Christmas Tree Lighting.

There were nine (9) Christmas presentations from various divisions of Letran Calamba that helped create a festive atmosphere: a) Academics Division, b) Administration Division, c) External Affairs Division, d) Finance Division, Letran Calamba Parents and Teachers Association, e) Letran Calamba Student Government, f) Religious Education, Mission and Identity Division, g) Research and Development Division, and h) the Priests of Saint Albert the Great Convent. To the joy and great cheers of the Letranite community, the Father Rector made a short solo single with the other Fathers as his back-up singers.



After the presentation, a video presentation was played which announced that the Pamaskong Anghel had a collection of Php 41,600.00 that would be used to buy Christmas gifts for the beneficiaries in Barangay Masili, City of Calamba, Barangay Saray, Pakil, Laguna, and Barangay Mapagong, Pagbilao, Quezon. The partner of Letran Calamba for the Pamaskong Anghel Project, Jollibee Philippines, represented by Ms. Ayo Robles of the Jollibee Calamba Crossing was called to deliver a short message during the program. It was followed by the intermission number of two mascots, Jollibee and King Arthur, the official mascot of Letran Calamba. Symbolic gift giving was conducted headed by the Rector and President, and representatives of various sectors.

The celebration culminated at 7:30 in the evening with the most awaited lighting of the institutional Christmas tree. It was facilitated by the Rector and President together with Jollibee and King Arthur.

WHEN LETRAN CALAMBA BAGS THE GOLD FOR THE PHILIPPINES

By Br. Art Vincent M. Pangan, OP

Eleven Letran Calamba grade schoolers and junior high school students went to Singapore on 9-12 November 2017 to join the Philippine Robotics Team in the World Robotic Games (WRG). The Philippine Robotics Team was composed for that event by different schools from the country, like the International School of Manila, Cavite Science High School, Xavier School, and De La Salle Santiago Zobel. It was spearheaded by Data Science and Technology Corporation. The WRG was held in Safra Punggol, an exclusive club center in a sprawling eastern suburb of Singapore. The competition was joined in by Paraguay, Malaysia, Indonesia, Taiwan, Thailand, China, Singapore and the Philippines. It was also attended by robot enthusiasts from around the world.

The eleven young knights, accompanied by their parents and two coaches, competed in the different categories of the two-day WRG: the **Line Tracing**





Robotics where robots run while tracing lines on the floor and the **Sumobot** where robots push each other out of the ring. One of the most awaited parts of WRO was the **Innovative Competition** where students present their inventions which, in turn, are judged according to creativity and usefulness. Letran Calamba presented two inventions. The first one is a surveillance robot which works like a roving guard that can go around and monitor an entire building. It can even climb stairs. The second invention presented is a naval patrol robot. Its base is a floater (salva vida) and has powerful engines that can be improved to withstand the force of waves. It can go on its own and it can also be controlled while it monitors the seas. Its purpose is to patrol the maritime territories of the Philippines against pirates and against intrusive activities by foreign powers. It is designed to alert the Philippine Navy if it detects a vessel that is not in the government registry. The judges lauded the innovative inventions of Letran Calamba students for creativity and usefulness. These inventions are unique as most of the contestants used the drone technology as their base. Because they are not drone-based, the inventions of our knights are less conspicuous while they effectively carry out their



functions. The Letranites were awarded the gold medal for the innovative competition, especially for the naval patrol robot, while earning four bronze medals for outstanding performance in the other categories. The Letranite's Singapore experience was concluded with a Thanksgiving Mass in the D'Hotel, Pasir Ris.

PACUCOA HONORED LETRAN CALAMBA

By Br. Art Vincent M. Pangan, OP

Letran Calamba has received the following awards from the Philippine Association of Colleges and Universities Commission on Accreditation, Inc. (PACUCOA) on December 1, 2017 at Conrad Manila, Pasay City:



1. Special Citation for the Colegio's ISO 9001:2015;
2. College with the second highest number of accredited programs in the Philippines;
3. 2nd prize in the research contest;
4. 2nd prize in the case study contest; and
5. 1st prize in the poster-making contest.

The event was attended by Br. Arthur B. Dingel, OP, Rector and President, Br. Jeremy E. Realubit, OP, Vice President for External Affairs, Dr. Corazon Rebong, Dean of the School of Engineering, and Dr. Simplicio Alba, Principal of Senior High School.

Arriba Letran!



LETRAN CALAMBA'S NEW COLLEGE PROGRAMS

By Br. Art Vincent M. Pangan, OP

In line with Letran Calamba's vision of to be a university by 2020, the Colegio, after a diligent study, has designed possible programs to offer and submitted them for CHED review. On 29 November 2017, Letran Calamba has received the CHED approval, through the later's Regional Quality Assessment Team, to offer BS Civil Engineering, BS Interior Design, BS Architecture, and BS Entrepreneurship.

ADONAI 2017: TO PRAISE, TO BLESS AND TO PREACH JESUS

Dominican Network Youth Group (DYG) celebrated Adonai 2017 with the theme "A Community Bound by Love (Col. 3:14)" last November 11-12, 2017. The event was conducted overnight from 4:00 pm to 6:00 am the following morning at Siena College, Quezon City. The event featured guests namely, Fr. Napoleon Sipalay, O.P., the Prior Provincial of the Dominican Province Philippines, who presided over the Mass, and Rev. Fr. Ramon Jade Licuanan, Youth Director of the Archdiocese of Manila, the first speaker. Also invited were the Joyful Friars, Ms. Jess Infante, a DYG Alumna, and Bro. Andrei Bautista O.P. who were the hosts for the talk show. Guests for the talk show included Rev. Fr. Jerome Secillano, Dr. Gia Sison, Dr. Raymond John Naguit, Dr. Nikko Aldrich Castillo and Ms. Maria Celina Castro.



Adonai, derived from the Hebrew word which means "Lord" or "God", is an overnight Eucharistic Vigil designed to instill to the Youth the Holy Eucharist and the Pascal Mysteries of Jesus Christ. It aims to inspire the hearts of the young to be a messenger of God, to praise, to bless, and to preach Jesus Christ in all His Glory and Love.

With almost a thousand participants from Dominican schools, Siena Hall was packed. Twenty-five Dominican schools from all over Metro Manila and the neighboring provinces participated in the said event. Dominican School of Santa Rita, Pampanga, St James Academy, Plaridel, Bulacan, and the host school, Siena College, Quezon City had the highest number of delegates.

At 4 pm, the participants were oriented about the House Rules for the entirety of the event to ensure the safety and the well-being of everyone and that of the program as well. Then, the program officially started with the recitation of the Holy Rosary followed by a Mass at 5 pm.

The program continued with talks, the launch of DOMNET Can, talkshow, and the announcement of TV-Upgraded Winners for the year. With the participants energy on high, the Joyful Friars and then the Core Team danced heartily while praising God's name. The program continued with the praise and worship led by The Feast Manila, followed by the Meditation by the Music Movement (MuMo) headed by Mr. Kabaitan Bautista to calm the atmosphere and to get ready for a few hours of rest.

"Each year, I see Adonai getting more successful." said Aila Mariano, Luzon Coordinator and Project Head for Adonai 2017. "Aside from the increase in number of participants each year, for me it is successful in a way that I see the participants enjoy being in communion with their fellow Dominican youth, I see them grow in faith by learning it, and most importantly, I see them ground themselves in the Lord deeper."

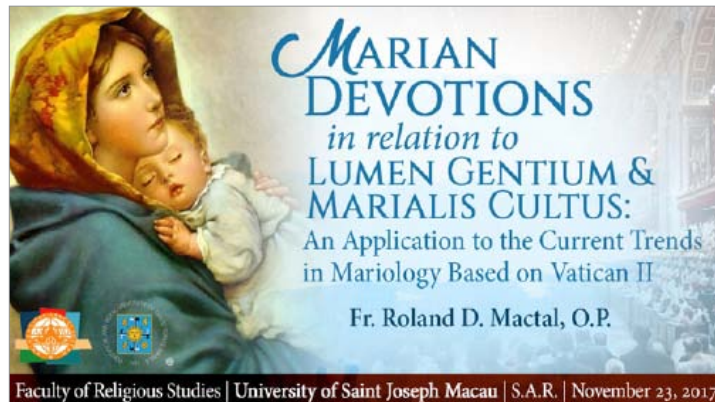
She was proud that DYG was able to pass on the teachings of Saint Dominic to almost a thousand Youth. She would also like to extend gratitude to all those who participated in the event both students and teachers of the Dominican Schools in Luzon.

FR. MACTAL CONDUCTS A PUBLIC LECTURE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH, MACAU, CHINA

By Br. Mervin G. Lomague, OP

MACAU, CHINA—Fr. Roland Mactal, OP, Prior of Santo Domingo Convent and an Associate Professor at the Faculty of Sacred Theology, University of Santo Tomas, delivered a public lecture entitled "Marian Devotions in relation to Lumen Gentium and Marialis Cultus: An Application to the Current Trends in Mariology Based on Vatican II." The said academic lecture was delivered before the faculty, visiting professors and students of University of Saint Joseph (USJ) last November 23, 2017.

During his lecture, Fr. Mactal traced the development of Mariology following Vatican II with a comprehensive



insights as to how the Council Fathers came up with a schema that drew up the parameters of Marian Theology. Fr. Mactal emphasized that Mary is more than a historical subject but also a theological person, spiritual subject, model and archetype. Concrete examples of these parameters are applied to the Marian devotions propagated by the Dominicans particularly: the devotion to Our Lady of the Rosary *La Naval de Manila* and *de Manaog*. Fr. Mactal's lecture concluded with a timely reflection on the message of Fatima. "There are four essential things we can bring as the Jubilee of the Apparitions in Fatima ends: prayer, offering, conversion and mission," said Fr. Mactal. Speaking of the Gift of Mission entrusted to Marian devotees, he said: "We must give it as a gift, especially to the youth of today. We should be *Missionaries of Hope*, bringing Good News to the present times as *Preachers of Hope*."

Fr. Mactal was invited to conduct this public lecture during his stay as visiting professor at USJ, Macau. According to its website, USJ "sets a stage for its international staff and multi-national student-body." But more than its known contribution to the field of higher education in Macau, USJ represents "Catholic education at its highest, university level" with its "tradition of Catholic humanistic education." Fr. Mactal taught a 3-credit module on Mariology in the said university from November 6 to 24, 2017.

During his visit at Macau, Fr. Mactal stayed with the Dominican friars in the Priory of St. Dominic of the Province of the Holy Rosary.

DOMINICAN YOUTH CALLED TO 'MAKE NOISE' IN ADONAI FEST

OVER 900 youth from Dominican schools were challenged to be vigilant and to speak out on extrajudicial killings and mental health issues during the Adonai 2017 festival last Nov. 11 at Siena College in Quezon City.

Fr. Jerome Secillano, executive secretary of the Permanent Committee on Public Affairs of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, called on young people to "make noise" against the wanton disregard of human life in the government's drug war.

"Kayo ay mag-ingay din sa ating lipunan. Ngunit `yung ingay na may basehan at alam natin `yung mga isyu na pinupuntuhan natin. Mayroon kayong malalim na kaalaman sa lipunan. Isiwalat ninyo `yan," Secillano said.

Secillano reminded the attendees to avoid using illegal drugs to escape problems, and instead seek refuge in the Church.

Fr. Jade Licuanan, youth director of the Archdiocese of Manila, encouraged the youth to be in communion with one another especially during the height of social issues.

"Although it is important that we have individual witnessing, hinihiling na ng kalagayan ng bansa; we need to come together, discern together for us to create a stronger impact in the society," Licuanan said.

Fr. Napoleon Sipalay Jr., OP, Prior Provincial of the Dominican Province of the Philippines, said Dominicans must first be open and vigilant with God's presence to keep themselves inspired.

"Are we also alert? Are we vigilant? As Dominicans, that is always expected of us. Kung bukas ka lagi sa inspiration ng Diyos, you are always inspired to tell about Him [and] the good things awaiting our lives," he said.

Licuanan reminded young people to give back to others what they have received from God.

"We have to exhale goodness, kindness, generosity and forgiveness. Hindi pwedeng inhale lang ng inhale ng formation programs at sacraments. One way to exhale in our Christian life is to be in mission, to be in service of others," he said.



Youth on mental health

Thomsonian Dr. Gia Sison, national adviser of Youth for Mental Health, lauded the youth's support for the Mental Health Bill.

"Be of support. You have to watch each others' back[s]. Let's reduce stigma. Ang lakas ng boses niyo. Kung hindi sa inyo, hindi aabot sa third reading ang Mental Health Bill. Be there for each other. Ang dami na kasing hatred sa mundo. Let's try uplifting others," Sison said.

UST won in the college division of TV Upgraded, a video advocacy contest of the Dominican Network Youth Group, while the Aquinas School San Juan won in the high school division.

Celebrating the theme "A Community bound by Love," Adonai 2017 was attended by Dominican schools from Bulacan, Tarlac, Pampanga, Pangasinan, Quezon Province and Metro Manila. **L. O. Garcia**

Source: <http://varsitarian.net/witness/20171113/dominican-youth-called-to-make-noise-in-adonai-fest>

DOMINICAN MONTH OF PEACE

By Dr. Belen L. Tangco, OP

The Dominican Month of Peace was launched at the San Lorenzo Ruiz and Companion Martyrs Parish Church, Dagat-dagatan, Navotas, Metro Manila last December 2, 2017.



At 3:00 p.m, Rev. Fr. Butch Bombase (Asia-Pacific Coordinator for Justice & Peace) presided over the Eucharistic celebration, with Concelebrants Prior Provincial V. Rev. Fr. Napoleon Sipalay Jr. (Homilist); Rev. Fr. Victor Calvo (DPP Coordinator for JP), Rev. Fr. Delfo Canceran, Rev. Fr. Pablo Tiong (UST Vice-Rector for Religious Affairs), Rev. Fr. Bienvenido Trinilla Jr. (Former JP Coordinator), and Rev. Fr. Roger Quirao (Superior of the House of San Lorenzo Ruiz and Companion Martyrs).

The Prior Provincial gave an edifying homily that explained the rationale of the Month of Peace as initiated by the Master of the Order, and the International Coordinators of Justice and Peace.

Serving as the Choir in the Mass were the Dominican Laity and the Dominican Sisters of various Congregations.

Towards the end of the Mass, the Consul of the Embassy of Colombia gave his words of thanks on behalf of the Embassy and Colombian victims of injustices and conflicts, for the gesture of solidarity that the Dominican Family had extended and would intend to render as support for the future endeavors.

After the anticipated First Sunday of Advent Mass, there were story-tellings of grief and miseries by the families-victims of Extra-Judicial Killings whose siblings, and



parents disappeared and found dead, mercilessly shot and were subjects of “mistaken identity.” Dr. Mark Abenir of the UST Simbahayan, moderated the sharings. There were responses of commiseration and support expressed by the Prior Provincial and other members of the Dominican Family.

With lighted candles, a Prayer for Peace led by Sr. Maria Luz Mision, (JP Asia-Pacific Coordinator) was made by all while forming a circle formed at the adjacent courtyard. The Prior Provincial gave the Final blessing followed by an agape.

The families joyfully received the announcement that on December 15, 2017, a Christmas party would be held in the said Parish for 30-40 families. It was truly a significant event for everyone!

FIRST AND PERPETUAL PROFESSIONS

By Sr. Ma. Arlene Nacionales, OP



Last November 25, 2017, the Congregation of the Dominican Sisters of the Most Holy Rosary of the Philippines gratefully and joyfully celebrated the gift of religious vocation with the community and families of the sisters.



At 8:30 in the morning, attended by the Sisters, their families, religious and friends, Sr. Ma. Kristine Rose Escaño, OP, Sr. Ma. Lyn Brecia, OP, and Sr. Ma. Dulce Corazon Bacosa, OP, professed perpetually the Evangelical Counsels in the Eucharistic Celebration presided by Most. Rev. Angel N. Lagdameo, DD, Archbishop of Jaro.

At 2:00 in the afternoon, five Sisters professed their Vows for the first time in the Holy Eucharistic Celebration presided by Rev. Fr. Eugene Cabillon, OP. They were Sr. Ma. Sofia Ginturo, OP, Sr. Mary Jane Pacaco, OP, Sr. Ma. Ariane Salinas, OP, Sr. Ma. Floramae Alfeche, OP.

We continue to pray for the increase of vocations to the Dominican Order.

LAY DOMINICANS OF REGION V GATHER FOR ANNUAL ASSEMBLY, PRE-ADVENT RECOLLECTION AND HOLD ADMISSION AND PROFESSION RITES

By Ms. Trixie Mae E. Pineda, OP

On November 25, 2017, lay Dominicans of Region V gathered in the Sto. Nino de Bugasong Parish Multipurpose hall at Bugasong, Antique for the regional assembly and pre-advent recollection, with a theme "Dominican Laity and Preaching Mission in Communion with the Universal Church." This is an annual activity organized by the regional council officers in coordination with the different chapters within the region.



However, this year's gathering was extra special because of the presence of lay Dominicans from Cebu and Romblon, who joined the activity for the first time, together with members from Panay. In total, 127 members participated in the event including delegates from Angelicum (Iloilo), Balasan (Iloilo), Lapaz (Iloilo), Molo (Iloilo), Tigbauan (Iloilo), Bugasong (Antique), Dao (Capiz), Roxas (Capiz), Romblon, and Cebu.

The occasion commenced at 7:00 AM with the recitation of the Holy Rosary and Liturgy of the Hour followed by the report of Br. Nery Francis M. Estoquia, O.P., Regional Council President, about the status and finances of the region. The assembly was also graced by the presence of Provincial Council President, Dr. Belen



L. Tangco, OP, who highlighted that lay Dominicans are companions in preaching and that there is a need to be more active in the apostolate and increase visibility in the parish. The outgoing Provincial Promoter Rev. Fr. Honorato C. Castigador, O.P. who was also present, expressed his happiness and congratulated the members for the success of the event. Furthermore, he emphasized to always look for positive things amidst all the negative things happening around and underscored the importance of the theme "Go and Preach," where preaching is not just talking but living.



In the afternoon, Rev. Fr. Jomar A. Valdevieso, O.P., the Diocesan Spiritual Director, presided the recollection and pointed out that Christmas is a reminder of reuniting the relationship of God with His people. In his talk, he emphasized that Dominicans need to deepen and enhance their relationship with God, through recollection activities and praying of the Rosary, because He has given us His providence to serve the common good, and to glorify Him and His Kingdom. Furthermore, he reminded the participants not to be afraid to preach the Gospel because true stewards speak the truth. The activity ended with a Eucharistic Celebration where, Rev. Fr. Paul Reagan Talavera, OP, Regional Promoter, accepted Br. Alexander Gerodias (Angelicum), Ruth Guarin (Cebu), and Lolita Quirao (Dao) in a Rite of Admission while Sis. Monica Malay, Sis. Emy F. Bernardino, Sis. Carmencita M. Molina, Sais. Diana G. Malay, Sis. Salvacion Mendoza, Sis. Grace Moral and Br. Gilberto Moral of Romblon made their simple profession. In his homily, Fr. Paul congratulated them and inspired them to be active in their ministry.

It was truly fun-filled and grace-filled day to all!

INGGO 1587 PREACHES THROUGH MUSIC IN TAIWAN

By Br. Jose Martin L. Sibug, OP

After the successful launching of the second music album of Inngo 1587 last August 2017, the Preaching Band of Fathers is back to what it was doing since they first came together – “preaching through music”.



Last December 8, 2017, the Dominican International School in Taipei, Taiwan celebrated its 60th Anniversary. Upon the invitation of Sr. Zenaida Ancheta, OP (Directress and Principal) through Fr. Christopher Jeffrey “Jeff” Aytona, OP, Inngo 1587 took part in the program of their Jubilee Concert, which included a 40-member orchestra composed of their high school students.

As part of the 60th Anniversary celebration which falls on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, there was a Eucharistic Celebration and the blessing of the new chapel of the community of the Dominican Sisters in the school. It was presided by the Bishop of Taipei, Most Reverend John Hung Shan-Chuan in the morning of December 8, 2017. The Dominican Fathers present concelebrated in the Eucharist.

In the afternoon, the program which had two parts started at 5:00 pm. The first part opened with the National Anthem of Taiwan played by D’ Torch Orchestra followed by a tribute song to Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception. Then the orchestra performed two more numbers, followed by the Taiwan Ballet Company. Two Filipino male solo performers sang 3 songs each followed



by a Skate Dance number by the Chan Sisters - 3 little girls from the elementary department with ages 5, 7 and 9 years old. Part 1 of the program closed with a dragon dance by the Hong De Lion Dance Theater.

After a short break, Part 2 of the program opened with a short video clip on the missions of the Dominican Province of the Philippines, followed by a set of 7 songs performed by Inngo 1587. The preaching band in their performance in Taipei was composed of Fr. Giuseppe Pietro “Jepoy” Arsciwals, OP (Lead Singer), Fr. Oscar Novem “Auckhs” Enjaynes, OP (Lead Guitar), Fr. Dennis Maquiraya, OP (Bass Guitar), Fr. Jose Martin “Joemar” Sibug, OP (Rhythm Guitar), Fr. Napoleon “Nap” Encarnacion, OP (Back Up Vocals) and Fr. Jeff Aytona, OP (Back Up Vocals). Together with the band were Rondale Pancho (Drums) and Duane Allyson Pancho (Back Up Vocals), Avelyn Martinez (Production Manager) and Marianne Lusanta (Director of the Program). The Finale number was with a couple of songs – You Raise Me Up and The Prayer performed by Fr. Jepoy Arsciwals, OP, and Duane Allyson Pancho accompanied by D’ Torch Orchestra.

Approximately 700 students, parents, employees, benefactors and friends of the Dominican International School were in attendance during the 3 hour program which was held at the school’s new gymnasium. It was the first time that the new gymnasium was used. To help raise funds for the missions, CDs of Inngo 1587’s second album entitled Lead Me On were sold during the program. A substantial amount in cash, as proceeds from the 60th Anniversary celebration, was donated by the Dominican Sisters for the missions of the Dominican Province of the Philippines.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS (December)

... continued from page 1

- 5- Thanksgiving Mass of Fr. Carlo Rey Canto, OP, at the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish Church, Narvacan, Ilocos Sur
- Sto. Domingo Convent Advent Recollection
- 7- Inauguration of the University of Santo Tomas-Legazpi (formerly Aquinas University of Legazpi) in Legazpi City.
- 8- 46th Foundation Anniversary of the Dominican Province of the Philippines
- Christmas Greetings to the Prior Provincial
- 12- Thanksgiving Mass of Fr. Christopher Garinganao, OP, at Santissimo Rosario Parish, University of Santo Tomas
- 14- Dominican Postulancy Christmas Party
- 15- Christmas Solidarity with the families of 30 EJK Victims to be held at San Lorenzo Ruiz and Companin Martyrs Parish Church, Dagat-dagatan, Navotas
- 16- Diocesan Youth Day of the Diocese of Cubao
- 22- Aliw Bata 2017, Dominican Studentate
- Advent recollection of Bahay Dominiko employees
- 27- Start of Home Vacation for Student Brothers

BROTHERS ON FOREIGN TRIP (By reason of Office)

.... continued from page 1

- ➔ 12-15 Dec - Japan - Br. Herminio Dagohoy, OP - To attend the High Level President’s Conference and Forum,

an IP Hub Project spearheaded by the World Intellectual Property Organization.

- ➔ 16-20 Dec – *China* – Br. Jeremy Realubit, OP – To accompany the representatives of the Colegio de San Juan de Letran-Calamba to the International Robot Olympiad (RO).
- ➔ 16-21 Dec – *Indonesia* – Br. Jose Martin Sibug, OP – To join in the joint house meeting of our two communities in Indonesia.

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

- ➔ **1971 December 8** – The Foundation of the Dominican Province of the Philippines.
- ➔ **1977 December 1-29** – For the first time in the history of the Order of Preachers, the General Chapter of Diffinitors was held in the Province of the Philippines in Santo Domingo Convent, Quezon City.
- ➔ **1977 December 2** – Br. Reynaldo Adalid, OP, was appointed as the first Superior of the new religious house for the Pre-Novitiate designated as St. Albert's Pre-Novitiate House which was located in Quezon City.
- ➔ **1978 December 31** – The new throne of Our Lady of the Rosary of Manaoag was solemnly blessed and inaugurated by the Most Rev. Federico Lemon, DD, Archbishop of Lingayen-Dagupan.

PC Notes...

Notes from the 406th Provincial Council Meeting
on 6 November 2017

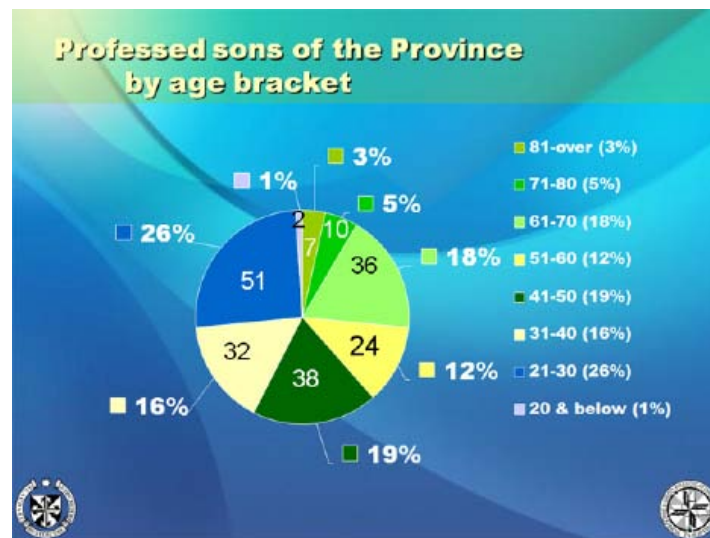
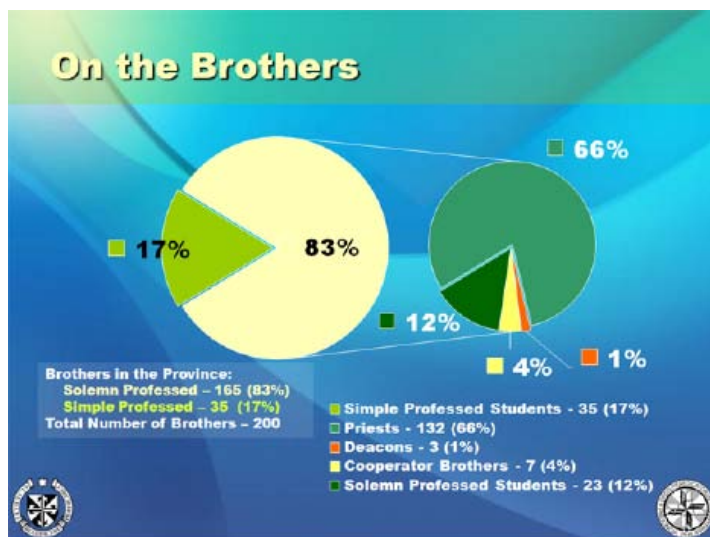
- ➔ Presentation of Br. Roger Quirao, OP, as Parish Priest of San Lorenzo Ruiz and Companion Martyrs Parish
Br. Roger Quirao was presented as parish priest of San Lorenzo Ruiz and Companion Martyrs Parish before Bishop Pablo Virgilio David from the Diocese of Kalookan last 11 November 2017. Installation is scheduled on 3 December 2017 at 5:30 in the afternoon.
- ➔ Promulgation of the Policy on Gambling
Approved by the Provincial Council during its 406th PC meeting dated 4 November 2017, the policy was promulgated by the Provincial last 16 November 2017.
- ➔ Submission of the Last Will and Testament
Communication (dated 17 November 2017) was sent to the Superiors and to the brethren individually instructing them to come up with their own last will and testament in their own handwriting to be forwarded to their respective Prior/ Superior before 30 November 2017.
- ➔ On the Update on the Golden Anniversary of the Philippine Province
The Ad hoc Committee is yet to meet in January 2018.

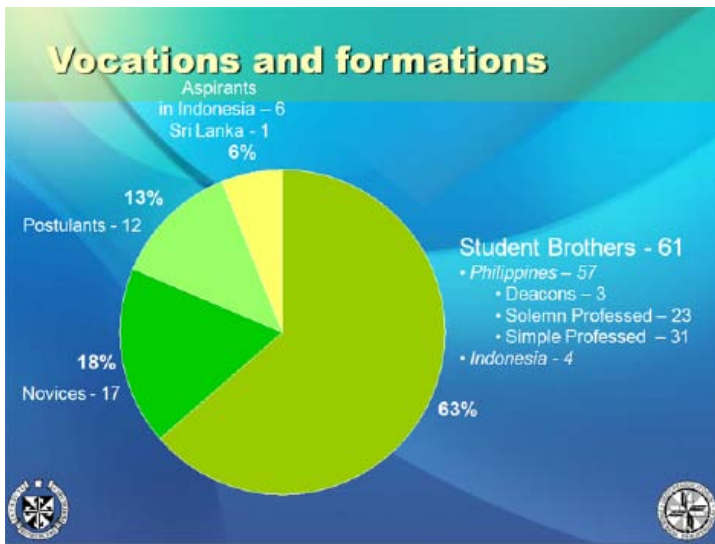
- ➔ On the Evaluation of the Continuing Formation Program held in Hennan Resort, Bohol last 16-20 October 2017.

The evaluation tool was disseminated to the participants last 21 November 2017. Due for submission to the Office of the Secretariat is on 30 November 2017. The Secretariat in turn forwards the gathered data to the Promoter of Continuing Formation for perusal.

- ➔ On the MOA between the Diocese of Kalookan and the Province in relation to the Parish of San Lorenzo Ruiz
The documents of the approved MOA between the Provincial and Bishop Pablo David of the Diocese of Kalookan were finally received last 28 November 2017.

Statistics on the Report of the Prior Provincial





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: JOCELYN
Nickname: "Jo"
Middle Name: EVANGELISTA
Surname: MARCOS
Birthday: 18 Oct 1977
Civil Status: Married
Hometown: Manaoag, Pangasinan
Date of Employment in the Provincialate: Sep 2007
Current Position: Archives Staff
Milestone/Highlight of being with the Province: Still waiting

DEATH IN THE FAMILY

We pray for the eternal repose of the soul of:

- † **Sr. ESTER ROJAS MONSANTO, OP**, of the Congregation of Dominican Sisters of St. Catherine of Siena, Philippines, who passed away on December 4, 2017.

FOR OUR DECEASED BROTHERS

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

- December 3 + Br. Domingo Brasil, OP
 9 + Br. Pedro Traqueña, OP

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



My husband, Ramon Jr., and daughter, Patricia Anne



New name. New zeal. New heights.

University of Santo Tomas-Legazpi

THE INAUGURAL

DECEMBER 7, 2017

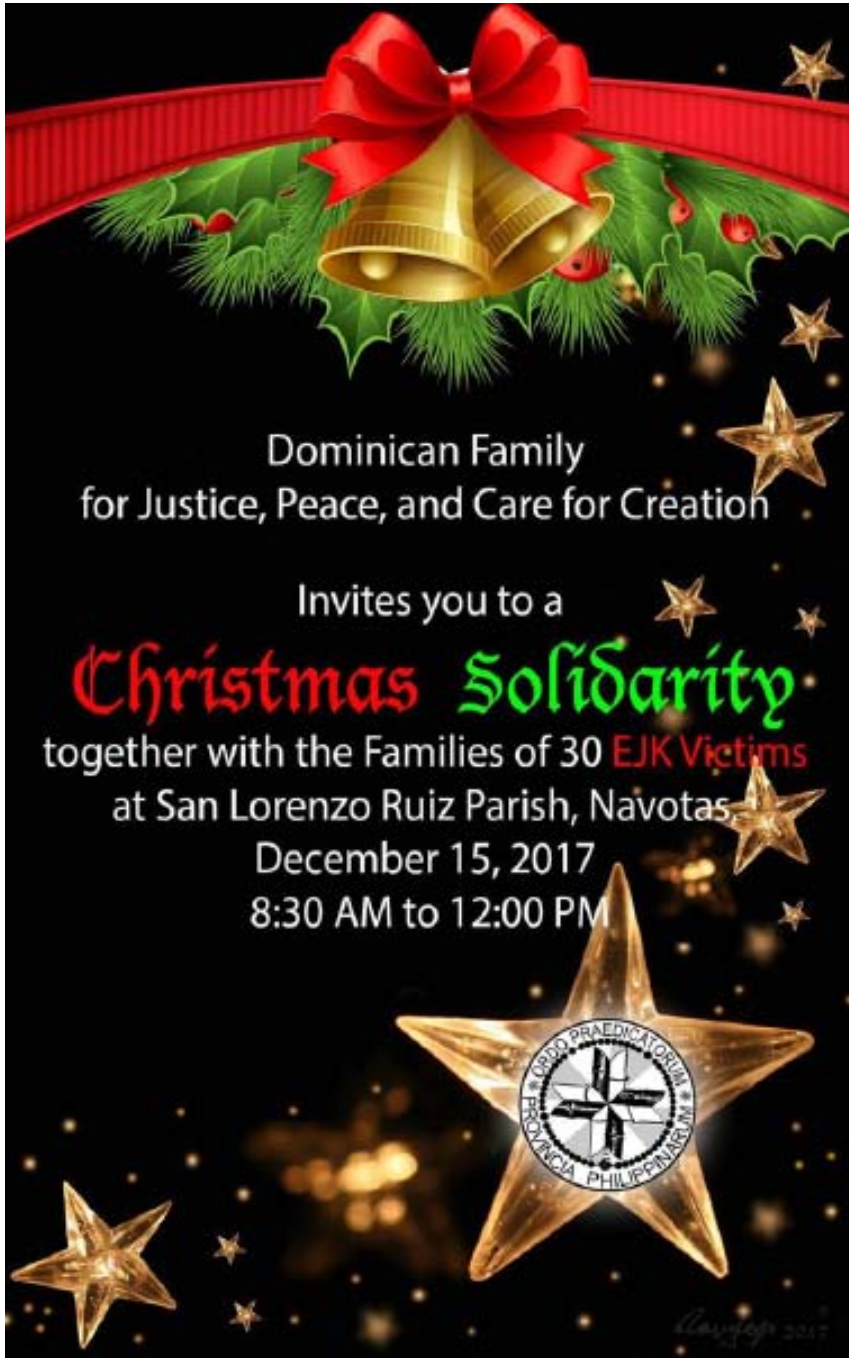




The Bahay Dominiko brethren did a home visit to Mommy Nenita Sibug, the mother of Br. Joemar Sibug, OP, in Malabon followed by a lunch at the House of San Lorenzo Ruiz and Companion Martyrs, Dagat-dagatan, Navotas last 13 December 2017.



Visit of Br. Jamie Alamillo, OP, and Br. Juan Ponce, OP, to the Dominican Sisters in Sri Lanka.




Dominican Family
for Justice, Peace, and Care for Creation

Invites you to a

Christmas Solidarity

together with the Families of 30 **EJK Victims**
at San Lorenzo Ruiz Parish, Navotas

December 15, 2017
8:30 AM to 12:00 PM



Carrygo 2017

A JOURNAL ON THE MISSIONS FAMILIARITY TOUR

By Br. Jose Martin L. Sibug, OP, Promoter of the Missions

Last November 27 to December 1, 2017, Fr. Rommel Olivar, OP, Fr. Felix delos Reyes, OP, and Fr. Art Vincent Pangan, OP, the brothers next in line who are to be assigned to the mission stations in Babuyan Islands had a familiarity tour in Cagayan Valley. As the Promoter of the Missions, I accompanied the brethren with the purpose of familiarizing them with the places and modes of transportation from the mainland to the islands. This is part of their preparation for the next assignment in the mission stations in Babuyan Islands.



Br. Jose Martin L. Sibug, OP

November 27, 2017

We took a 10 hour bus ride on a super de luxe Florida Bus. The bus is air conditioned, with comfortable seats and a toilet. It has 2 drivers who alternate themselves in driving the 10 hours land travel. The bus departed from Sampaloc, Manila at 9:35pm and arrived in Tuguegarao City at 7:30am the following morning.

November 28, 2017

After taking breakfast at a nearby fast food restaurant, we went to Callao Cave in Peñablanca, Cagayan, about 24 kilometers from Tuguegarao City. The cave features a chapel inside one of its 7 chambers, with a crevice on top of it providing day light as its natural illumination inside the cave. From Callao Cave, we went to the Shrine of Our Lady of Piat, in Piat town, Cagayan. It was a one and a half



hours land travel (or some 60 kilometers) from Callao Cave to Piat. There we paid homage to our Lady enshrined in the church which was brought by the Dominicans in the 16th century to the church of St. Dominic Parish. For lunch, we had a taste of pancit Batil Patong in Tuguegarao City, a popular noodle dish in Cagayan.

After a much needed rest from a long journey, we attended the late afternoon Mass at the St. Peter Metropolitan Cathedral in Tuguegarao City. The archbishop's residence is located nearby. Fr. Chate Leir Javier, who is assigned at the cathedral parish and a classmate of Fr. Felix and Fr. Art Vincent, welcomed us. Fr. Javier is a graduate of UST Ecclesiastical Faculties and a member of the clerical fraternities. After the Mass he invited us for dinner.



November 29, 2017

The following morning, we again celebrated Mass at the cathedral parish, with Fr. Rommel as the main presider and Fr. Felix as the homilist. After the Mass we had breakfast at the rectory. Then we went to the archbishop's residence and met with the Oeconomus of the archdiocese. The bishop and the chancellor were both out at the time of our visit. Our missionaries in Babuyan Island also stay at the archbishop's residence if ever they have business or errands in Tuguegarao City.

From the archbishop's residence, we hired a van that took us to Sta. Ana, Cagayan. It was about 2 hours land travel from Tuguegarao City to Sta. Ana. San Vicente port in Sta. Ana is an alternative route going to Camiguin Norte island. From Sta. Ana, it is about 3 or 4 hours boat ride going

to Camiguin Norte, as compared to the boat ride coming from Aparri, which takes about 4 or 5 hours. We stayed overnight in Sta. Ana. While in Sta. Ana, our missionaries can stay either with the Franciscan Apostolic Sisters who administer St. Anthony College or at Moonlight Paradise, owned by the family of Dr. Raul Ting, an alumnus of UST and benefactor of our missions.

November 30, 2017

The following morning, we traveled about 180 kilometers (about 3 hours) by van from Sta. Ana to Claveria. Claveria is the alternative route coming from the mainland going to Calayan Island. From the wharf in Claveria, it is about 5 to 6 hours by boat going to Calayan, as compared to the boats coming from Aparri, which usually takes about 6 to 8 hours. After visiting the wharf in Claveria, we headed to Aparri. Claveria is 132 kilometers away from Aparri. We had lunch midway between Claveria and Aparri.

Upon reaching Aparri, we went to “Veterans”, the place where the boats from Calayan and Camiguin Norte islands dock. Since Aparri is a highly commercialized town, this

is the usual route of our missionaries going to Babuyan Islands. It is in Aparri where the market place, banks and gasoline stations are found. All of these are important for our missions in the islands. It is also in Aparri where the Lyceum of Aparri is located. While waiting for the arrival of the boats to travel to the islands, our missionaries would stay at the Thomas Aquinas Major Seminary. Fr. Joel Reyes, from the Archdiocese of Tuguegarao, and the Vice President of Lyceum of Aparri welcomed us at the refectory. He has always been cordial in welcoming our missionaries and supportive of our missions in the Babuyanes group of islands.

After merienda, it was time for us to take the long way back to Manila. The Florida bus left Aparri at 4:30pm. We had a stopover in Tuguegarao City, where we had dinner. From Aparri, it was a 12 hour bus ride to Manila - passing by Tuguegarao, Isabela, Nueva Viscaya, Nueva Ecija, Tarlac, Pampanga and Bulacan. We pulled over from the bus at Welcome Rotonda, Quezon City and took the jeepney to Sto. Domingo Convent. We arrived in Quezon City at 4:30am.

AGEING WITH BROTHER MARTIN

By Brother Enrico D. Gonzales, OP



Br. Enrico D. Gonzales, OP

Brother Martin is any Cooperator-Brother in the Dominican Philippine Province. A small but vibrant group, they number exactly seven at present. Except for two they are all from age sixty and above. They are a rare species and unless a miracle happens (and we believe it will), they will be in danger of extinction. The vocation to be a Cooperator-Brother

in the Philippines is a riddle difficult to solve. Why be a Cooperator-Brother when one can be a priest instead? I got as many answers as there are Cooperator-Brothers in the Province. So, let me just simplify matters by declaring “It’s a mystery!” The mystery rests on the fact that our Cooperator-Brothers are happy Dominicans even in the absence of Ordination. I can vouch for this as a fact for I live long enough with them to claim my experience as my evidence. It is really fun to live with our Cooperator-Brothers. And it makes me laugh to remember the innumerable comic incidences where I got entangled with the lives of the Cooperator-Brothers as their handpicked albeit unofficial chaplain. Here are some.

Thirteen Pairs of Eyes in the Middle of the Night

This is not a horror story. Definitely, it did not happen in a haunted house unless you imagine that all retreat centres run by the Dominican Sisters are habitats of ghosts. Exempt this one – The Holy Rosary Retreat House of the Molo Sisters in Iloilo. It was just newly blessed by no less than the Archbishop of Jaro when we – twelve Cooperator-Brothers¹ and I – arrived there to have our retreat. The new one storey building was reserved for us. The rooms were spacious enough for our comfort and so constructed as to be exactly identical with one another. No wonder that Brother Benavidez was tricked by this uniformity.

Brother Benavidez, a Spanish Dominican, had stayed so long in the Philippines that his ways were practically Filipino. He ate Filipino food with gusto and drank *San Miguel* beer like any heavy Filipino drinker. Maybe that night, he consumed one beer too many with our Filipino Cooperator-Brothers. As an aftermath, he slept as the cliché goes – like a log – but could not resist the call of nature in the middle of the night. He rushed to the common bathroom to satisfy the call and returned to his room to find out to his panic that he locked himself out. The problem on hand was beyond his control. He could not but seek the help of the others. So, he knocked at the

¹ This event took place almost two decades ago. There were a total of twelve Cooperator –Brothers in the whole Province then.

door of every Brother to try whether any of their keys could fit into his door. One smart Cooperator-Brother suggested a quick and more effective solution: just wake up the Sister-in-Charge and ask for the master key. So this was done.

With the master key the Sister opened the door easily and put on the lights. But to everyone's surprise, the bed was not empty. There was a body there. Of course, it was not the body of Brother Benavidez who was standing right in our midst. It was the body of Brother Granada. Poor Brother Granada! He was so shocked that he could not shout even if he wanted to. Imagine discovering thirteen pairs of eyes – twelve of the friars and one of the sister – staring at his body clad in shorts and sleeveless shirt, in the middle of the night! Brother Benavidez who started it all was shaken at first but later on, recovering his composure, offered Brother Granada an apology: "Pardon an old man, Brother Granada. In this retreat house all doors look exactly the same and I thought your door is mine. I panicked. Sister came into the rescue and opened the door which I reported to be mine. It is not. It is yours. Sorry, Brother. Good night. Sleep tight."

Brother Granada still reeling from the shock could no longer sleep. Perhaps *San Miguel* beer could do the trick. So, we accompanied Brother Granada empty mugs and mugs of beer until we all dropped and fell asleep.

The Explosive That Never Was

After that retreat which was inspired by *San Miguel* more than by the Holy Spirit, we rushed home laughing all the way with our comic memories – except Brother Granada who felt totally deflowered after being examined in his scanty sleeping costume by no less than twelve friars and one sister. At the Iloilo Airport, he kept silent and stayed away from the group at a distance. Allotting him time to regain his self-respect, we did not disturb him in his contemplative space. Suddenly, he got out of sight. It was during this moment though that the PAL desk announced the boarding of our plane bound for Manila. Horrified at the prospect of Brother Granada being abandoned and for the second time becoming a victim of another slip-up, I got frantic and in gradual crescendo shouted his name: "Granadaaa! Where are youuU?" No response except a tug on my sleeve. A burly airport security personnel armed with a long rifle accosted me at my side and looked at me with obvious suspicion. Thank God, when he was about to grab me, there appeared all of a sudden Brother Granada aghast at the sight of a security officer in the act of as though arresting me. Finally Brother Granada broke his self-imposed silence and asked the Officer: "What are you doing to my Brother?" The Officer replied: "He is causing panic in the airport. He is shouting 'granada' and yet there is no 'granada' anywhere in sight."

"Sir, I am Granada. My name is Granada. Look here. My I.D. with my picture. You will find my name G-R-A-N-A-D-A"

Ah, Brother Granada saved my day. The Security Officer shook his head, raised his cap in exasperation and finally remarked: "Hey, Granada, tell your Brother to change your names into Mutt and Jeff. You both are lousy comedians. Next time you do this sort of joke, we will not throw tomatoes at you. We will hurl at you real 'granada'!"

Transgender by Accident

Everyone knows in Santo Domingo Convent that when Brothers Oscar and Granada and I disappear together from the community for one night and two days, we must be in Manaoag. Yes, we three have a monthly pilgrimage-devotion to Our Lady of the Rosary of Manaoag. Half-way of the trip to her shrine, we stop to visit another virgin, this time in Tarlac: the ever dynamic President of the Dominican College of Capas – Sister Caridad Bayani, OP. Expect a grand welcome for a reception. But that October in 2014 was different. For one reason only the Holy Spirit knew, she was so inspired that instead of entertaining us in her convent she invited us to dine in *Rustica*, the most prestigious restaurant in town. We could only surmise that maybe it was because the month was October. Sister Caridad, Brother Oscar and I were all born in October and the good Sister might be taking advantage of the occasion to have a special celebration for the three of us. Whatever. It was a hearty lunch of native dishes and our gourmand – Brother Granada – looked heavenly in his satisfaction.

To help Sister Caridad pay the bill, we offered to give her our senior citizen cards. All of us after all were senior citizens and were therefore eligible for some relatively hefty discount. All the billing procedures done, our discount cards were distributed back and running out of topics to talk about, we decided to say goodbye and parted ways.

The pilgrimage experience would have ended just like the usual ones except that Brother Granada started craving for his favourite snacks: *Pancit Palabok*. But, what a perfect timing! We were almost at Santo Domingo and about to pass *Fisher Mall*, the mall which we knew well and which knew us well likewise. The three of us used to do the marketing for the community there every Wednesday and even if we arrived earlier than the officially scheduled opening of the mall's supermarket, rest assured that the security guard would give us a privileged consideration. He would call up the central security control and announced that "*Tatlong Bibi*² have already arrived". Yes, the mall's security network has gone so accustomed to our faces that it already has awarded a special name to our presence.

² *Tatlong Bibi* or in English *Three Ducks* is a popular nursery song among Filipino pre-schoolers.

Even our favourite joint – Fisher Mall’s *Jollibee* – recognized the existence of *Tatlong Bibi*. Ordering Brother Granada’s *Pancit Palabok* plus the respective favourites of Brother Oscar and I, I gathered from my companions their senior citizen cards so that together with mine, our bill would be properly accounted for. Everything proceeded normally except when the lady-cashier started looking at Brother Granada’s senior citizen card. “Father Enrico,” she called my attention, “why is Brother Granada wearing a veil in his photo here?” I looked at what she was pointing at and after a while burst into laughter. In an oversight Brother Granada took from *Rustica’s* waiter the senior citizen card of Sister Caridad instead of his own. “Sorry, Madam,” I apologized to her, “Brother Granada has given you his senior citizen card when he was still a transgender.”

With an impish smile, she returned to me the alleged Brother Granada’s senior citizen card. I thought she did not honour the card but when I looked at our receipt, I discovered at the back a hand-written note: “a special discount for an old transgender brother”.

St. Martin Who?

It was an early morning call from my *Alma Mater*: The UST Education High School. The voice at the end of the phone sounded familiar. It was – Mrs. Teresita Cendana – my former head teacher in English but now the Principal of the High School. “This is an emergency and for this reason, I will not accept ‘no’ for an answer. The De la Salle and Marist Brothers have asked permission to address the student-body to promote vocation to religious brotherhood. I do not have any reason to say ‘no’ but I will not allow this vocation promotion to take

place without the participation of the Dominicans. Ours is a Dominican institution after all. So, come and explain to your schoolmates what Dominican Brotherhood is all about.”

“Alright, I will ask one of our Cooperator-Brothers to address the student-body,” I promised her. “I want no one else to come but you,” she stated with a voice as authoritative as that of my teacher long time ago. So, how could I refuse? I went and as the cliché goes, the rest was history.

Arriving much earlier than my De la Salle and Marist counterparts, Mrs. Cendana held me up in her office for a more homely conversation. As expected, she brought up the puzzlement of many a lay person like her on why someone will enter brotherhood when he can in fact apply for the priesthood. I just smiled and tried to play with her question. I was reserving the more serious reply in my address to the student-body later. “Oh, it’s more fun to be a Brother, Mam. Brothers can assume any position which a priest can – the Director of the School, the treasurer of the community, the manager of charitable foundation – name it, from the President of the Board to the officer-in-charge of buildings and grounds, from serving as an architect of our constructions to repairing our pipes as our plumber in residence. And because he is free from the ministry of the sacraments and preaching at the pulpit, he can be asked to move anywhere and anytime by his superiors according to the needs of the time. He is in fact more itinerant and mobile than Dominican priests. He can strike anywhere – from here to any point of the globe.”

Mrs Cendana smiled with delight, “Ah, that’s why Dominican Brothers are so ardent devotees of St. Martin!”

“Yes, Mam. St. Martin de Porres,” I concurred.

“No,” she objected, “I mean... St. Martin of Tours.”

ENA

By Br. Marvin Obedo, OP

It was her unspoken tears that made a bugging noise into my heart.



Br. Marvin R. Obedo, OP

Her name is Ena. She is pretty, fragrant, and optimistic. The way she smiles, the way she moves and the way she speaks would make my heart beat fast. I do not know why, but certainly, I have been captivated.

One time, Ena and I were companions on a trip together with other people. It was a momentous thing for me to be seated right next to her. During the course of the trip,

she felt asleep but since the back of the bus seat was so short she could not lean her head well. That was why her head was swaying round and round while her eyes were solemnly closed. Upon seeing this, I tapped her shoulder and said, “Ena kuhaa akong lingkoranan, ako nalang sa imoha (Ena, take my seat. In turn, I’ll take yours.)” Being sleepy, she immediately did what I suggested to her. Minutes later, she already woke up. Then we started chatting as the vehicle went its way to the destination. But before arriving at the destination of our trip, we arrived first at her place, that is, her life story.

At a young age, Ena experienced a lot of difficulty in her life. Perhaps, the first among these things was the loss of her father; second would be their big number in the family; and third and the most challenging perhaps was that her two siblings are with down syndrome. With all

these things, she carried them with all her strength. Even if she wanted to cry with the situation that was pressing down, she did not cry to become a source of strength to her distressed mother. But what was more painful for me to hear was that the two of her siblings (the special children) were abused and the justice that the family deserves were just placed in a vacuum. Despite these things, Ena (the eldest among the siblings) continued to persevere on her way up with the help of some kind people. Even if she had millions of reason to give up and not to trust again, she opted to go on and give her heart on the one that makes all things possible: Jesus.

As a matter of fact, I was struck with the vibrant manner she narrated her story in her deeply sobbing eyes, thus she said, "Sa kani nga mga panghitabo, napamalandungan

nako nga naa pa'y mayo nga mga tao. Ug si Jesus dili jud ta pasagdan. (Despite these things that had happened, I realized that there are still good people. And Jesus does not forsake us.)" Furthermore, the great news was that she is now a successful professional, contented, and ever awed by the manifestation of Jesus in her life.

As I reflected on the story of Ena, I realized that one thing is common: we have been hurt in one way or another, and that all of us wants to be healed. In this phenomenon, all the more I see that Jesus is real. Jesus never abandons anyone. He never gives up on us. He gives people who will help us in our journey. Furthermore, He is the only one who can turn the wounds of our life into a battle scar which was fought and won. Only Jesus. Simply Jesus can quench forever the thirst in our hearts. Amen.

MARY'S YES: A MANIFESTATION OF FORTITUDE

By Br. Rocky Niño L. Manire, OP



Br. Rocky Niño L. Manire, OP

Mary's reaction upon hearing Archangel Gabriel's proclamation that she is to conceive and bear a Son (Lk 1:31) is initially troublesome. Her reaction is very human. "How can I be pregnant? *Wala pang nangyayari sa amin ni Jose.*" This innocence and purity of Mary however led her to accept God's offer and gain a singular intimacy with Him, by conceiving and carrying the Son of God in

her womb. Her body, which was also conceived in purity and kept free from the stain of sin throughout her life, is indeed a fitting temple to nurture the human life of the divine Son.

The Holy Spirit overshadowed Mary and she gave birth to the Son of the Most High – this was brought about after the outcome of Mary's pondering, questioning and finally, saying YES to God's message through the archangel. Mary's dialogue with the angel does not reveal any unwillingness on Mary's part. The dialogue simply reveals that Mary, a Virgin, was troubled because she did not take the message for granted. It reveals that Mary truly has a choice. It reveals that Mary, while not knowing fully what her YES would demand, was aware that she is encountering something totally out of the ordinary, she was aware that this YES is a start of something that will change her life as a woman. This YES of Mary is a manifestation of fortitude. She said yes, not because she was forced to do it but because she freely accepted the message of God through the angel. It requires courage and deep contemplation to choose whether to accept it or not. Finally, Her YES brought God's fulfillment of His divine plan to save humankind from sin through his only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ.

Fortitude is one of the four cardinal virtues. The Catechism of the Catholic Church gives us a deeper and clearer definition of the virtue of fortitude which also constitutes the clear manifestation of fortitude embodied in the YES of Mary. "Fortitude is the moral virtue that ensures firmness in difficulties and constancy in the pursuit of the good. It strengthens the resolve to resist temptations and to overcome obstacles in the moral life. The virtue of fortitude enables one to conquer fear, even fear of death, and to face trials and persecutions. It disposes one even to renounce and sacrifice his life in defense of a just cause. "The Lord is my strength and my song." In the world you have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." (CCC 1808). Mary, in her dialogue with the archangel, manifested that "firmness in difficulties and constancy in the pursuit of good". It took her courage and free will to accept something which will define the direction of her life into a better one by following the will of God. The mere fact that Mary took a *one-step forward* to answer YES is a manifestation of courage. Mary is courageous. She took the risk of following the will of God while not knowing fully what her YES would demand. As the virtue of fortitude connotes overcoming our fears and continuing our Christian tasks, Mary's YES was also a manifestation of overcoming her natural human response in order to heed the will of God in her life. Mary's YES is a courageous expression of her willingness to follow the will of God no matter what it takes.

Like Mary, we also are called by God to respond to His offer of grace. We may naturally be troubled like Mary. We may also ponder and ask questions seriously when we encounter the mystery of life like Mary. But like Mary, these pondering and questioning should lead us to that YES, a YES which continues, pursues and fulfills our Christian task to proclaim God's Good News to every people. And, at the end of the day, we may say without hesitation the very words uttered by the Virgin Mary herself – "I am God's handmaid, be it done unto me according to your Word."-R

FIRST HOMILY OF REV. DON DOMINIQUE MARCO ANTONIO S. GO, OP

*Luke 5: 17-26, Monday of the 2nd Week of Advent, 6:00 AM Conventual Mass
Sto. Domingo Church, Quezon City*



Rev. Don Dominique Marco Antonio S. Go, OP

May mga bagay na dapat pinaghihirapan bago makuha. Dapat may effort, may lakas ng loob, at may tiwala sa sarili bago mo makamit ang tinatamang tagumpay. Katulad ng kasiyahan sa buhay. Paano ba tayo sasaya sa buhay? Kapag may nagtanong sa iyo kung masaya ka, hindi ka sasagot ng I don't know, siguro o baka, ang sagot lang dapat ay oo masaya ako o hindi ako masaya. Kapag

natukoy mo ang sagot mo sa dalawang choices then you found yourself. Ibig sabihin malalaman mo kung may dapat ka bang gawin para maging masaya. Sabi nga, may mga bagay na dapat pinaghihirapan bago makuha.

Sa ebanghelyong nabasa kanina, kapansin-pansin ang naging effort ng mga kalalakihan na madala ang isang paralisadong tao kay Kristo. Pinilit nilang makapasok sa bahay, umakyat sa bubong, tinanggal ang tabing dito at binaba ang paralisadong lalaki palapit kay Kristo. Kung ating susuriing mabuti ang eksena, talaga namang makikita natin na pinaghihirapan ng mga kalalakihan para lang mapalapit nila ang paralisadong lalaki kay Kristo. Talaga nga namang may mga bagay na dapat paghirapan

para makuha. The story continues, And Jesus saw their faith. Alam ng Diyos ang lahat ng ating ginagawa dito sa lupa. Kaya naman hindi nakapagtataka kung paano Niya sinuklian ang lahat ng ating mga effort. Basta kapag pinaghihirapan, siguradong makukuha.

Ganyan ang nais ipahiwatig sa atin ng Diyos ngayong Advent Season. Tayo po ay tinuturuan ng Diyos na maghanda, may gawing kapakipakinabang dahil hindi natin alam kung kailan babalik ang Diyos dito sa mundo. Ang alam natin ay darating Siya kaya dapat nating pagsikapan o paghirapan araw-araw na sumunod sa Kanya hanggang sa kanyang nakasasabik na pagbalik.

Ngayon po ay narito po kami sa inyong harapan, kasama po ang aking mga kuya na sina Frs. Laja, Caloy at Chris, gayundin ang mga kasama kong diyakono na sina Hilario at Jayson, nagpapasalamat sa inyong lahat. Malaki po ang naging bahagi niyo sa aming paghuhubog. Araw-araw, tayo po ay sama-samang nagdarasal at higit sa lahat nagpapasalamat sa Diyos sa lahat ng binigay Niya sa atin. Sabihin po natin na ito pong pagkaordain naming pagkapari at diyakono ay resulta ng ating pagsasakripisyo at pagsisikap. Napakasaya po ng aming mga nararamdaman at ito ay inaalay naming lahat sa Diyos.

O Diyos nating lahat, gabayan mo po kaming lahat sa aming mga gawain sa pang araw-araw naming buhay! O Diyos ko, salamat po!

MAG-ANTAY

Ika-2 Linggo ng Adbiyento, Disyembre 10, 2017, 8 N.U.

Sto. Domingo Church, Quezon City

Rev. Jayson R. Gonzales, OP



Rev. Jayson R. Gonzales, OP

This homily is twelve years in the making. Pumasok po ako sa seminaryo noong taong 2005 at kaka-ordain ko lang po na deacon nitong December 1. [kaya fresh na fresh pa po] Hindi ko maitatangi na matagal ko pong hinintay ang pagkakataong ito. Hindi po biro ang twelve years pero totoo nga na hindi mo mamamalayan ang paglipas

ng oras kapag mahal mo at gusto mo ang iyong ginagawa. Sabi nga ng isang paring kakilala ko, the longer you wait,

the more you appreciate what you get. Marahil rin ay hindi na bago sa akin ang pag-antay, sanay o sobrang sanay na ako mag-hintay. Lumaki po akong marunong mag-hintay dahil ang tatay ko ay isang seaman. Madalas po ay wala siya sa aming tahanan, birthday, Christmas, New Year, graduation o anumang special occasion. Kaya naman lagi ako nanabik sa kanyang pagbalik usually after 6 months to one year. Pero ang pag-hihintay na ito ay hindi passive waiting, nag-hihintay na walang ginagawa, bagkus ito ay active waiting, ang pag-hihintay na may ginagawa, may kasamang paghahanda. Naaalala ko tuloy ang aking nanay, tuwing darating ang aking tatay ay magda-diet na siya, lilitin niya nang maigi ang buong bahay, at ipagluluto ng aking nanay ang paboritong pagkain ng aking tatay. Sama-sama kami matulog kapag wala ang aming tatay, at kapag

nandyan na siya ay lilipat na kami ng kwarto. Alam na.

Mahirap malayo sa ating minamahal. Nangungulila ako sa pagmamahal ng aking tatay pero hindi ko naisipang mag-rebelde dahil sa murang edad ay pinaintindi sa akin ng aking nanay ang sakripisyong ginagawa ng aking tatay para sa amin dahil mahal na mahal niya kami. Kaya naman sinabi ko sa aking sarili, I will make my father proud. Kaya naman nag-aral ako maigi para matumbasan ang kanyang pagmamahal. Yun lang ang kaya kong maibigay sa kanya.

Lahat tayo ay may hinihintay... tao man o pangyayari. Nag-hihintay tayo kasi may nangako – may babalik, may darating, may mangyayari. Kaya marahil maraming nasasaktan ngayon kasi maraming unfaithful, hindi tumutupad sa pangako. Nagpa-asa, nang-iwan. Sa mga nagpapaasa na siya ay darating pero hindi dumating, pagsisihan din nila iyun. Ang tao minsan paasa sa wala, pero ang Diyos tapat sa kanyang pangako. Sa ating ikalawang pagbasa, mula sa ikalawang sulat ni Apostol San Pedro, pinaalalahanan tayo na ang panginoon ay hindi nagpapabaya sa kanyang pangako tulad ng inaakala ng iba.

Ngayon ay ipinagdiriwang natin ang ikalawang lingo ng adbiyento. At sa ating paghihintay, paghandaan natin ang pagdating ng Panginoon kung siya ay may halaga sa atin. Pero kung bale wala lang si Kristo, wala rin tayong paki-alam kung siya man ay dumating. Kaya naman pinaalalahanan tayong maghanda sapagkat ating

ginugunita ang pagsilang at pagdating ni Hesus sa ating buhay. He is someone very special sa ating buhay kaya dapat special din ang ating paghahanda. Sa unang pagbasa, sa aklat ni propeta Isaias, sinasabi na “Ihanda ninyo ang daraanan ng Panginoon, tuwirin niyo ang kanyang mga landas.” Pero paano nga ba tayo maghahanda? Sa ating ebanghelyo, inulit itong mga kataga ni propeta Isaias at ipinaliwanag ito ni San Juan Bautista, “pagsisihan ninyo’t talikdan ang inyong mga kasalanan.” Kaya naman ngayong panahon ng adbiyento, sa ating pag-hintay nawa ito ay isang active waiting, maghanda tayo, hindi lang sa pagbili ng regalo, ng damit na susuotin para sa custome party, pagdecorate ng bahay, pagpractice ng sayaw o kanta para sa mga Christmas party, ihanda natin ang ating sarili, ang best gift na mabibigay natin kay Lord ay isang busilak na puso. Pagsisihan natin ang ating mga nagawang kasalanan, magkumpisal po tayo. Ating balikan ang ating mga nagawa ngayong taon, may nasaktan ba tayo? May naisahan? May iniwan? May napabayaan? May pinaasa? Maisapuso nawa natin ang aral ng ating mga pagbasa ngayon. Makipagsundo tayo sa ating kapwa at palalimin ang ugnayan sa Panginoon.

Let us make our Father in Heaven proud sa pagtanggap sa kanyang bugtong na anak na si Hesus sa ating mga puso. Let us make God happy by following His will. Ihanda natin ang daraanan ng Panginoon, tuwirin natin ang ating landas.

Evangelization Principally Through Education

Mission Statement, Dominican Province of the Philippines

**“We, the brothers of the Dominican Province of the Philippines,
committed to become an authentic community of preachers in the service of the Church,
strive to incarnate in ourselves and in our communities, JESUS CHRIST the Preacher,
whom we announce to the world especially to the poor
through an inter-cultural Dominican way of witnessing and proclamation”
(Fundamental Statute III).**

“There are many needs in the Church, but we focus our apostolic activities principally on the evangelization through education. For centuries, Dominican presence in the Philippines has always been understood in terms of empowering the youth to become future leaders and role models of our people through a formative process, which combines the development of reason, the deepening of faith, and the internalization of Christian values. We renew our dedication to this task with greater vigor and creativity, utilizing the means afforded us by modern educational technologies” (Fundamental Statute IV, a).

Statutes of the Province pertaining to the Educational Apostolate

49. Our education apostolate shall be exercised primarily in our own educational institutions. Our brothers in the convent or house to which an education institution is attached, shall be responsible for pastoral ministry in it. Without prejudice to government and accreditation requirements, our brothers shall teach the theological, religious and ethical subjects in these institutions. Our institutions shall maintain a high level of religious instruction. Our tertiary institutions shall prepare a good number of professional teacher-catechists who may effectively handle religious instruction in our own and other institutions.

50. I. While maintaining closer collaboration among the educational institutions of the Province, each school shall enjoy administrative autonomy.

II. These institutions shall each be governed by their own particular statutes, in accordance with the norms and statutes of the Province and the decisions of the Board of Trustees.

III. The following shall be the members of the Board of Trustees of each DPP school:

- a. Prior Provincial(*Sipalay*)
- b. Syndic of the Province
- c. Chairman of the Council of Rectors(*Marquez*)
- d. Two rectors representing the UST and Letran traditions nominated by the Council of Rectors(*Dagohoy, Arceo*)
- e. Rector or Director of the school
- f. Prior or Superior of the community where the school is attached
- g. The brother in-charge of the financial affairs of the school
- h. At least four members of the community elected by the corporation members
- i. A maximum of three lay members elected by the corporation, if allowed by the statutes of the institution.

IV. In the spirit of the tradition of the Order, the heads of our educational institutions shall be considered as delegated administrators.

V. No acts of acquisition outside of the budgeted capital expenditure or disposition of property or real estate including non-budgeted cash expenditure, rents, debts and obligations to be incurred, beyond the limits determined by the provincial Chapter, shall be made by the rector/Director without the approval of the Board of Trustees, and the Prior Provincial and his Council, after consultation with the Provincial Economic Council of DPP.

VI. No valid act of alienation that would compromise the patrimony of the Province over our educational institutions shall be made without the approval of the Prior Provincial and his Council (CIC 1291).

VII. The heads of these institutions shall submit an annual academic and economic report to the Prior Provincial and his Council, three months after the end of each fiscal year. The report shall include an evaluation of the performance of each of the brothers assigned to or assisting in the educational institution with regard not only to academic duties, but also to the ministry of the Word.



Four-Year Apostolic Plan



VIII. The foregoing provisions shall be incorporated in the by-laws and statutes of the said institutions as required by Philippine law.

IX. Our educational institutions shall give priority to the religious formation of students and employees in their *planificatio*.

X. *In our educational institutions, rector/directors shall make a report to the conventual/house chapter at least twice a year.*

Council of Rectors

51. There shall be a Council of Rectors composed of the Heads of all our educational institutions.

1. Its main function is to address common concerns and issues, initiate and implement the collaborative programs of DPP schools, approved by the respective Boards of Trustees.
2. The Chairman of this council shall be elected by its members from among themselves.
3. Lay experts sitting as members of the respective boards may be invited in its meeting as the need arises.

Mission, DPP Council of Rectors

Inspired by the mission of the Dominican Province of the Philippines, We, the brethren with our cooperators engaged in the educational ministry, commit ourselves to promote education as a form of evangelization for the total and integral development of the person in the service of the Church and society through an authentic Filipino Dominican way nourished by our study, prayer and community life.

Vision

We envision an effective and efficient system of collaboration of all DPP educational institutions in all areas of our academic endeavors aimed at enhancing the growth and development of each institution and the furtherance of the evangelizing mission of the province.

Acts of the Provincial Chapter 2016	
<p>150. We ORDAIN that the efforts and gains towards integrating all the existing educational institutions of the Province within the two venerable and historical education traditions of Letran and UST be continued and intensified, particularly in the areas of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Dominican School Leadership/Management b. Course in Religious Education c. Community and Extension Services d. Financial Management e. Marketing and Promotion f. Research and Publication g. Campus Ministry 	<p><i>The Council of Rectors resolved that:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ONELETRAN shall proceed with collaboration efforts in Religious Education, Community and Extension Services, Research and Publication 2. ONE LETRAN shall focus on helping Letran Manaoagto establish a "Letran-standard" operations system; 3. UST group focus on helping Angelicum School of Iloilo; 4. FURTHERMORE, THE COUNCIL OF RECTORS PROPOSES TO THE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL TO DISCUSS AND DETERMINE THE FUTURE DIRECTIONS OF ANGELICUM ILOILO



Four-Year Apostolic Plan



151. We COMMISSION the Council of Rectors to review the ordination of the Manaoag Chapter regarding the establishment of a Center for Professional Development and Continuing Education (Manaoag 127) in response to the emerging realities pertinent to the process of integration into two traditions.	5. <i>Fr. Dingel OP (Letran Calamba) has volunteered to produce a white paper with regard to Act 151 (by September 2017)</i>				
152. We COMMISSION the Council of Rectors to review the spirit and rationale of DOMNET.	DOMNET Re-visioning Convention, 25 February 2017	7. DOMNET National Convention, February 2018			
	6. Pre-CEAP national meeting, September 2017	8. Pre-CEAP national meeting, September 2018	9. Pre-CEAP national meeting, September 2019	10. Pre-CEAP national meeting, September 2020	
154. We EXHORT the DPP schools to support the design and development of programs or areas of collaboration of DOMNET youth groups.	11. <i>THE DOMNET Youth Commission shall submit a proposal in this regard.</i>				
158. We COMMISSION the Regent of Studies and EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING of the Province "to organize workshops, presentations or colloquia that foster dialogue between scientists and theologians."	12. <i>Duly integrated into the operational plans of DPP schools</i>				
173. We RECOMMEND that the teaching of the Social Doctrines of the Church be intensified in all levels of DPP schools in coordination with the COUNCIL OF RECTORS.	13. <i>ONELETRAN Religious Instruction group (led by Letran Calamba) shall take the lead in evaluating the content and method of teaching the Social Doctrines in all DPP schools</i>				
247. We commission the Prior Provincial to reconstitute the Board of Trustees for the Institute of Preaching, whose members are the Prior Provincial, Regent of Studies, Director of Institute of Preaching, CHAIR OF COUNCIL OF RECTORS, Provincial Syndic, Prior of the Convent of Santo Domingo, a representative from the faculty of the Institute of Preaching, Promoter of Continuing Formation, Promoter of Evangelization through Social Communication and the Treasurer of the Institute of Preaching.	14. <i>Accomplished, March 2017</i>				
254. We RECOMMEND the inclusion of SCHOOL MANAGEMENT in the approved Apprenticeship Program (2013) of the Province.	15. <i>Fr. Marquez OP (Letran Manila) and Fr. Dingel OP (Letran Calamba) shall circulate separate white papers on the proposed program for Dominican School Leadership (by July 2017);</i> <i>a) among DPP school heads</i> <i>b) with the Council of Formation and the Commission on Intellectual Life</i> <i>c) Provincial Council</i> <i>For implementation, AY 2018-2019</i>				
285. We ORDAIN that in all DPP institutions, there shall be an audit committee at the service of the BOT, of which the Syndic of the Province is an ex-officio member.	16. <i>The BOTs of the DPP schools shall be duly reminded to operationalize Act 285.</i>				



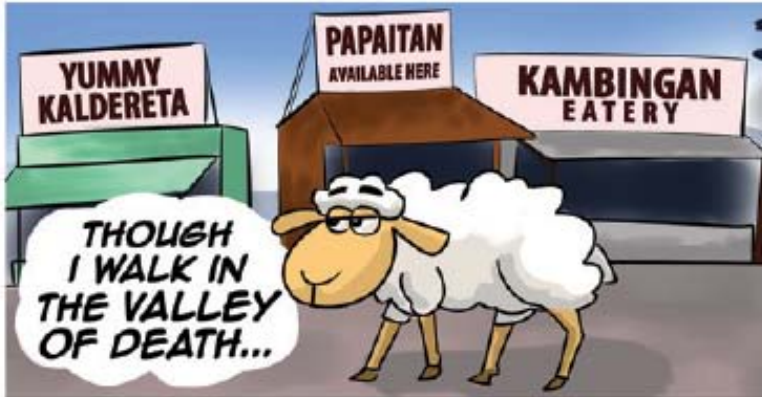
Four-Year Apostolic Plan



<p>287. We ORDAIN that the limits for loans (LCO 609, Statute 139) by houses, convents and institutions without the need for the consent of the Provincial Council be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Houses or Convents PhP 1,500,000.00 b. Institutions PhP 3,000,000.00 <p>Such loans should be approved by the respective councils of the convents and houses and by the BOT in the case of educational institutions.</p>	<p>17. <i>The BOTs of the DPP schools shall be duly reminded to operationalize Act 287.</i></p>
<p>288. We ORDAIN that the limits of the acts of acquisition outside of the budgeted capital expenditures, the disposition of property or real estate, non-budgeted expenditures, rents and debts and obligations to be incurred (Statute 50, V) be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Rector without BOT PhP 500,000.00 b. Rector with BOT PhP 3,000,000.00 c. BOT with Provincial Council above PhP 3,000,000.00 <p>All such loans should be approved by the respective councils of the convents and houses and by the BOT in the case of educational institutions.</p>	<p>18. <i>The BOTs of the DPP schools shall be duly reminded to operationalize Act 288.</i></p>

From the Letter of Approval of the Master, 14 January 2017

<p>I. "The link of the youth within the higher learning institutions of the province which is called the DOMNET is very admirable. <i>Yet, how would you connect them with the IDYM of the whole Order (154)?"</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">19. <i>The current international coordinator of IDYM is a member of the DOMNET Youth Commission.</i></p>
<p>II. "...It is undoubtedly a great privilege of the Province of the Philippines for the immense field of apostolate between the youth and with the youth, but simultaneously a great challenge of evangelization in the formation and promotion of Filipino youth.</p> <p><i>However, you remained silent about the financial and legal administration of the educational apostolates, which I had addressed to you in the letter of Visitation:</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>We support your effort to promote greater coordination among your educational institutions, which should be worthwhile and fruitful both now and in the future. At the same time, we must stress and insist that the integrity and autonomy of each institution, both legal and moral, be respected, including the finances of each institution. Furthermore, the finances of these institutions and the finances of the province must always be clearly separated and never mixed and/or commingled. Each exchange of money between schools and the province must be based upon clear, objective standards, which correspond to the actual contribution of the brothers who serve in these institutions..."</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">20. <i>Fr. Marquez OP has volunteered to compile statutes, acts and decisions pertinent to this matter by December 2017.</i></p>
<p>III. "Likewise, you have <i>not concretely dealt with the preparation of the young brothers for the administrative works of the educational institutions</i>, as I have shared with you in the visitation letter:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>We see how important it is to have qualified brothers who will serve in your mission of education. Therefore, we urge the Board of Rectors to prepare a list of those brothers who could share in this mission in the next five years and to provide a formation program for them before they are given any academic or administrative responsibilities. Such formation will also take into account clear professional and ethical guidelines for appropriate ministry with children and young people"</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">21. <i>To be addressed by resolutions on Act 254.</i></p>



Komiks ni Fray

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



Our Lady of Manaog

Sketch (Ink and Water Color), 1 October 2017
 Br. Mark Philip Goroza, OP
 Solemnly Professed 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.